
JOURNEY TO LIFE



An Apostolic Evangelism Tool

Editors

Minister Robert J.E. Tillery, II – Editor

Elder Robert L. Tillery, Sr. – Author / Editor

Section 1: God's Word Is Life

Before we can talk about salvation, we must understand where truth comes from: God's Word. The Bible¹ is not just a religious book. It is God-breathed, alive, and powerful. It teaches us how to be saved, how to live, and who God is.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (KJV):

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

That word “inspiration” means God-breathed. The Scriptures were not written by human will but by men moved by the Spirit of God.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (KJV):

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

The Bible doesn't just inform — it transforms. It's our compass in a dark world.

Psalms 119:105 (KJV):

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Teacher Note

Slow down here. Ask the student: “Do you believe the Bible is God's Word? Why or why not?” Let them think. Don't rush. Let the Spirit begin drawing hearts. Remind them: this study isn't about a religion — it's about God speaking to them personally.

¹ Did You Know?

The word “Bible” means book, but the Greek word used in 2 Timothy for “inspiration” is *theopneustos*, meaning “God-breathed.” This means the Bible isn't man's opinion — it's the voice of God Himself, written down.

Section 2: What Went Wrong? – The Problem of Sin

To understand salvation, we first have to understand why we need to be saved. The Bible teaches that sin² entered the world through Adam, and because of that, every human being is born in sin and spiritually separated from God.

Romans 5:12 (KJV):

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

This verse explains that Adam’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden brought sin into the world, and because of that, all humans inherit a sinful nature.

Romans 3:23 (KJV):

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

We’re not born righteous — we’re born in need of redemption. No one is exempt. Sin affects our choices, our desires, and our relationship with God.

Psalms 51:5 (KJV):

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Because of sin, we are spiritually dead — separated from God and unable to restore ourselves. But God, in His mercy, made a plan for our rescue.

Romans 6:23 (KJV):

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Teacher Note

Don’t rush through this section. Ask: “Do you think sin is just doing bad things — or is it deeper than that?” Let the student talk. Give examples. Use honesty and humility. The goal is not guilt — it’s clarity: We all need a Savior.

² Did You Know?

The word sin in both Hebrew (chata’) and Greek (hamartia) literally means “to miss the mark.” It’s not just rebellion — it’s falling short of God’s standard. Every person, no matter how “good,” has missed the mark.

Section 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The word gospel means “good news.” But to understand the good news, we must first accept the bad news — that we were dead in sin and couldn’t save ourselves.

God’s answer to sin wasn’t punishment — it was a person. Jesus Christ came to this earth to die in our place, to take the penalty of our sin, and to rise again so we could walk in the newness of life.³

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (KJV):

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

The Gospel is more than a story. It is the foundation of our faith — the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. This is the pattern of salvation.

Romans 5:8 (KJV):

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Even when we were undeserving, Jesus gave His life to make salvation available. That’s the heart of the Gospel — substitutionary love.

John 3:16 (KJV):

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Teacher Note

Pause here and ask: “What have you heard about the Gospel before? What does Jesus’ death mean to you personally?” This is often where conviction begins. Let the student reflect on Christ’s sacrifice and what it means for them.

³ Did You Know?

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are not just events — they are the pattern of salvation that we obey in repentance, baptism, and Spirit infilling. The Gospel isn’t just something to believe — it’s something to obey.

Section 4: Believe – Faith That Leads to Obedience

Faith is the starting point of salvation. But biblical belief is more than agreeing that Jesus exists — it means trusting in Him enough to respond.

To truly believe in Jesus is to believe in who He is, what He did, and what He has commanded us to do. Faith without action is incomplete.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV):

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

John 3:16 (KJV):

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth⁴ in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

This verse is one of the most quoted scriptures in the Bible — and for good reason. It tells us that belief is where the journey begins. But believing in Jesus is more than just saying His name — it’s responding to who He is.

James 2:17, 19–20 (KJV):

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone... Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

Genuine faith always produces obedience. It moves us to repent, to be baptized, and to seek after God.

