

## At What Point Was I Saved?

If I was to ask a random sample of 20 people, who claim to be Christians, at what point they were saved, I would probably get 20 different answers. Some would say they were saved when they:

- Believed in God and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God or
- Repented by deciding to live for God or
- Accepted Jesus as their personal Savior or
- Quoted the “sinners prayer” or
- Were baptized

Who is right? Are they all right? Are any of them right? We know all of these answers could be wrong but they cannot all be right. What does God teach in His Word? In the book of Acts, there are several examples of people becoming Christians. Let’s look at six examples in Acts:

### *The 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2*

In verse 37 when the people **heard** Peter’s preaching they wanted to know what to do to be saved. Peter told them in verse 38 to **repent** and be **baptized for the remission of sins**. In verse 41, those who **believed** were **baptized**, and about 3,000 people were added to the church that day by God (verses 41 and 47).

### *The Samaritans in Acts 8*

In verse 12, when the Samaritans **heard** Philip’s preaching, they **believed** and were **baptized**. Simon the sorcerer also believed and was baptized.

### *The Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8*

In verse 35, when the Ethiopian **heard** Philip’s preaching, he saw a body of water and asked Philip if he could be baptized. Philip told the Ethiopian that if he **believed** with all his heart, he could. Then the Ethiopian **confessed** with his mouth that he believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God. They both went down into the water and Philip **baptized** him. The Ethiopian then continued on his way rejoicing, after he was baptized, not before.

### *Cornelius in Acts 10*

In verse 47, when Cornelius and his household **heard** Peter’s preaching, he *commanded* them to be **baptized**, which means that baptism is not optional.

### *Lydia in Acts 16*

In verse 14, when Lydia **heard** Paul’s preaching, she was **baptized**.

### *The Philippian Jailer in Acts 16*

In verse 30, when the jailer **heard** Paul’s preaching, he asked what he needed to do to be saved. Paul told him to **believe** and he would be saved. After Paul taught him some more, immediately he was **baptized**. He did not wait until a later date to be baptized.

There are other examples of conversions in the New Testament that we could read about, but they are all the same. A person had to hear the Word of God, believe it, repent of their sins (which means to decide to change their life and live for God), confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and be baptized for the forgiveness or remission of sins. Here are other verses that teach God's plan of salvation

Paul said in Romans 10:13-17, that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? Verse 14 asks how anyone can call on the name of the Lord unless they **believe**. And how can they believe unless they **hear**? Verse 16 says they have not obeyed the gospel. So calling on the name of the Lord must mean obeying the gospel of Christ. Acts 22:16 also helps us know what that phrase means. Ananias was telling Saul what he needed to do to be saved and Ananias told Saul to be baptized and wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Jesus said in Mark 16:15-16 that whoever **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved but whoever does not believe (so obviously they would also not be baptized) would not be saved.

Jesus said twice in Luke 13:3 and 5 that unless we **repent** we will die in our sins.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:32-33 that whoever **confesses** Him, Jesus will also confess that person before God, but whoever denied He was the Christ, He would deny that person before God.

Paul said in Romans 10:10 that a person believes with the heart, and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation.

We must take God's Word as a whole and piece it together to see the whole picture. Sadly, many people want to just pick a piece out of God's Word and make it the whole. For example, John 3:16 which says that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Is salvation based on belief only then? Some will say yes. They ignore or reject other passages which teach repentance, confession, and baptism.

It's also important to do things in order. Many want to baptize babies. But in every case in the Bible, a person had to hear and believe before they could be baptized. Remember that when the Ethiopian asked if he could be baptized, Philip told him **if he believed** he could. Also, remember what Paul asked in Romans 10:13-17 how a person could "call on the name of the Lord" (i.e. obey the gospel) unless he believed, and how could a person believe unless they heard.

So, to answer the question, "At what point was I saved?" I was saved (added to the Lord's church by God) when I heard, believed, repented, confessed, and was baptized for the remission of sins. Now I must live the rest of my life in faithful obedience to God (Revelation 2:10).