

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL
Fundamentals of the Faith
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LESSON #21 — HOW DOES ONE CONTACT JESUS' BLOOD (PART 3)

And that brings us to the next section of our chart, the third section, where we see this great commission or command implemented. We're going to see the implementation of this great command. We're going to see it carried out by the Apostolic church, as commanded by Jesus and recorded in the Book of Acts. And we also need to note, keep in our mind, Romans 10, verse 17, and its application in every one of these cases. Romans 10, verse 17, tells us that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." So we're going to see that as the Word of God is preached in each one of these accounts of conversion, or examples of conversion in the book of Acts, that faith is going to be created in honest and good hearts.

So let's look at the first account found in the book of Acts, in the second chapter, verses 37 through 41. Acts 2, verses 37 through 41. Remember, the Holy Spirit had come, had given the apostles the power to speak in languages they had never learned before. And they began to preach in verse 14. They preached Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, killed by lawless men, but raised from the dead by the Father, to be the Lord, and the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior. And here's the response of some in that crowd who heard that stirring gospel message.

"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.' And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse [or wicked, crooked] generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." Then in verse 47, of this same chapter, "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." What a remarkable account in what remarkable fulfillment of what the Lord said. Peter and the apostles preached by inspiration, what Jesus commanded them to preach.

Let's go to our chart. And let's notice these major points as seen in this account of conversion. It was on the day of Pentecost. It was in the city of Jerusalem. We know that Peter and the apostles preached the gospel. What is next? The next thing that we see is that Peter said that these people needed to repent. He knew they were believers by the fact that they asked the question, "What shall we do?" He knew they believed Jesus was the Christ. They were guilty of sin. And he said, "The next thing you need to do: you need to repent."

And then we go further on down the chart, and we see that he said that it was necessary for them to be baptized, that repentance was not enough. Faith was not enough, more was required. Baptism was required. And then he said, the result: "Your sins would be remitted, would be forgiven, would be cleansed in the blood of Christ." And the Lord would add them to his church. Not to any manmade denomination, that he would add those people who obeyed

the gospel that day, those who are saved that day, would be added to the Lord's church. And those who were saved, were those who believed, repented, and were baptized, immersed in water for the forgiveness of their past sins.

The next account that we want to study about is found in the book of Acts, the eighth chapter, and verse 12. Chapter eight, verse 12. In this context, Philip had gone down to Samaria, to preach the gospel to those people in Samaria. Here's what the response was. "But when they believed Philip, as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized." So here we have a very simple account, one verse, Acts 8, verse 12, where we see Phillip preaching the gospel to the Samaritans.

Now, let's go to our chart, and let's recognize what Phillip said in this account, or what Phillip did. We have the account of the Samaritans, the people of Samaria, and what did they do? They heard the things that Phillip preached and they believed what he preached. But their faith was not a faith alone, or faith only, because the Bible tells us that they were baptized. So, the people in Samaria did the same as the people on the day of Pentecost, in that they were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

The next account we find in the very next verse, in chapter 8, verse 13. "Then Simon himself also believed, and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and was amazed seeing the miracles and signs which were done." Here we have the account of Simon the sorcerer, a man who had made his living by doing magic, deceit, tricks to convince people that he was a powerful man. What did Simon do? Well, let's look at the chart and see the record there. Simon the sorcerer, again, it says that he believed — he saw the things that Phillip did, the miracles that he was able to work, and the message that he taught, and he believed. And he was baptized, just as the Samaritans were, as we just saw in Acts chapter 8, verse 12.

Now let's go to still another example of a person's conversion. In this same chapter, the eighth chapter, verses 35-39, chapter 8, verse 35-39. "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him." That is, to the Ethiopian nobleman, the Ethiopian eunuch. "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

There's some mighty important points in this particular example of conversion that we'd like to elaborate on for just a minute before we go to the chart. Notice, verse 35 tells us, that Philip preached Jesus to him. We've got a lot of people in the religious world today who say, "All you need to do is preach Jesus, just preach Jesus as the Christ." And what they're meaning by that is, you don't need to teach obedience. You don't need to teach baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Just preach Jesus. That's all you need to do. But let's look at the text and see what happens. The very next verse, it says, "They went down the road, the Eunuch saw some water and said, 'What hinders me from being baptized?'" And let me ask you something, friends: Where did the Eunuch learn about the need for water, and the need for baptism? It

must have been involved in the preaching of Jesus, must it not? Because that's all the text says, then we can draw the conclusion that when we preach Jesus accurately, we include baptism and water for the forgiveness of sins. Because that's the only place this Eunuch could have learned about that necessity, that requirement.

And then notice, when Bible baptism is administered, there's a going down into the water, and there's a coming up out of the water. Let me ask you another question. If pouring, or sprinkling, were the accepted mode of baptism, would it have been necessary for both of those men to go down into the water and to come up out of the water? No, it wouldn't have. The only reason they did that is that Bible baptism is an immersion, it's a dipping, plunging beneath, a covering over of that person with the water. And so we see the mode of acceptable baptism is immersion, not pouring, or sprinkling.

Now, with those thoughts in mind, let's go to our chart, and let's notice the things mentioned here in this particular account. We have the Ethiopian eunuch, or the Ethiopian nobleman, a man of great power, and authority. We know that he believed because he confessed that he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. We also know that he confessed Christ. He said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And we know that he was baptized. He was baptized in the water, Philip went down into the water with him. And we know further, that he rejoiced. We might ask ourselves, "Why did he rejoice?" Well, the answer is, he rejoiced because he knew his sins were forgiven, through the grace of God and the love and the mercy of God. He had faithfully and lovingly obeyed Jesus' command, and he knew that the blood of Christ washed his sins away, and gave him the ability to rejoice. His sins were forgiven.

Let's go to the next account, found in the 10th chapter, and verse 2. Like to read chapter 10, verse 2, to set the context. In verse one, God had talked about this Roman soldier by the name of Cornelius. And here's how he describes him in verse 2 — "A devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people and prayed to God always." What a great description of a person who was morally righteous, who was striving to be a good person. He was devout, he was one who was devoted to God, who was dedicated to God. He feared God and he had taught his household, those who are around him in his house, to fear God. And He gave alms generously. That is, he gave charity; he was a benevolent person. And he prayed to God always. So, by the account of those in the religious world today, Cornelius should have been saved. He believed in God, he feared God, he did these benevolent acts and prayed to God. He was saved, right? That's what the religious world would have us to believe.

But notice, when we turn over to chapter 11, verse 13 and 14, where we have the record of what Peter was told to do, and was sent to Cornelius for, here's what God says. And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, "Send men to Joppa and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will tell you words, by which you and all your household will be saved." Uh oh, Cornelius was not saved. Although he was a good man, a righteous man, and apparently, a religious man, he was still lost. And it was necessary for Peter to come tell him words, by which he and his household could be saved. Well, what words did Peter tell him? Let's look in the 10th chapter. And verses 44-48. Tenth Chapter, verses 44-48. "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as

came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 'Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days."

What words did Peter speak to Cornelius and his household that they might be saved? He commanded them to be baptized in water. They'd already been baptized in the Holy Spirit, as a sign from God that the Gentiles should receive the message of salvation. But Peter said, they needed to be baptized in water to be saved. So here we have the account of Cornelius, and we see very clearly what was required of him. Let's go to our chart and review what we see there. Cornelius, the Roman citizen, he believed. He believed in God. And we come across the chart to the point where he was baptized. He was baptized in water. And from chapter 11, verse 14, we saw that that resulted in his salvation, his being saved from his sins, because Peter was going to tell him words by which he must be saved.