

THE NEW BIRTH

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

THE CONDITION OF HUMAN NATURE

The condition of man before his conversion to Christ is revealed by Jesus himself to the Apostle Paul:

Ac 26:9-18 As for me, I thought that I should work actively against the name of Jesus the Nazarene. For this I did in Jerusalem; and having received permission from the chief priests, I shut up many saints in prisons; and, when they were put to death, I gave my vote. And often, in all the synagogues, punishing them, I forced them to blaspheme; and, being extremely furious against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. While I was devoting myself to these things, and going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, at noon I saw on the road, O king, a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, which shone around me and my fellow-travellers. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It's hard for you to kick back against the goad". I said, "Who are you, Lord?" And the Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But arise, and stand upright, for this is why I have appeared to you, that you may make yourself a minister and a witness of the things which you have seen, and of those by which I will appear to you again, delivering you from this people and from the nations, to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, and let them receive, through faith in me, the forgiveness of sins and their share of inheritance among the sanctified."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "If our gospel is yet veiled, it is veiled to those who are on the way to perdition, to those who are unbelievers, whose minds the god of this world has blinded, so that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, may not shine upon them.

1 Jn 5:18-19 "We know that everyone born of God does not persist in sinning; but he who is born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one.

Rom 1:28 Because they did not care to know God, God forsook them at the mercy of their perverse minds so that they would do what is unseemly; filled with all injustice, wickedness, greed, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, fraud, malice; slanderers, backbiters, abominable to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, ingenious in evil, rebellious to parents, senseless, disloyal, without natural affections, ruthless.

Eph 2:1-2 "God has quickened you also, you who were dead in your trespasses and sins, to whom you once gave yourselves up according to the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, of that spirit which is at work in rebellious men today."

At 10:38:... the story of Jesus of Nazareth; how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power; and how he went everywhere doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

THE NEW SPIRITUAL BIRTH

What does conversion, new birth, new creation or salvation mean? Jesus explains it to us!

Joh 3:1-10 There was a man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, one of the rulers of the Jews. He came to Jesus in the night and said to him,

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher from God; because no one can perform these miracles that you do, if God is not with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is already old? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless anyone is born of water** (Word of God, repentance, baptism in water by immersion) (purification 1 Peter 1:22; Eph 5:25-26) **and of the Spirit** (God's Word, faith in Jesus Christ, baptism of the Holy Spirit) (sanctification Heb 10:10; 1 Corinthians 6:11;) **cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** Don't be surprised if I told you, "You must be born again." The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you know neither where it comes from nor where it goes; so it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Nicodemus replied and said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "You are the teacher of Israel, and do you not know these things?"

2 Corinthians 5:17 **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, they have become new."**

The new birth or salvation of the soul is a gift from God, it is not for our merit. It allows us in spirit to come out of this world of darkness and into His glorious Kingdom, and it is obtained through: repentance, water baptism, faith in Jesus Christ, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Eph 2:8-9 **"For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this does not come from you; it is the gift of God. It is not by virtue of works that no one can boast of them.**

Jn 3:16 **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."** For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not judged; he

who does not believe is already judged, because he did not believe in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

For the salvation of the soul or conversion to Christ, God grants three gifts:

1 - Gift of repentance

2 - Gift of faith in Jesus Christ

3 - Gift of the Holy Spirit

These three gifts can be verified in these Scriptures:

Repentance is a gift from God that leads us to repent, confess our sins, abandon them definitively, close with the past by returning the ill-gotten gains, reconciling relationships with forgiveness and starting a new path of sanctification as taught by Jesus Christ.

2 Tim 2:24-26 "The servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but must be gentle with everyone, able to teach, patient. He must meekly instruct opposers in the hope that God will grant them repentance in order to recognize the truth, so that, coming to their senses, they will come out of the snare of the devil, who had taken them captive to do his will.

At 11:18 ... Therefore God has granted repentance even to foreigners so that they may have life.

1 John 1:8-9 "If we say that we are sinless, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Faith is a gift of God that God initially grants for salvation, but which grows during the Christian journey to know Him more and to serve Him according to His will.

