

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

June 11, 2017

Salvation Pairs

by Frank Himmel

Our salvation is the theme of the Bible. Salvation is in Christ, and only in Him (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). God offers it through His grace, and He requires some things of us in order to receive it. No single reference lists all the requirements. Sometimes they are given in pairs.

Repent and believe. "...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel' (Mark 1:14-15). This, of course, was a preparatory message in that the gospel events—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)—had not yet occurred. They would soon, however.

Believe and be baptized. Just before His ascension Jesus commissioned His apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Repent and be baptized. At the conclusion of Peter's first gospel sermon he told his audience, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." (Acts 2:38).

Confess and believe. "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

This is only a sample. Numerous other verses join these elements together (along with preaching/hearing the gospel, the obvious starting place) in various pairings, among them: Acts 8:12; 15:7; 18:8; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12.

Now consider this question: Why would, or how could, anyone look at these straightforward passages and conclude that one element of the pair is essential to salvation but the other is not? ■

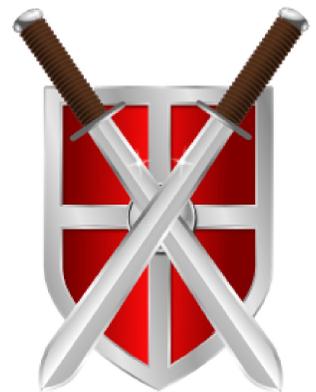
Soldiers of Christ

Esther

Gideon

Joshua

David



VBS for the whole family
June 19-22 • 7:00 p.m.

“Full of the Holy Spirit”

by Frank Himmel

The New Testament occasionally describes people as “full of the Holy Spirit.” What does that mean?

Some quickly envision ecstasy and commotion, which are popularly attributed to the Spirit. That is not at all the Bible picture. In fact, the Scriptures warn that not every impulse attributed to a divine spirit is necessarily from the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:2). Others envision some sort of internal guidance by which the Spirit silently speaks to us and tells us what to do. Again, the Bible makes no such promise to Christians; and the sad fact is, many attribute to divine guidance what is nothing more than following their own will.

“Full of the Spirit” may point to miraculous ability, such as when the apostles were filled with the Spirit and spoke with other tongues (Acts 2:4). But it does always mean that. John the Baptist was full of the Spirit (Luke 1:15), yet he performed no sign (John 10:41).

“Full of the Spirit” sometimes depicts men speaking by the Spirit’s inspiration (e.g., Acts 4:8).

Finally, “full of the Spirit” may simply refer to lives under His direction. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) by letting the word of Christ richly dwell within us (cf. Colossians 3:16), producing in us the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23). ■

Alert

by Frank Himmel



“Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes” (Luke 12:37a).

The Bible often admonishes us to be watchful, to be alert. In this verse, alertness to Jesus’ coming is the point. Because we do not know when that will be, the only way to be ready for it is to get ready and stay ready. “Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit” (v. 35). Note the various time references in v. 38.

Alertness to the Lord’s coming requires at least two others kinds of alertness.

One is alertness to opportunities. “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

The other is alertness to dangers. It may be the danger of false teaching that can lead us off course (Acts 20:28-31). It may be the danger of temptation. Either way, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Josh Baucom	David Gray	Howard Moore
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Carlos Garcia	Ian Brown
OPENING PRAYER	Mike Zachry	Bruce Hollander	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Howard Moore	Howard Moore	
CUP	Adam Gibson	Adam Gibson	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Rawland Daniel		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Brian Wilson
CLOSING PRAYER	David Gray	Chris Brooks	Bruce Williams