

TAKING IT HOME

1. Am I just a “Modern Christian” or a “Kingdom follower” of Jesus?
2. Am I trusting Jesus just for heaven, or for heaven and for bringing it down now?
3. Is there fruit? What changes have there been since I trusted Jesus? What changes is He calling me to make now?
4. Do I need to get baptized- own my faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, publicly?
5. Practice the “Truth Chart”- this will help you keep repenting, willingly, with joy!

What is the true truth you know you should believe?	
What is the “emotional lie” you believe? And why? (S4H- sin, hurt, habit, hurdle, hard Scripture)	
How does the emotional lie affect the way you see	How would the true truth affect how you see
God	
Yourself	
Others	
Circumstances	
What would repentance look like?	

(Adapted from Ruthie Delk, “Truth Chart”, cravinggrace.org)

YOKE OF THE KINGDOM PRAYER- Lord Jesus, Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. By your grace, I want to take up Your yoke, seek first Your kingdom, trust You with all my heart, and lean not on my own understanding. With Your yoke on, You will add all other things, make my paths straight and my burdens light. With Your yoke, You will help me love God with all my heart and others as much as myself. When I feel burdened or unsettled, show me how to get back in Your yoke. Your kingdom come; Your will be done Lord Jesus. Thank You! I love You! (based upon Mt 6:10, 33; 11:28-30, 22:36-40, Pro 3:5-6)

❖ **WHAT’S GOD SAYING TO YOU?** – write it down, pray it back, share it with others!

Heavenly Father, Your kingdom is joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit, in heaven and on earth. Forgive me for making it just about me getting to heaven. I want to bring heaven down, by trusting Jesus for eternal life and for living life right now. Help me to live like Him, through constant faith and repentance in Him. Not my will but Your will be done in my life. I take the yoke of your kingdom. I especially feel You saying to me...

KINGDOM SALVATION: HOW TO ENTER IN, Lk 3, 5/15/22

GETTING OUR FEET WET- Missing the kingdom- what’s at stake?

DIVING INTO SCRIPTURE- How do you enter the kingdom?

- What- the kingdom is where God reigns
- Who- in the hearts of those who follow willingly
- When-
 - From eternity- God always has reigned and will reign
 - Now- on earth in the hearts and lives of His followers
 - Future- on earth, when Christ returns
 - Near- available & urgent, we must make a decision

JOHN’S 3 STEPS TO ENTER

A. Keep b_____ - modeled, implied, commanded elsewhere

1. How-
 - Almost always in the present tense = keep believing
 - Almost always with an “in” -not “about”
 - Example of the chair
2. What- Believe in the facts:
 - a. In Jesus
 - The kingdom is near
 - Jesus will judge with fire
 - Jesus will forgive and baptize with the Holy Spirit (empowering us)
 - b. About yourself
 - Without Jesus I am headed for h_____
 - My religious acts are not enough- tithe, pray, church
 - My background & culture are not enough- being a chosen Jew
 - Only 1 in _____ Americans believe they are going to hell.

3. Believe = keep trusting, relying, resting, having confidence & assurance, resulting in obedience

4. Faith in faith = works! Faith in Jesus = rest & results!
 - Rom 1:5 “call people...to the obedience that comes from faith”
 - Jas 2- “Faith with no works is dead. The demons also believe and tremble.”

B. Keep r_____

1. Defined – Greek- literally change your mind- Hebrew- transform your heart
 - a. Intellect- Change your thinking- being a Jew is not enough, all will be judged, I have sinned
 - b. Emotion- Regret your sins- sorrow, grieve- confess, humility
 - c. Will- Change your conduct- produce fruit- Lk 3:10-14- share, don't overcharge, be content with your pay
2. Is repentance for today?
 - a. Jesus-
 - Unless you repent, become like little children you all will likewise perish- Lk 11:3,5, 18:17
 - Proclaim repentance for forgiveness of sins in His name to all the nations- Lk 24:47
 - To the 7 churches- Repent (8x) or I will remove your lampstand, fight you with the sword of my mouth, cast you on a bed of suffering, come like a thief, spew you out of my mouth..."
 - b. Paul- Acts 20²¹ I solemnly testified to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 26²⁰ I *kept* declaring to all people everywhere, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.
3. How is repentance not a work? Isn't it justification by faith alone? Eph 2:8
 - a. Yes, we are saved by faith-and what is faith-mental assent, right doctrine, sinners' prayer?
 - b. Or is faith intellectual, emotional & volitional agreement, trust, rest that leads to John's 4 steps- believe, repent, baptism, produce fruits? Steps are a congruent overflow of real faith.
 - c. Martin Luther- **"We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone."**
 - d. **God gives us the power to repent- Word & Spirit- conviction, empowerment, circumstances – Rom 2:4, Acts 1:8, II Pet 1:3**
 - e. Repentance, like faith & salvation is a g_____ of God- receive it. Ask Jesus to help you do it! Rom 2:4, Eph 2:8-10
 - f. Repentance is NOT a work when it is a response to the Spirit & truth, an act of faith, contrition and love
4. Examples- sinful woman anointing Jesus, Zacchaeus, thief on the cross (Lk 7,19, 23),
5. How can we make repentance a grace filled habit? - see Taking It Home- Truth Chart, Kingdom Prayer

C. Get baptized- Mt 28:18-20, Mk 16:16, Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3- make our decision public

1. Do you have to be baptized to be saved?
2. Do you have to be baptized to be o_____?
3. Are we asking for the minimum entrance requirement?

JOHN'S 4TH STEP- How to make sure your faith is real – PRODUCE F_____

A. A solid teaching throughout the Bible

- Dt 28- blessings & curses based upon behavior, our response to God's covenant
- Ezek 18:19-32- if a righteous person forsakes & relies on his righteousness..
- Jesus- will judge between trees, soils, wheat & weeds, fish, wise & foolish, talents, sheep & goats – Mt 7, 13, 25

B. How is producing fruit not a work? Same answer as repentance

1. How is the fruit is produced?

- John 7³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty be coming to me and be drinking. ³⁸Whoever is believing in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will be flowing from within them." ³⁹By this he meant *the Spirit*, whom those who are believing in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- John 15⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

2. What's the goal of the fruit?

- Mt 5¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- 1 Tim 1⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

	THE KINGDOM FOLLOWER	THE MODERN "CHRISTIAN"
Faith	Confidence (in facts) that results in obedience. Point in time & life-long.	Mental assent, point in time, do not need to follow through
Repentance	Change of mind, heart and action. Life-long.	Not needed, or else just a change of mind about Jesus, justification by faith
Jesus	King, Savior, Lord, Model, Friend	Savior yes, Lord optional, extra credit
Holy Spirit	Essential- the only way to live the Christian/kingdom life	Optional-the Spirit is kind of scary, for extra spiritual Christians, loss of rewards
Purpose	To go to heaven & bring heaven down To be like Jesus- word, thought, deed	To go to heaven- minimum entrance requirement
Love God	In all of life	Optional- at church, devotions, giving
Love Neighbor	Essential- part of the kingdom, true faith and repentance	Optional- loss of rewards

- Disciple/follower- 268x in NT, Christian- ____x (see Right Now Media, John Ortberg, "Kingdoms")