Eph 2:8-9 "For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and this does not come from you; it is the gift of God.

Heb 12:2 "Fixing his gaze on Jesus, the One who creates faith and makes it perfect. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, despising infamy, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Rom 10:17 "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes from the word of Christ."

Rom 10:9 "For if you confess Jesus as Lord with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Some teach false doctrines by saying that salvation comes only by faith or even worse by declaring a simple prayer called "the sinner's prayer" without the need for repentance or water baptism by referring to these verses:

Rom 10:13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Ac 2:21 "And it shall come to pass, that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

These verses quoted by both the apostle Paul and the apostle Peter, do not have the meaning of how to obtain salvation in the sense that only confession is enough as described in (Rom 10:10) but the apostles were simply revealing to those who listened to them that salvation was available to all men, in fact the apostle Paul in the previous verse (Rom 10:12) specifies both Jew and Greek. During Pentecost, it is written that those who heard them, heard them speaking in their own language, (Acts 2:7-8) in fact every year for the Passover Jews of all nationalities went to the temple in Jerusalem and the apostle Peter in his discourse quoted the verse of the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28:32), concerning the Holy Spirit who would be poured out on all flesh And when those men were pricked in the heart, they said what must we do to receive salvation? The Apostle Peter answered, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ (in water by immersion like Jesus) for the forgiveness of your sins,

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (by faith the baptism of the Holy Spirit) (Ac 2:38)

We can see what the true meaning of those two verses is: "whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" by the conversion of the apostle Paul:

Ac 22:16 (Ananias said to him) And now, why do you delay (Saul)? Arise, be baptized and washed of your sins, calling on his name. (Jesus Christ)

Here Saul called on the name of the Lord Jesus during his water baptism and was baptized in the Holy Spirit soon after. It is true that there are particular cases in which a seriously ill person cannot be baptized or when one is at the point of death like the thief on the cross, (Lk 23:43) in these exceptional cases faith will be enough to be saved.

Water baptism is a commandment given by the Lord (our passage of faith and obedience Ac 10:47-48)

Mt 28:18-20 "Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Now behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the present age. Amen».

Mt 3:16 "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water; and behold, the heavens were and he saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove and come on him.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God (to be asked for in prayer)

Acts 2:38-39 ... Peter to them: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For for for you it is the promise, for

your children, and for all those who are far off, for those whom the Lord our God calls of it...

Lk 11:13 ... the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Acts 10:44-46 "While Peter was thus speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all who heard the Word. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Ghost was given even to foreigners, because they heard them speak in tongues and glorify God.

At 5:32 ... the Holy Spirit, which God has given to those who obey him.

Mt 3:11 (John said) I baptize you with water for repentance; but he who comes after me is stronger than I, and I am not worthy to wear his shoes; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Acts 1:4-5 (Jesus) When he was with them, he commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to await the fulfillment of the Father's promise, "which," he said, "you have heard from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit in not many days."

Ac 2:1 "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing wind blowing, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Tongues appeared to them as if of fire that were divided, and one rested on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them to speak.

Once the conversion process is complete, one becomes part of the body of Christ, the church of Jesus Christ, God's family on earth, and the kingdom of God in heavenly places.

Eph 1:22-23 "He has put all things under his feet, and (Jesus) has given him as supreme head to the church, which is his body."

Cl 1:18 "He (Jesus Christ) is the head of the body, that is, of the church;

he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the preeminence."

As with the individual body of Jesus, God formed the body of Christ, that is, the church, united in spirit, soul and body to him as if it were one man.

Body: 1 Corinthians 12:13,27-28 For we were all baptized into one Spirit (baptism of the Holy Spirit) to form one body, Jews and Greeks, slaves and free; and we have all been watered with one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and members of it, each one in his own way. And God has placed in the church ...

Eph 4:4 "There is one body and one Spirit...

Rom 12:5 ... we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another.

Rom 6:3-4 "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus (baptism of the Holy Spirit) have been baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him by baptism into his death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

Soul: Ac 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.

