

What Must I Do?

Acts 2:36-41

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Jason Jahn/ September 13, 2026

Acts 2:36-41 “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’ ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ ³⁸ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.’ ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

I. The prerequisite for your salvation is belief.

When interpreting Scripture, we must pay close attention to the principle of analogia Scriptura (the analogy of Scripture). When correctly translated, one verse will not contradict another verse.

John 1:12 “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

John 3:16 “That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Acts 16:31 “...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

Romans 3:22 “The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe...”

Romans 4:5 “And to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.”

Romans 10:9 “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

A. You must believe that you are a sinner.

Acts 2:36 “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain...this Jesus whom you crucified.”

B. You must believe that Jesus has ultimate authority.

Acts 2:36 “...that God has made Him **both Lord** and Christ...”

In Matthew 8 we can see examples of Jesus’ authority.

- Over the illness and disease
 - From miles away. (Matt. 8:1-13)
 - Through physical touch. (Matt. 8:14-15)
- Over nature
 - Speaks to a storm and it listens. (Matt. 8:26)
- Over the spiritual beings
 - Commands demons and they have to obey. (Matt. 8:32)
- Over death

- He is risen! (Matt 28:6)
- All authority is given to Jesus. (Matt. 28:18)
- Over your life
 - **Acts 2:22** “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know.”

C. You must believe that Jesus is who He says He is.

Acts 2:36 “...that God has made Him **both Lord and Christ...**”

- Jesus said He came down from heaven. (John 3:13)
- He attested to His own divinity.
 - By taking the divine name “I Am”. (John 8:58)
 - By making claims that made Himself equal to God. (John 5:18)
 - By saying that whoever saw Him saw the Father. (John 14:9)
 - By forgiving people of their sins. (Mark 2:5)
 - By saying He is one with the Father. (John 10:30)
- He clearly said that He was the **ONLY** way to God. (John 14:6)

II. A proper response to correct belief will include two actions that you do and one that God does.

True belief in Jesus must be more than an intellectual exercise.

A. You will take action to turn from the world and to God. (Repent)

- We are idol factories that will look to make a god out of anything, even ourselves. We must reject this way of life and turn to the only true God for the meaning and purpose of our lives.
- “And the most crooked thing about this generation is that we have created ways of salvation without God and therefore without law and therefore without forgiveness—and therefore utterly without hope.” - John Piper

B. You will take action to obey His commands. (Be baptized)

- Baptism is a necessary part of being a disciple. (Matt. 28:19)
- Baptism is necessary to fulfill all righteousness. (Matt. 3:5)
- 3 functions of Baptism
 - Public declaration
 - Symbolic representation
 - Active obedience

C. You will be empowered to live the Christian life. (You will receive the Holy Spirit)

- **Acts 1:8** “But **you will receive** power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”