Dwelling in His Presence Through the Door of Salvation

Today's Reading: Acts 2:38–39 | Audio: Day 5

> *"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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off."*
>
> — Acts 2:38–39 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

Throughout this devotional we have talked about thanksgiving and praise as the doorway into God's presence. We enter His gates with thanksgiving. We enter His courts with praise. But there is something important we must understand: praise and thanksgiving are not the remedy for sin. The blood of Jesus is.

We cannot praise our way around the sin issue. We cannot thank God enough to erase guilt on our own. We cannot replace repentance with emotion or substitute obedience with enthusiasm. The sin issue must be addressed through Jesus Christ.

In Acts 2, Peter preached to people who were cut to the heart. They realized their need. They were convicted, and they asked, "What shall we do?" Peter did not say, "Try harder," or "Just be more religious," or "Simply feel bad and move on." He said, "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." Repentance turns the heart toward God. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ addresses the remission of sins. And the gift of the Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in newness of life. This is the foundation beneath every act of worship.

When the sin issue is settled, worship becomes something entirely different. Praise is no longer just a song; it becomes the overflow of a transformed life. Thanksgiving is no longer polite religious language; it becomes the response of someone who knows, "I have been forgiven. I have been washed. I have been made new." That kind of worship has weight. It has depth. It comes from a place of surrender.

Maybe today you can look back and remember the moment you gave your life to Christ. Remember what He delivered you from. Remember what His mercy covered. Remember how His Spirit met you, and let that memory renew your worship. Or maybe you know you have not yet taken that step. If that is you, do not ignore the invitation. Talk to a pastor. Reach out to a trusted believer. Ask what it means to repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is still for you.

DAY 5 • JOURNAL & RESPONSE

REFLECT

1. *Have you addressed the sin issue through repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ?*

2. *If you have, how does that foundation shape the way you worship today?*

RESPOND: TODAY'S PRACTICAL STEP

Spend time today reflecting on the moment you surrendered your life to Christ. If you have not yet taken that step, make today the day you begin the conversation:

- ☐ I will remember and write down what He delivered me from.
- ☐ I need to repent and turn toward Him.
- ☐ I need to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ I need to seek the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- ☐ I will talk with a pastor or trusted believer this week.

What I remember — or the step I am taking:

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for the blood You shed for us. Thank You for making a way for sin to be forgiven and lives to be made new. Lead us into true repentance. Give us hearts that respond in faith and obedience. Fill us with Your Spirit, and let our worship flow from transformed lives. May our praise be rooted in the reality of what You have done. In Jesus' name, amen.

My own prayer:

REMEMBER THIS

The door is not the decor. The door is thanksgiving, praise, surrender, and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Going Deeper: Romans 10:9–13 • Acts 2:40–41 • 2 Corinthians 5:17

This devotional is a tool for reflection, not a substitute for pastoral care or professional counseling. If what surfaces feels too heavy to carry alone, please reach out to a pastor or a trusted, qualified counselor at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.

Looking Back

Thanksgiving opens the gate, praise rises above preference, gratitude holds in the storm, trust unseats worry, and salvation through Jesus Christ is the foundation beneath it all. The door is not the decor.

Enter with a grateful heart	Psalm 100 — Day 1
Praise beyond preference	Psalm 47 — Day 2
In everything, give thanks	1 Thessalonians 5 — Day 3
Seek first the kingdom	Matthew 6 — Day 4
The door of salvation	Acts 2 — Day 5

FINAL REFLECTION

1. *Which day spoke to me most deeply, and why?*

2. *Where did God challenge my gratitude, my praise, or my trust during these five days?*

3. *What is the one practice I am keeping after this week?*

> **Ready to take a next step?**
>
> If these five days stirred a desire to repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, receive the Holy Ghost, or simply talk and pray with someone, we would be honored to walk with you. Reach out to a pastor or leader at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.