Spirit: 1 Corinthians 6:17 ... he who unites himself to the Lord is one spirit with him.

In fact, all those who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and have become part of the body of Christ, the church of Jesus Christ, are labeled by the apostle Paul with these definitions: In Jesus, in Christ Jesus, in Jesus Christ, in Christ, in Him, in Him, in the Lord.

Ti 3:5-6 He saved us, not by righteous works done by us, but by his mercy, through the bath of regeneration (baptism of the Holy Spirit) and the renewing of the Holy Spirit (sanctification) he has poured out abundantly upon us through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Pt 1:23 ... you have been regenerated, not from corruptible seed, but from incorruptible seed, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

Cl 1:13-14 "God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has transported us into the kingdom of her beloved Son. In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

A premise: Only those who receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit become part of the body of Christ which is the church of Jesus Christ.

Mt 16:18 "And I (Jesus) also say to you, you are Peter, and on this rock (revealed Word) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not be able to do so win.

Mr 16:16-18 (The resurrected Jesus said to his disciples) Who will believe and be baptized (here the reference is the baptism of the Holy Spirit because in the following verses it indicates what will be the sign that the Holy Spirit has been received, that is, speaking in tongues) will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will accompany those who have believed: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will take snakes in their hands; even if they drink some poison, they will have no harm from it; they will lay hands on the sick and they will be healed.

An example of a new birth or complete conversion that gives the right to become a child of God and be a part of the body of Christ, i.e., His church:

Acts 19:1-7 "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the upper regions of the land and came to Ephesus, and there he found some disciples (believers), to whom he said, 'Did you receive the Holy Ghost when you believed? They answered Him, "We have not even heard that the Holy Ghost is there." He said to them, "By what baptism were you baptized?" They answered, "By the baptism of John." (they had repented of their sins) Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in him who came after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus; (water

baptism by immersion, an act of obedience to receive forgiveness of their sins through the blood of Jesus Christ in a spiritual way) and, Paul having laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. (baptism of the Holy Spirit, by prayer and the laying on of the hands of the apostle and demonstrated by the sign of speaking

in languages and prophecy) There were about twelve men in all.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

When he was baptized by John in the Jordan, he was immersed in water, according to what is written:

Mt 3:16-17 "And as soon as Jesus was baptized, he came out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

This event testified to the beginning of his mission as the Son of Man. In fact, when the demons identified Him as the Holy One or the Son of God, He silenced them because it was not the time to manifest Himself as the Son of God. But when he spoke to his disciples about how to become disciples, we see that he went up the mountain and was transfigured before them.

Mt 17:1-2,5 "Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother with him, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Mk 9:2-3,7)

This second event, on the other hand, testified to the beginning of his mission as the Son of God who sacrificed himself for humanity.

From this example we can see how disciples of Jesus Christ are also identified in the conversion process:

(Word of God, repentance, water baptism by immersion)

He identifies us with the nature of the Son of Man

(Word of God, faith in Jesus Christ, baptism of the Holy Spirit)

He identifies us in the nature of the Son of God

Conversions in the New Testament

Apostle Peter's Message to the First Jews, Conversions and Water Baptisms

Acts 2:36-47 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God has made Jesus Lord and Christ, whom you crucified." When they heard this, they were pricked to the heart, and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do? Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For for for you it is the promise, for your children, and for all those who are far off, for those whom the Lord our God calls of it." And in many other words he implored and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this wicked generation." Those who accepted his word were baptized; and in that day about three thousand persons were added to them. And they were persevering in listening to the teaching of the apostles and in fraternal communion, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. Everyone was seized with fear; and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had everything in common; they sold their property and goods, and distributed them to all, according to the need of each. And every day they went assiduously and with one accord to the temple, broke bread in the houses and partook of their food together, with joy and

simplicity of heart, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. The Lord added to their community every day those who were being saved.

