



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.

Title: What must one do to
be saved? Part 2

Lesson: 78

Text: Acts 15:2-11

Date: June 16, 2024

Two questions that demand an answer:

What is the relationship of the Gentiles to the Mosaic Law.
What one must do to be saved?

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

This exact same debate - sparked one of the greatest moments in redemptive history.

The _____

1. Where does religious authority lie?
2. What is the church?
3. What is the essence of Christian living?
4. How is a person saved?

“Five Solas” - Sola is the Latin word for - “_____”

1. Sola Scriptura, “_____ **Alone.**”

The Bible alone is our sole authority.

2. Sola Gratia, “Salvation by _____ Alone.”

Salvation from beginning to end is the sovereign gift of God to the unworthy and undeserving.

3 - Sola Fide, “Salvation by _____ Alone.”

By faith we receive the Lord’s righteousness which satisfies God’s perfect, holy standard.

4 - Solus Christus, “In _____ Alone.”

Salvation depends totally on the Lord’s substitutionary atonement.

5 - Soli Deo Gloria, “For the _____ of God Alone.”

We are saved to display the riches of God’s grace both now and for all eternity.

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

An important question.

Can one be saved by faith and still believe that works are necessary to get into heaven?

Romans 10:1–4 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

“establish their own”

“subject” themselves

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

“end of the law” for righteousness

“believes”

Romans 9:30–33 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

Why did the Gentiles receive the Lord's righteousness and not the Jews? Because the Gentiles pursued it by **“faith.”**

Believing in _____ to save is stumbling over the stumbling stone, which is Jesus Christ.

2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

“great dissension”

“debate”

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you ***contend earnestly*** for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

“others” - Gal 2:5 - Titus, an uncircumcised Gentile joined them.

3 Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren.

4 When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.

“God had done with them” (14:27)

Who did the work, God or Paul /and Barnabas?

Romans 15:18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

“grace” of God

**The grace that saves us is the same grace
that keeps us _____.**

5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”

“believed” - Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:13-21)

Galatians 2:4–5 But it was because of the ***false brethren*** secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. (

6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.

“came together” [synagomai] - to lead together

Three testimonies that prove salvation is by faith alone.

Peter was first in (7-11)

Paul & Barnabas (12)

James (13-21)

1. Peter's _____

7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.

“word of the the gospel” - “believe”

Peter's call to ministry

Matthew 16:18–19 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; ...

“keys”

2. The Gentiles received the _____”

8 “And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;

“knows the heart”

“Holy Spirit”

“just as He also did to us”

Gentiles were saved the exact same way as the Jews by God giving them the Holy Spirit just as he had ALSO given the Jews.

How did God make it obvious?

Acts 10:45–46 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

Speaking in tongues (languages) was the sign of absolute equality

3. God _____ the heart by faith.

9 and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

“faith”

Upon salvation the Holy Spirit cleanses our heart.

Ezekiel 36:25–27 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 “I will put My Spirit within you and cause

you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

10 “Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”

“yoke”

A yoke is a wooden bar over the neck of two animals joining them so they could pull heavy loads together.

11 **“BUT** we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

“the grace of the Lord Jesus”

One last thing:

Peter stresses equally by reversing the order.

(8) The Gentiles were given the Holy Spirit just as he did to us (Jews).

(11) The Jews are saved - in the same way as the they (Gentiles) also are.”

Implication

1. It is impossible to believe in works and trust in Jesus who is completely _____ to save.

John 16:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and **righteousness** and judgment;

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The Holy Spirit convicts us that we need our Lord’s righteousness.

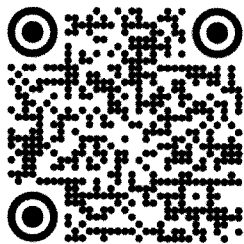
Galatians 5:2–4 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

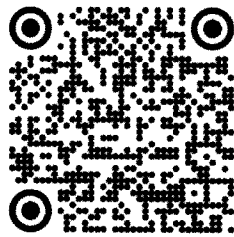
4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Discussion Guide

1. Romans 11:6 is so central to Acts and the key debate throughout history that we should all memorize it. Please make it a memory verse for your group.
2. Review the five “solas” and share what each one means and why they are so important?
3. Review Romans 10:4 and discuss what it means that Christ is “the end of the law” and why it’s so central to true Christianity.
4. Have you ever had a debate regarding an essential doctrine? How did it go and would you approach it differently?
5. Can a person be saved if they believe in a Jesus who requires man to do works to merit his own salvation? Explain why or why not?



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ANSWERS: Protestant Reformation, Alone, Scripture, Grace, Faith, Christ, Glory, works, faithful, commissioning, Holy Spirit, cleanses, sufficient