

FIT FOR DUTY

Student Small Group Guide



PATHWAY CHURCH

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Step 1: Be Sure of Your Salvation

A. Purpose

As good as the feeling was when you first accepted Christ into your life, the devil is going to want to play mind games with you and make you start to wonder if you were really saved, if all that joy you felt wasn't just an emotional high brought on by the passion of the moment. Nothing that good, he will say, can last for long. Well the "Good News" is not just a passing emotion, but an eternal promise by God of your salvation. It is a promise of a better and more abundant life here and now, and of eternal life with Christ in Heaven. Eternal life is not based on feelings and emotions, but on promises from God in the Scriptures. Don't ever let anyone cheat you out of the assurance you have that your salvation is real, and that it is forever!

B. Summary:

Your assurance is based on the **Word of God**

Your assurance is based on the **Promises of God**

Your assurance is based on the **Nature and Character of God**

Your assurance is confirmed by the **Spirit of God**

C. Questions to Ponder

According to the Bible, salvation is obtained by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Why do you suppose that it is impossible for men to "earn" salvation by doing good works?

(You can use this guide as a "folder" to keep your daily devotional and sermon notes for this week.)

Step 2: Publicly Declare Your Faith by Being Baptized

A. Purpose

In the previous study we looked at Romans 10:9 which said "...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. As Baptists we believe that immersion baptism is a necessary part of how we make public our decision to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Along with the Lord's Supper (Communion), Baptism is one of the two "sacraments" generally recognized by the Baptist church. In this study we will look at the reason for Baptism and its importance to the life of a believer.

B. Summary

Baptism is an act of obedience that publicly declares your faith

Jesus commanded that believers be baptized

It was normal for New Testament believers to be baptized

Baptism expresses your love for Jesus Christ

Baptism is a "Living Picture" of our salvation

C. Questions to Ponder

In the Old Testament circumcision was symbolic of one being "A real Jew." In some ways Baptism is like circumcision. How is it similar? How is it different?

The water in a baptismal is plain ordinary water. It has no mystical content and does not by itself "save" us. If baptism does not result in salvation, why do you suppose Jesus thought it was so important that we be baptized?

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