Message of the Apostle Peter to the First Roman Gentiles: Conversions and Baptisms of the Holy Spirit and in Water

Ac 10:36-48 "This is the word which he has spoken to the children of Israel, bringing the glad tidings of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. You know what happened in all Judea, beginning in Galilee, after the baptism preached by John; namely, the story of Jesus of Nazareth; how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power; and how he went everywhere doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. And we are witnesses of all the things done by him in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem; they killed him, hanging him from a tree. But God raised him up on the third day and wanted him to manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses chosen by God; that is, to us, who ate and drank with him after his resurrection from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify, that he is the one who was appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify of him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. While Peter was thus speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all who heard the Word. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Ghost was given even to foreigners, because they heard them speak in tongues and glorify God. Then Peter said, "Is there anyone who can deny water and prevent those who have received the Holy Ghost from being baptized

like us?" And he commanded that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Philip's Message in Samaria: Conversions and Baptisms in Water

Acts 8:5-6, Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ there. And the unanimous crowds paid attention to the things Philip said,

listening to him and observing the miracles he performed. ... when they believed Philip, who brought them the glad tidings of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, men and women.

Message from Philip conversion and baptism in water of an Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-39 An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, "Get up, and go to noon, on the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza. It is a deserted road." He got up and left. And behold, an Ethiopian, eunuch and minister of Candace, queen of Ethiopia, overseer of all her treasures, had come to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was returning, sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Come closer, and reach that chariot." Philip ran to him, heard that the man was reading the prophet Isaiah, and said to him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He answered, "And how can I do it if no one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit next to him. Now the passage of Scripture which he read was this: "He was led to the slaughter like a sheep; and as a lamb that is dumb before the one who shears it, so he has not opened his mouth. In his humiliation he was rescued from judgment. Who will be able to describe your generation? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch turned to Philip and said to him, "Of whom, please, does the prophet say? Of himself, or of someone else?" Then Philip began to speak and, beginning with this passage of Scripture, communicated to him the good news of Jesus. On the way, they came to a place where there was water. And the eunuch said, "Here is water; What prevents me from being baptized?" Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, it is possible." The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." He stopped the chariot, and they both descended into the water, Philip and the eunuch; and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried off Philip; and the eunuch, continuing his journey all merry, saw him no more.

Conversion of the Apostle Paul, Water Baptism and the Holy Spirit

Ac 9:10-20 And there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord he said in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Get up, go to the road called Straight, and look in the house of Judas for one of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him to recover his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many of this man how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And here he received authority from the chief priests to chain all those who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument that I have chosen to bear my name before the peoples, kings, and the children of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went and went into the house, laid his hands on him, and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, that Jesus who appeared to you on the road you were coming by sent me to regain your sight and to be filled with the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 14:18) At that moment scales fell from his eyes, and he recovered his sight, and he got up and was baptized. And, after taking food, his strength returned. He stayed a few days with the disciples who were in Damascus, and immediately began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Paul's Message Conversion and Water Baptism of Lydia's Family

Ac 16:12-15 "From there we went to Philippi, which is a Roman colony and the most important city in that region of Macedonia; and we stayed in that city a few days. On the Sabbath we went outside the door, along the river, where we thought there was a place of prayer; and seductively we spoke to the women gathered there. A woman from the city of Thyatiri, a purple merchant named Lydia, who feared God, listened to us. The Lord opened her heart to make her attentive to the things Paul said. After she was baptized with her family, she prayed to us, saying, "If you have judged that I am faithful to the Lord, go into my house, and lodge yourselves." And he forced us to accept.

Message from Paul and Silas Conversion and Water Baptism of the Family of the Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:25-34 "About midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God, and the prisoners listened to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, the prison was shaken to its foundations; and at that instant all the doors opened, and the chains of all were broken. The jailer awoke, and, seeing all the doors of the prison wide open, drew his sword to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out to him in a loud voice, "Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here." The jailer asked for a light, sprang in, and trembling, threw himself at the feet of Paul and Silas, and led them out, and said, "Gentlemen, what must I do to be saved?" And they answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you and your family will be saved." Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them with him at that very hour of the night, washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized with all his own. Then he brought them up into his house, set the table for them, and rejoiced with all his power family, because he had believed in God.

