# Four Great Salvation Questions

1Peter 1:6-12

#### 1Peter 1:6-9

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.."

#### 1Peter 1:10-12

"Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into."

- Peter preached the gospel
  - Heed my words Acts 2:14 "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words."
  - Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved - Acts 2:21 - "And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved."

- Peter preached the gospel
  - Jesus was raised up Acts 2:31-33 "He, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."
  - Jesus was exalted Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

- Those who heard were cut to the heart
  - Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, <u>'Men and brethren, what shall</u> <u>we do?'"</u>
  - Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"

- This lead to their soul-rending inquiry
  - Acts 2:37 "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
- Peter told them what God required to free them from the agony of their predicament
  - Acts 2:38-40 "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. 39 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.' 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.'"

### "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

- Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor
  - Acts 9:4 "Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"
- The resurrected Lord appeared to him
  - Acts 9:5 "And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."
- Saul's trembling question
  - Acts 9:6 "So he, trembling and astonished, said, <u>'Lord, what do You want me to do?</u>..."

### "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

- Ananias told Saul what he must do
  - Acts 22:16 "And now why are you waiting?
    Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- Saul did as he was told
  - Acts 9:18 "Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized."

- Cornelius was seeking the way of God
  - Acts 10:1-3 "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, 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. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius!"
  - Acts 10:4 "And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, <u>'What is it, lord?</u>"

Eph. 2:11-12 - "Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

- An angel told Cornelius that Peter would tell him what to do
  - Acts 10:4-6 "So he said to him, 'Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. 6 He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."
- Peter explained the Gospel to Cornelius, et al
  - All can receive the Gospel Acts 10:35 "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

■ Acts 10:37-41 - "That word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."

- Through His name, Gentiles can have the remission of sins
  - Acts 10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."
- Peter commanded them to be baptized
  - Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

#### "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- The Philippian jailer asked this question
  - Acts 16:29-30 "Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

#### "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Well, what did he see?
  - Acts 16:25-28 "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

#### "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Paul and Silas explained the Gospel to him and his household
  - Acts 16:31-32 "So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.' 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."
- After hearing the Gospel, the jailer and household were baptized
  - Acts 16:33 "...And immediately he and all his family were baptized."

## Regarding great salvation questions:

- All were motivated by an intense, soulrending desire to be saved.
- Until we get to the same place, we will not be saved.
- We have only the present time to feel the need and ask the question.

## Regarding those who sincerely asked the great salvation question:

- The Pentecost questioners obtained the remission of sins when they gladly received the word and were baptized.
- Saul had his sins washed away when he arose and was baptized.
- Cornelius obtained the remission of sins when he obeyed Peter's command to be baptized.
- The jailer was saved when he was baptized.

## Regarding the asking of the four great salvation questions:

- Did you notice that each of them asked about salvation? Do not assume that someone will ask you; ask for yourself.
- Did you notice that neither Jesus nor the angels told the questioners what they needed to do to be saved? Sharing the good news of salvation is our responsibility, not theirs.

# What must you do to be saved?

First, YOU have to ask the question.