



DO YOU HAVE BIBLE QUESTIONS?

Question: What is this all about?

So often we attend church, we read our bible, we listen to the preacher and even pray; but if someone was to ask us what is the meaning with-in these actions, I am not sure how many of us would be able to articulate the point of our worship process. My hope is that as you read this blog, your life will change for the best.

Here are the four components of why we study, apply teaching and pray:

1. **REVELATION** - God makes Himself known to you.

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Lord is translated God; Christ is translated as the anointed savior whose name is JESUS. The name "Jesus" is the Hebrew word "Joshua" (yehoshua`), which literally means "Yahweh is salvation."

When we recognize who God is through reading and study we begin to understand all that He has done for us and will continue to do for all eternity.

- He loves even before we knew He was.
- He has wonderful plans for our lives.
- He took on responsibility of all sinfulness and was crucified as a sacrifice so none need pay for wrong doing.

- He spared our lives when we didn't deserve it.

When we have revelation and the recognition of God's intentions for us, we must be provoked to respond!!! Every time the word of God is spoken to us, there must be a response. God always presents us with opportunity to come to him.

2. **SALVATION** - Salvation means to be saved or delivered from our sinful nature. Salvation starts with repentance. Repentance is confessing your sins to God, asking for His forgiveness, then turning away from our sinful or disobedient behavior. You cannot be saved or delivered without repentance and a sincere desire to uphold God's plan for His children.

Has your heart become hardened?

There is no disgrace in confessing and repenting of your sins. The disgrace comes in concealing your sins. You cannot be delivered if you conceal your sins. Believe or not, many people do not confess their sins, repent, and ask for forgiveness because they don't see themselves as a sinner. If we don't see ourselves as sinners we have no reason to confess our sins. This happens because the heart has become hardened.

Here is a physical example to understand the spiritual example:

The ground becomes hardened when there is no rain. A lack of moisture makes the soil dry. Water on Earth evaporates to the clouds where it is stored and under the correct conditions rain falls as precipitation.

Just like the dry ground, our hearts become hardened when there is no spiritual rain falling upon us. We receive natural water from vapor in the clouds. When the clouds are full they release rain. Our prayer, study of His word and love extended to others is the moisture that 'evaporates' up to the clouds (Heaven) as praise. When these faith-filled intense prayers, praise and worship to God get vaporized and fill the heavens, God releases it back down to us as Spiritual rain. Rain from God softens the hardened heart.

Confession, ask for forgiveness of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ are steps toward salvation. During the baptism in water, your sins are remitted or washed and God will then fill you with the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

3. **DISCIPLESHIP** - Become a student of Jesus Christ.

We become a student of Jesus Christ when we sit under a teacher (Pastor) who will equip us for ministry. A pastor is called by God to teach and minister to people God sends. God will work hand in hand with you and your Pastor to guide you to the place God called you to be. You will learn of the gifts and talents you were created with and began to effectively use them. You will reap great blessings from sharing your gifts. The original disciples walked with Jesus daily passing this model of a hands-on approach to all the early Christians and illustrated in the New Testament.

4. ENGAGING IN MINISTRY – A distinctive biblical idea that means "to serve" or act as a "servant."

In reality, all believers are given to ministry which means "faithful service of God's people". The apostle Paul urged the true pastor-teacher to "equip the saints" so they can minister to one another (Eph 4:11-12). The model, of course, is Jesus, who "did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). His service is revealed in the fact that He gave "His life a ransom for many" (Matt 20:28).

Jesus came to serve us by leading all to salvation- our eternal inheritance. A believer who has learned of God, understands the process and meaning of salvation is drawn to learn more about this wonderful relationship. A pastor is equipped to direct your God given abilities and gifts. Your service or ministry will blossom out of this guidance and your own desire to serve others who are at the starting line of their own journey.

Reference Scriptures:

Acts 2:36-41

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

This is what it is all about!