Paul's message in Corinth: conversions and baptisms in water

Acts 18:8 But Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the LORD with all his household. Many Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

The Apostle Paul reminds the Ephesians of their conversion experiences

Eph 2:1-10 "God has made you alive also, you who were dead in your trespasses and sins, to whom you once gave yourselves up according to the way of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, of that spirit which is at work in rebellious men today." In the number of whom we also all lived at one time, according to the desires of our flesh, obeying the desires of the flesh and of our thoughts; and we were by nature children of wrath, like the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the

great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive with Christ (it is by grace that you were saved), and raised us up with him, and with him made us sit in heaven in Christ Jesus, to show in the times to come the immense riches of his grace, through the goodness he had for us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and it does not come from you; it is the gift of God. It is not by virtue of works that no one should boast; for we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has previously prepared for us to do.

The Apostle Paul reminds the Colossians of their experiences of conversion

Cl 1:13-23 "God has delivered us from the power of darkness and transported us into the kingdom of his beloved Son." In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature; for in him were created all things that are in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible: thrones, lordships, principalities, powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and all things hold together in him. He is the head of the body, that is, of the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he may have the primacy. For it pleased the Father to make all fullness dwell in him, and to reconcile all things to himself through him, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, both things that are on earth and things that are in heaven. And you, who were once strangers and enemies because of your evil thoughts and works, now God has reconciled you in the body of his flesh through his death, that you may appear before him holy, without blemish and blameless, if ye continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved by the hope of the gospel which you have heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

The Apostle Paul reminds Titus of their conversion experiences

Ti 3:3 "For we also were once foolish, rebellious, backslidden, slaves to all kinds of passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the goodness of God our Saviour and his love for men were manifested, he saved us, not by righteous works done by us, but by his mercy, by the bath of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, which he poured out abundantly upon us through Christ Jesus, our Saviour, so that, justified by his grace, we might become, in hope, heirs of eternal life.

What to do after being saved by grace?

One must learn to walk with God in His presence and be completely dependent on Him in all things.

After taking the first four steps of faith:

- 1 - Repentance, repentance and abandonment of sins
- 2 - Having believed in the sacrifice of Christ by faith
- 3 - Having done water baptism by faith
- 4 - To have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit by faith

As indicated in Scripture:

Heb 6:1-2 "Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about Christ, we tend to the higher one, and we do not lay again the foundation of repentance from dead works and faith in God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of the laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

We must continue to take other steps of faith:

- 1 - Meditate on the Word of God every day and put it into practice with the help of the Holy Spirit

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the man ... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and meditate on that law day and night.

Jos 1:8-9 "Let this book of the law never depart from your mouth, but meditate on it, day and night; take care to do all that is written in it; for then you will succeed in all your undertakings, then you will prosper. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous; don't be scared and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

2 - Pray and commune with God and brotherhood every day

Da 6:10 "When Daniel heard that the decree was signed, he went to his house; and keeping the windows of his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down three times a day and prayed, and thanked his God as he was wont to do before.

Ps 133:1 ... How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together!

3 - Praise and Worship God Daily

Ps 119:164 I praise thee seven times a day for thy righteous judgments.

Ps 29:2 Give the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord with holy magnificence.

Rev 14:7 "He (the angel) said with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters.

4 - Serve God and brotherhood every day

Ec 1:1-2 Throw your bread upon the waters, for after a long time you will find it again. Be part of it with seven, and even with eight, for you do not know what evil can happen on earth.

Rom 14:18 ... he who serves Christ in this is pleasing to God and approved by men.

Gal 5:13 ... By means of love serve one another.

5 - Evangelize, witnessing to what Christ has done in our lives, so that others too can receive salvation

Jn 15:26-27 "But when the Comforter has come, whom I will send you from part of the Father, the Spirit of truth proceeding from the Father, he will testify of me; and you also will bear witness to me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Lk 8:38-39 "The man from whom the demons had gone out begged him to be able to stay with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Go back to your house, and tell them the great things that God has done for you.' And he went through all the city, proclaiming all that Jesus had done for him.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.