

Can a person be saved who has not heard the Gospel but has truly repented?

People often bring up the concept of someone in the deepest, darkest part of Africa who has not yet been reached by missionaries and the Gospel message. The idea that people like to represent is that although they have not heard of Jesus nor the Gospel that in some way this person can be saved through repentance and a belief in God that includes a primitive version of the Gospel message.

1. What does it take to be saved?

2 Samuel 22:4

Isaiah 30:15

Matthew 10:22; **19:25-26**

Luke 8:12

Acts 2:21; **4:10-12; 16:30-31**

Galatians **2:21**

Psalms 18:3; **80:3**, 7

Jeremiah 17:14

Mark **16:16**

John 3:16-20; 10:9

Romans 5:9-11

Salvation is the work of God. It is only activated upon a person when he commits his faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without believing in Jesus the person cannot be saved.

2. What can a person know about God apart from the preaching of the Gospel?

Acts **14:15-17**

1 John **2:4-6**

Romans 1:28; **2:14-15**

Mark **4:11-12**

John 14:7-8

Titus 1:16

Apart from the Gospel, a person can only know that God exists. He can know very little about His character, although he may know in some sense what it means to be good and righteous. He cannot know anything about being saved.

3. What does it take for a person to truly repent?

Proverbs 28:18

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

Acts 17:30-31

John **16:7-10**

Matthew **9:13**

Romans **2:3-5; 7:7-9**

True repentance can only come when a person recognizes the reality of his own sinfulness before God. In order for a person to be truly convinced he is a sinner deserving of judgment, he must receive the word of God so that he might be convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit of God. The only way to know what sin is comes from the Word of God.

4. What does it take for a person to do truly righteous works?

Isaiah **64:5-6**

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Ephesians **2:10**

1 John **4:7-9**

It takes a divine work of God in order to do truly righteous work. This is because only through faith in Jesus Christ can a person receive the Holy Spirit and thereby function out of a pure heart of love.