Teacher Note

Ask the student: “What do you think it really means to believe in someone?” Let this be personal. Help them connect faith to relationship and response. It’s not about religion — it’s about knowing Jesus and acting on His Word.

⁴ Did You Know?

The Greek word for believe in John 3:16 is “pisteuō” — which means to trust in, cling to, rely on. It implies relationship, response, and action — not passive acknowledgment.

Section 5: Repent – Turning From Sin

After believing in Jesus, the next step is repentance — a sincere turning away from sin and turning toward God. Repentance is more than saying “I’m sorry” — it’s a decision to change direction.

Acts 3:19 (KJV):

“Repent⁵ ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”

Repentance means we acknowledge our sin, feel godly sorrow for it, and make a decision to forsake it.

Luke 13:3 (KJV):

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 (KJV):

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

God isn’t looking for perfection — He’s looking for a heart that’s ready to surrender. Repentance is a gift and a command. It opens the door to salvation.

Teacher Note

Ask: “Have you ever made a decision that changed your life? What made you take that step?” Link that idea to repentance. Help the student see that repentance is not about shame — it’s about freedom from the past and a new beginning with God.

⁵ Did You Know?

The Greek word for “repent” is *metanoēō*, meaning to change one’s mind or direction. It’s not just emotion — it’s transformation.

Section 6: Water Baptism – In the Name of Jesus

Baptism⁶ is not just a symbol — it is an essential part of salvation. It represents the burial of our old life and the washing away of our sins through the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38 (KJV):

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Romans 6:4 (KJV):

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

The Bible shows that baptism in the name of Jesus is how sins are remitted (forgiven). It is also the public declaration of our faith in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Acts 10:48 (KJV):

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.”

Galatians 3:27 (KJV):

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Baptism is a command — not an option — and it must be done according to the apostolic pattern: in Jesus’ name, not just in titles (Father, Son, Holy Ghost).

Teacher Note

Ask: “Have you ever been baptized? Do you remember how it was done?” Don’t rush. Let the student ask questions. Gently guide them to see the biblical pattern — Jesus’ name baptism isn’t a denomination; it’s apostolic obedience.

⁶ Did You Know?

In every instance of baptism in the book of Acts — from Jerusalem to Samaria to Ephesus — they were all baptized in the name of Jesus. This is how the early church fulfilled Jesus’ command in Matthew 28:19.

Section 7: Spirit Baptism – Filled With Power

When Jesus talked about being born again, He didn't just mention water — He said we must also be born of the Spirit⁷. This is the experience of receiving the Holy Ghost, with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues.

John 3:5 (KJV):

“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.”

On the Day of Pentecost, this promise was fulfilled. The Spirit was poured out, and those who received it spoke in new tongues as the Spirit gave them the ability.

Acts 2:4 (KJV):

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

This experience wasn't just for the apostles — it continued to happen everywhere the Gospel was preached.

Acts 10:44–46 (KJV):

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished... For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.”

Acts 19:6 (KJV):

“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

Receiving the Holy Ghost is not an emotional experience — it is a supernatural birth. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now lives in us.

Teacher Note

This is a powerful moment. Ask: “Have you ever heard someone speak in tongues before? What do you think about that?” Let them share freely. Assure them that this is biblical and beautiful — not strange or scary. Encourage them: “The promise is for you, too.”

⁷ Did You Know?

The Holy Ghost is not just power — it's a Person. It is God's Spirit dwelling in you. Jesus called Him “the Comforter,” and said HE would teach, guide, and empower His followers. Jesus is the Comforter.

Section 8: You Must Be Born Again – Water and Spirit

Jesus didn't leave the plan of salvation open to interpretation. He gave Nicodemus a clear message — we must be born again⁸ to enter the Kingdom of God.

John 3:3 (KJV):

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5 (KJV):

“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.”

This “new birth” is not symbolic. It's a real spiritual experience — a birth by water (baptism) and a birth by the Spirit (Holy Ghost infilling).

Titus 3:5 (KJV):

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

Some say being “born again” is just a feeling or a decision. But Jesus and the apostles taught that it involves water and Spirit. This is why Acts 2:38 — repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and Spirit baptism — is the fulfillment of John 3:5.

