



WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation in the Bible is the term used for being redeemed from the curse of sin. It is being saved from the wrath of God against all sin and sinners. It is a condition of soul that assures one the entrance into Heaven and the very presence of God. It is our sins of the past present and future placed on Jesus Christ when He died on the cross paying the penalty of all sin of all people of all ages. It is being placed into the body of Christ and becoming a part of His bride to be raptured out at His second coming and given a new body that is without sin. It is having an eternal relationship with God as His son that cannot be broken, for it is a gift from God purely by His grace. It is receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us in this life until we are in the very presence of Jesus Christ at His coming. It is the beginning of a new life in Christ that makes us a new creature in Christ that is changed from the old habits of sinful practices and given the desire to please God. It is the implantation of hatred for sin in our soul and a love for the things of God such as the Bible, prayer, and the church He has founded. It is called by Jesus being “born again” It is becoming a joint heir with Christ. It is a personal one time experience with God when you instantaneously become a born again Child of God.

One who is saved (spiritually, soul and spirit) is not freed from sorrow, testing, temptation to sin, ridicule, and even hardship. However, he is one who now has the indwelling Holy Spirit to guard, guide, keep, and comfort, in all such problems. He is victorious over Satan through the power of God given him and an overcomer of trials and tribulations because he is clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and that is an armor that Satan nor any of his hoards of fallen angels can penetrate.

WHAT SALVATION IS NOT

Salvation is not a good feeling (though one cannot pass from death to life without some manifestation of emotion being realized within).

Salvation is not joining a church or any other kind of religious organization. It is not turning over a new leaf of life and determining to be better. It is not making a commitment to some religious doctrine. It is not going forward in a religious meeting. It is not quoting a prayer that is prompted by some religious zealot to get you to make a profession of faith. Which profession means nothing if you have never recognized in your heart that you are condemned by God as a lost and doomed sinner and are willing to repent and turn to God, from a life of sin. Salvation is not having been sprinkled with water when you were a baby. It is not living a good life and doing more good things than bad things. It is not being kind and benevolent to the less fortunate so God will reserve a seat in Heaven for you. It is not being baptized by a Baptist preacher by immersion in a church baptistery or in a creek of moving water. It is not being born into a Christian family. Every man must stand before God for himself.

Salvation is not experiencing some seemingly miraculous happening when you felt close to God. It is not a warm feeling in your breast. It is not a feeling of lightness, exhilaration, chill bumps, or any other of hundreds of counterfeit experiences being propagated as a proper relationship with God by false religion. Any experiential phenomenon is the results of your having salvation, not the criteria of proof that you are saved. This is true because Salvation is by Faith and should you depend on feeling or experience you are not fully trusting God and believing His word concerning what is necessary for salvation.

All of the above statements are clearly proved by the Bible in the following references. **Eph.2: 8,9 - Ro 9:32 -Ga 2:16 - Tit: 3:5**

HOW CAN ONE BE SAVED?

You must first realize that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Jas 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

No one has ever been saved without being convicted by the Holy Spirit that he was lost without Christ and there was no other way to salvation but through the finished work of Christ on Calvary. Even a child who is saved has recognized himself as lost and in danger of Hell and that his only hope is in Jesus.

How can I reach that point?

You can only reach that point by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

How deeply must I be convicted?

There is no measurement of conviction necessary to salvation. One may feel that they are about to drop in Hell and another may not shed a tear but realize that God loves them and will save them right now. Both must know at the least that they are unable to save themselves and be willing to cast themselves completely on Jesus as the only way and trust Him to clothe them in His righteousness.

Holy Spirit conviction is God letting you know you are a sinner and under the wrath of God for your sins with no hope of saving yourself. The Holy Spirit uses the word of God, so you may come under conviction through reading the Bible, a tract, hearing a preacher, hearing a song with the gospel in it, through a personal witness, or as you are now reading this message.

What do I do when I know I am convicted?

You must be willing to give yourself over to God completely as you forsake sin. That is repentance.

Lu 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Ac 2:38 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.

Ac 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Ac 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Ac 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Ac 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

To repent according to Bible usage means to change your mind about God, sin and yourself. God must become Holy, sin must become black and you no longer desire to continue sinning. God does not make bargains with man. You come to Him surrendering all or you do not come to Him at all. There can be absolutely no reserve. Trying to be saved so you can have Jesus as your savior, and go to Heaven when you die, but continue to control your own life is leaving repentance out of the equation of salvation.

I am willing to repent. What do I do now?

You must believe Christ not just believe about Him.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Joh 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Joh 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Joh 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

The only way you can believe on Jesus Christ as savior is to believe what He said in His word the Bible. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" Now let us see what He said.

Rom 10:9 **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth"** Are you willing to openly and vocally confess that you will trust Jesus right now as your savior? **"The Lord Jesus"** Not just believe that he lived and died, or that you recognize him historically, but surrender to Him as Lord of all unconditionally. **"And shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead,"** You can readily see that salvation is not a head or an intellectual belief, but a heartfelt genuine acceptance that He died for you on the cross and was raised the third day. **"Thou shalt be saved"**. These words are the word of God. Do you need better assurance than God telling you that you are saved when you have followed His instructions. If you continue reading this passage you will find that believing with your heart, and confessing with your mouth brings about salvation. You also learn that all are saved the same way. There is only one salvation that is real and only one way to receive it.

Let us look at another passage. John 1:12 **“But as many as received him”** This could be expressed as, “Open the door and let Him in”. Simply allow nothing to become a barrier that would keep Him from having absolute authority and power in your life. **“To them gave he power to become sons of God,”** This is your position as a saved child of God. **“Even to them that believe on his name”**. This states the crux of the whole matter. Do you really believe He will do what He says and make you a son of God when you receive Him? You will notice that there are two things for you to do. 1. Receive Him 2. Believe Him. There is one thing He **WILL** do and that is make you a son of God.

Rom. 10:13 **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** This verse does not say that you must call or no salvation, or that the act of praying will save you. The next verse makes that clear. Rom 10:14 **“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed”**. It will do you no good to mouth a prayer if you do not believe that God will answer that prayer. Salvation then is by your faith (total trust and surrender) through His Grace (already supplied) That God will make you a son of God according to His word.

There is nothing wrong with praying and asking God to save you if at the same time you will trust Him to do it. I personally think it is better to make that confession “I will repent and trust Jesus as my Savior right now, unconditionally, as I would trust a bridge to hold me up and carry me across. Then bow your head and thank Him for saving a poor wretch like me. “God be merciful to me a sinner” is a wonderful prayer to pray but “Thank you Jesus for saving me” is a much better prayer.

If by reading this you have trusted Christ as your savior and would like further help on how to live the Christian life please write:

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