

sermon n
SNAPSHOTS

Fishers
Church of Christ

Summing UP Salvation

What Must I Know & Feel?

What Must I Know to be Saved?

In Acts 16:25-34, we learn that the Philippian jailor was saved within an hour's time (v25, 33) – even though he knew very little about Jesus. This raises an interesting question: "What must one know to be saved?" If the jailor could be saved within an hour, then he surely didn't know "everything" about the gospel (also see Matthew 28:18-20). So let's try to determine what the Jailor knew before he was saved.

He knew that he needed "to be saved" – and that he must "do" (v30)

- His question in v30 implies that he knew of his need "to be saved" (also see: v16-17)
- This implies that he had some understanding of "sin" (1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23; 6:23)
- It is also clearly stated that he knew that he had to "do" something – that HE must ACT!
- Sadly, many today do not understand sin, salvation, or even the need to "do" something!

He knew that he needed to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" (v.31)

- He knew this because it was Paul's response to his question about being "saved" (v.30)
- To believe on Jesus requires: Knowing "who" He is & "how" that relates to salvation!
- He is: "the Lord" (King); "Jesus" (Savior); "Christ" (Messiah, i.e., Deity -Isaiah 9:6-7)
- How that relates to salvation: He was the One who "died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

He knew that he needed to hear from "the word of the Lord" (v.32)

- Just to SAY believe on the Lord was not enough, for he did not know who the Lord was!
- So, where can we find accurate, authoritative information about "the Lord Jesus Christ?"
- Answer: "The word of the Lord!" – It is totally sufficient to create faith (Romans 10:17; John 20:30-31)
- But remember to teach the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus "first of all" (1 Corinthians 15:3)

He knew that he needed to be "baptized...having believed" (v.33-34)

- I doubt that the jailor was baptized "on a whim" – he must have been taught to do this!
- This means that teaching about baptism is a part of "the word of the Lord" to sinners!
- Indeed, baptism is among the "elementary principles" (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 6:1-3)
- In fact, baptism is what "perfects" our faith! (Acts 16:33-34; Colossians 2:11-12; and James 2:20-24)

Yes, you can learn these things within an hour! Later, you can be taught "all things" that the Lord has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20). This "additional" teaching will involve the work, worship, organization, and lifestyle of the church (or people of God). In other words, faithfulness! Now, look at your clock, and see that less than an hour has passed since you began reading. Why not obey what you have just learned?



What Must I Feel to be Saved?

Many rely on their “feelings” to tell them they’re saved. The problem with this is that our feelings can be deceptive. For example, one may “feel” that he is in good health; when in reality, he has a grave illness. Also, feelings “come and go” – what one “feels” today, he may not “feel” tomorrow. Salvation cannot be feelings-based. Nevertheless, there are feelings associated with salvation! What must I feel to be saved?

First, we must feel a sense of guilt for our sins (Psalms 32:1-5)

- David describes the blessedness of having sins forgiven, covered, or not imputed (v.1-2)
- He reminds us how the guilt of unconfessed sin weighs heavily on our minds (v.3-4)
- The solution to guilt is a humble appeal to God, who has promised to forgive us (v.5)
- When we finally feel this deep sense of guilt for our sin, then we will turn to the Lord!

Then we must feel a deep need for deliverance (Romans 7:22-25)

- Inwardly, we delight in God’s Law, & sincerely want to obey every command (v.22)
- Our outward, carnal, or fleshly side is “warring” against our desire to do right (v.23)
- This makes us feel “wretched” & our ONLY hope for “deliverance” is Jesus! (v.24-25)
- When we finally feel this need for deliverance from sin, we will we turn to the Lord!

From there, we must feel anticipation of forgiveness (Psalms 51:7-15)

- David prays for forgiveness of his sin, so that he will be able to rejoice again (v.7-9)
- He asks God for help to be more faithful, so he will not be cast away from God (v.10-11)
- Once forgiven, he looks forward to sharing God’s saving message with others! (12-15)
- When we finally feel this anticipation for forgiveness, then we (like David) will turn to the Lord!

And finally, we must feel an urgency to respond (Acts 16:30-34)

- The jailer wanted to know what he must do to be saved from his sin (v.30)
- He was told to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and he would be saved (v.31)
- After learning about Jesus, he is baptized “the same hour of the night” (32-34)
- When we finally feel this same sense of urgency, then we will turn to the Lord!

To the above things could be added a feeling of love for God (1 John 4:19), an appreciation for His sacrifice (1 Timothy 1:12-17), and an “indebtedness” to serve Him (Romans 8:12-14). Such feelings serve the purpose of “motivating” us to respond to God’s saving grace. But remember that these feelings are the result of an “objective approach” to the word of God! If YOU are feeling these things, why not obey the gospel now?

-Lanny Smith

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