



"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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JESUS SAID, "NO-ONE COMES TO THE FATHER, EXCEPT THROUGH ME"

(John 14:6)

But **HOW** does a person come to God through Jesus?

1-a. By Faith

Galatians 3:24, So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. NIV, 1981 edition

2-a. By Repentance

Acts 17:30, In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. NIV

3-a. By Confession

1John 1:9, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. NIV

Romans 10:9, ... if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord",..., you will be saved. NIV

4-a. By Immersion (Baptism)

Acts 2:38b, "...be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...." RSV

Confused? Do you wonder which saves you?

Note in the Scriptures below the use of the word "AND". It clarifies HOW people come to God through Jesus as God instructs in His Word.

1-b. By Faith Only? NO!

Acts 20:21, "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they MUST turn to God in repentance AND have faith in our Lord Jesus." NIV

James 2:24, "Ye see then how that by WORKS a man is justified, and NOT by faith only." KJV

[Another translation] **James 2:24**, "You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone." NIV

[Another translation] **James 2:24**, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith." American Standard, 1900 edition

2-b. By Repentance Only? NO!

Acts 20:21, "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they MUST turn to God in repentance AND have faith in our Lord Jesus." NIV

Acts 26:20, "First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God AND prove their repentance by their DEEDS." NIV

3-b. By Confession Only ? NO!

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who DOES the will of my Father who is in heaven." NIV

Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," AND believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, AND it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." NIV

4-b. By Immersion (Baptism) Only? NO!

Acts 2:38 "...Repent AND be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." RSV

Acts 2:38, "Repent," Peter said to them, "and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." HCSB

1 Peter 3:21, "and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ," NIV

Is the picture clearer? A person is saved by combining faith **AND** repentance **AND** confession **AND** immersion (baptism) **AND** (you will note from the Scriptures above: **James 2:24, Acts 26:20 & Matthew 7:21**) obedient actions.

To hope for salvation on the basis of any ONE virtue is to hope the Word of God is totally confused about all those "**AND**'s".

Let no one confuse you or deceive you. The messages of these Scriptures clearly instruct us on **HOW** to come to the Father through Jesus. The 'how' is clear but not necessarily easy. Perhaps, repentance is the most difficult element because it consists of 1.) A genuine repudiation of ones personal sins as well as 2.) Embracing the new life of holiness.

--Written by Donald Kibler