To be born again means we start fresh — we become new creatures in Christ, with His Spirit living inside us.

Teacher Note

Ask: “Have you ever heard the phrase ‘born again’? What do you think it means?” Gently connect their answer to the actual experience described in Scripture. This is not just a title — it's a real encounter with God's Spirit and cleansing.

⁸ Did You Know?

The phrase “born again” in the Greek text of John 3:3 is “gennēthē anōthen”, which means born from above. This is not a human work — it's a spiritual transformation initiated by God Himself.

Section 9: The Promise Is for You – Acts 2:38 Experience

The message Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost is still God's plan of salvation⁹ today. Acts 2:38 wasn't a suggestion — it was a divine response to the question, "What must we do?"

Acts 2:37–38 (KJV):

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

This one verse lays out the entire New Testament plan of salvation:

1. Repent **2.** Be baptized in Jesus' name **3.** Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

Peter didn't invent this. Jesus had already laid the foundation in John 3:5 — water and Spirit. Peter simply preached it.

Acts 2:39 (KJV):

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

This promise wasn't just for the crowd at Pentecost — it's for everyone, including you.

Acts 19:1–6 (KJV):

"...He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?... And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Years after Pentecost, the apostles were still preaching the same message — repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name, and Spirit baptism with tongues.

Teacher Note

This is a defining moment. Ask: "Have you ever heard Acts 2:38 before? What do you think it means for you today?" Let the Word speak. Let the Spirit stir. This is not about religion — it's about receiving the promise.

⁹ Did You Know?

Some call Acts 2:38 "the Apostolic formula" — but it's more than a formula. It's the biblical response to the Gospel. It's how we obey the death (repentance), burial (baptism), and resurrection (Spirit infilling) of Jesus.

Section 10: Walking in Newness of Life

Salvation isn't just a moment — it's the beginning of a new life. Once we've repented, been baptized, and filled with the Holy Ghost, we are called to walk differently — to walk in newness of life¹⁰.

Romans 6:4 (KJV):

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

This is more than avoiding sin — it's living empowered by the Spirit. The Holy Ghost transforms our desires and produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Galatians 5:22–23 (KJV):

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...”

The Spirit doesn't just make us shout or speak in tongues — it helps us live holy. Holiness isn't about perfection; it's about being set apart and letting God shape our walk, talk, and thinking.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Walking in newness of life is the evidence that we've truly been changed. God didn't save us just to escape hell — He saved us to walk with Him and reflect His nature.

Teacher Note

Ask: “How would you describe your life before God began changing you?” Help the student reflect on the change salvation brings. Encourage them: “This is not just about starting right — it's about living right through God's power.”

¹⁰ Did You Know?

The phrase “walk in newness of life” means to live daily in a fresh spiritual identity. It's a new direction, new power, and a new purpose — not just a one-time spiritual moment.

Section 11: Your Next Step – A Call to Action

Now that you’ve heard the Gospel, learned the truth, and seen God’s plan clearly in His Word — the next step is yours. God is calling you to respond.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (KJV):

“...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

God isn’t waiting for you to get perfect — He’s waiting for you to surrender. You don’t need to understand everything before you obey what you do understand.

James 4:17 (KJV):

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

Jesus stands ready to forgive, cleanse, and fill you — right now. He’s not distant. He’s near. This journey isn’t just about learning; it’s about responding.

Acts 22:16 (KJV):

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

You can start this journey today:

- Repent from sin
- Be baptized in the name of Jesus
- Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

Prayer of Repentance

“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I’m sorry for the life I’ve lived. I repent. I turn from my sin. Wash me, cleanse me, fill me with Your Spirit. I want to live for You. I surrender to You today — in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Teacher Note

This is it — the moment of decision. Be patient. Be prayerful. Encourage the student to pray aloud if they feel led. If they’re ready to be baptized or receive the Holy Ghost, help them take that step

NOTES

Use this space to write down questions, reflections, or revelations as you study God's Word.
