

4 I have received the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

John 3:8 says, *“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.”* Being born of the Spirit is when you receive the Spirit of God into you, the Holy Ghost. As this scripture shows there is always sound associated with the Holy Ghost that acts like wind. You can’t tell where the wind stops or starts and you can’t see it, but when it hits something you hear it and see its effects. The first time the Holy Ghost fell the people all began speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-4). Speaking in tongues happens when the Holy Ghost hits you and you begin speaking in a language that you have never learned. It is a sign that one has the Holy Ghost. Mark 16:16-17 says that those that are believed and baptized... *“shall speak with new tongues”*. The Holy Ghost fell with tongues in Acts 10:44-48 and again in Acts 19:1-6. Some would argue that tongues are one of the spiritual gifts spoken in 1 Corinthians 12, but in the same list of gifts are faith and healing, things every believer should demonstrate (Mark 16:16-17; Romans 12:3). The Holy Ghost when you have it comes into your heart (Galatians 4:6). It is power (Acts 1:8), it is your Comforter and the Spirit of Truth (John 14:16-17). It is God in you and it helps you with the final checkpoint.

5 I am becoming more like Christ every day.

This qualification comes through praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17), fasting (Matthew 6:16-18), studying your Bible (1 Timothy 2:15) so that you may able to daily live like Christ would have you to live and keep his commandments (John 14:15).

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1 I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He died on Calvary, overcoming sin, death, hell and grave. After three days He rose again and is alive forever more with all power in His hands.

Before you come to Jesus you must believe that Jesus Christ lived and that He is the Son of God. You must also believe that He is risen from the dead and is alive forever more. Believe is key to salvation because in Hebrews 11:6 it says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for He that cometh to God must believe that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* The Bible also says in Romans 10:9, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* In the story of Phillip and the eunuch (Acts 8: 29-39) after the eunuch heard Phillip preach to him about Jesus and the eunuch decided he wanted to be baptized, Phillip said to the eunuch, *“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he [the eunuch] answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”*

2 I have chosen to serve God and I have made a total turn from the things that are not pleasing to Him and made a turn towards Him. I know that He is able to keep me from sin.

To repent literally means to make a 180-degree turn from the direction you were headed. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 it says, *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”* The sorrow of the world is being sorry when you get caught. Being godly sorrowful means to think about what you have done and how it made God feel. In other words, godly sorrow is being sorry because you hurt God. This is not repentance, but it leads to repentance. True repentance is more than tears or an emotion, it requires CHANGE. Repentance is giving up, literally turning around and doing the opposite of the wrong that you had done. Repentance is necessary to salvation and a prerequisite to baptism for the Bible says in Acts 2:38, *“Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”* The key to repentance is not you keeping yourself from sin, but it’s allowing and trusting God “who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless” (Jude 24). Perfection is not out of reach, it comes from God.

3 I have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of my sins.

Believing, repentance and finally baptism, all build on top of each other. In Mark 16:16 the Bible says, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”* Acts 2:38 also commands baptism as does John 3:5 when it says, *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* The Bible also commands that *“...whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”* There is no instance in the Bible where someone was baptized saying, *“In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”* This is part of a command of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19 where Jesus told his disciples to, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”* As noted in Matthew 28:16, Jesus was talking to his eleven disciples. This number includes Peter, the same Peter who had the keys to the kingdom of God (Matthew 16:19) and the same Peter who commanded people to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ in Acts 2:38. Was Peter being disobedient? No, he understood that when Jesus said name, he did not say names so there was no plurality in his request and also understood there is salvation in no other name. The Bible says, *“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead... Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among me, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:10,12). There are many instances in the Bible where people were baptized calling the name of Jesus, Acts 10:44-48, 19:1-6, 22:16, to name a few. Baptism is the *“putting on of Christ”* according to Galatians 3:27 and it is deemed the *“answer of a good conscience toward God”* in 1Peter 3:21. Romans 6:1-6 compares baptism to a death to sin so that you are free from serving it any longer. Baptism is essential to salvation. The name of Jesus is essential during baptism.



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