



## Salvation

The Bible shows us how God has provided mankind with salvation from eternal death which was the penalty for sin. Salvation has always been bestowed by the Grace of God through Faith (Eph 2:8).

Those of the OT times expressed their Faith by following the provisions of the OT law, which was ultimately obedience to God (Heb 11). Since the advent (1<sup>st</sup> coming) of Christ, those who trust in Him are saved at the moment of their confession of faith and are no longer slaves to sin. Through the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in their lives they can now have a personal relationship with God.

Have you ever asked yourself one/more of the following questions?

1. Can salvation be earned?
2. Can one lose your salvation?
3. Is it a process or an immediate change in one's life?
4. Is salvation obtainable through someone/something other than Christ?
5. Is salvation for all people?

These are just some of the questions arising when salvation is discussed. It's very important to take into account the perception that many people have regarding their salvation. Some people believed they are saved (that is what salvation means, being saved or delivered from the bondage of sin) because they are part of a church while others believe they are pre-destined to be saved and that God has elected them without them having a choice.

Then again we have those extremists who believe that salvation can be earned through good works as well as people who believe they cannot lose their salvation, regardless of how they live their lives because they say that Christ died for their sins (which is true), but being incapable of sinning now is a false doctrine.

We also need to understand what the Bible says about salvation, the salvation message that has been given to people of the OT (before Christ came) and how the Old and New Testament forms a whole with regards to this precious gift as one studies the scriptures.

**Salvation** Appropriately in theology, the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death

### **OT Hebrew**

*yesh-oo'-aw* (H3444) - Feminine passive participle of H3467 (Strongs); something *saved*, that is, (abstractly) *deliverance*; hence *aid*, *victory*,

*prosperity*: - deliverance, health, help (-ing), salvation, save, saving (health), welfare.

*tesh-oo-aw'*, *tesh-oo-aw (H8668)* - from H7768 in the sense of H3467 (Strong's); *rescue* (literally or figuratively, personal, national or spiritual): deliverance, help, safety, salvation, victory.

**Please note:** The above words, referring to salvation, are used in different contexts throughout the OT, but refer to either Christ (Who brings salvation) or salvation itself (the act of deliverance).

### **NT Greek**

*so-tay-ree'-ah (G4991)*

Feminine of a derivative of \*G4990 (Strong's) as (properly abstract) noun; rescue or safety (physically or morally): - deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.

\*Also derives from G4982 (*sode'-zo*); From a primary word  $\sigma\omega\varsigma$   $s\omega\varsigma$  (contraction for the obsolete  $\sigma\acute{\alpha}\omicron\varsigma$   $saos$ , "safe"); to save, that is, deliver or protect (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

Having studied the above, let us commence by answering a few of the questions arising from this subject:

#### **1. Can salvation be earned?**

Salvation is a gift from God and can therefore not be earned, according to the following scriptures.

**Joh 4:10** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

**Joh 6:39-40** "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

**Joh 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

#### **2. Can one lose your salvation?**

Simply meaning, can one be deceived and fall away from the faith? Find the answer

in the following scriptures:

**Mt 24** (Sermon on the Mount of Olives)

**Mt 25** (Parable of the Ten Virgins)

**2Th 2:1** “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...”

**1Ti 4:1** “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.”

**Heb 6:1** “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits.

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.”

**2 Jo 1:7** “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.”

### **3. Is it a process or an immediate change in one's life?**

Salvation is obtained through faith alone, in Christ alone – what is faith other than trusting/believing in God and His word (Heb 11).

Way to Salvation:

**Rom 3:23** “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...”

**Rom 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. “

**Rom 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Rom 10:8** "But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 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 a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

**Rom 10:13** for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

#### **Justification:**

God declares us not guilty for our sins and righteous before Him.

**Rom 4:25** "*He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."

**Rom 5:18** "So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men."

#### **Sanctification:**

Becoming more and more like Jesus, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Rom 5:2** "...through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."

**Rom 15:16** "...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that *my* offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

#### **Redemption:**

Jesus Christ paid the price, so we can go free. The ultimate price of sin is death, Jesus Paid the price.

**Rom 3:24** "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus..."

**Rom 8:23** "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

#### **Glorification:**

This is the ultimate state of a believer after death, when he or she becomes like Christ (1 Jn 3:2).

**Rom 8:18** "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God."

**Rom 8:30** "... and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

From the above passages we can conclude that one is saved/delivered immediately when accepting Jesus Christ and confessing one's sins. Then again, having said that we can clearly see that salvation is an ongoing process until we die (Mrk 13:13) – that is if Christ doesn't come before that, when we will become like him being raised up in glorified bodies.

#### **4. Is salvation obtainable through someone/something other than Christ?**

We are saved by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone!

**Act 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

**Act 10:43** "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

**1Ti 2:5** "For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus..."

**Jn 14:6** "Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

#### **5. Is salvation for all people?**

The following scriptures show us that Christ died for everyone's sins and wants all men to be saved (1 Tm 2:4).

**Isa 2:2-4** "Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war."

**Isa 25:6** "The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, *and* refined, aged wine."

**Mat 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Act 10:43** "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

**Act 13:38-39** "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him

forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.”

By now you should have realized that it is impossible to separate salvation and faith. One cannot be saved without believing that Christ died for all your sins (1 Jn 1:7) and that He was the perfect sacrifice (Heb 10:10). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6).

The Bible shows us that salvation for all people was God’s plan from the very beginning, before the foundation of the world (1 Pt 1:20). He used the OT prophets, lead by the Holy Spirit, to tell about the coming of our Savior (2 Pt 1:20-21; 1 Pt 1:10-11). These prophets were persecuted for their faith in the Messiah, yet to come, knowing that they based their faith on something they haven’t seen.

The Word tells us that Jesus came to save His people from their sins (Mt 1:21) and That by His doing we are in Christ Jesus (1 Cor 1:30). This does not mean that we are saved because we have no choice, or because we have to do good works to earn our salvation. We need to respond to the Holy Spirit who continually convicts us (Jn 6:44). How often have we made excuses to God, knowing that he is calling us to repent (2 Cor 6:2; Luk 14:15-24). In the Gospel of John we read that all one has to do in order to receive this gift of salvation is ask, and God will gladly bestow it upon you (Jn 4:10-14) when you confess Jesus as Lord (Rom 10:9-10).

We read in Romans that none is righteous (Rom 3:10), all have sinned (Rom 3:23) and that we need to repent continuously (Luk 3:8). We cannot earn our salvation by keeping the law (Gal 2:16), we are justified as a gift by the Grace of God (Rom 3:24; Eph 2:8-9) through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:26; Gal 5:5-6).

Do not think for one moment that your life will be prosperous when accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior. The Bible teaches us that those who live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted for their faith (2 Tm 3:12; Jn 15:20; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor 4:8-9). Therefore, do not be afraid or ashamed of the Gospel (Rom 1:16-17), for God will send His wrath upon those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18; Eph 5:6; Col 5:6). If we walk in the light we do not need to fear God’s wrath (1 Ths 5:9) because our salvation is in Jesus Christ. This is why Paul urges us to work out our salvation (Phil 2:12) knowing that we will not be disappointed (Rom 10:11).

Paul also gives us guidelines of how to go about this task in standing firm by putting on the armor of God (Eph 6:14-17; Is 59:17). Paul tells us to take the helmet of salvation (v 17) together with the shield of faith (V 16) to withstand the attacks from Satan.

Work out your salvation today – not that you have to physically do anything to be saved and therefore become part of Christ’s Church. Instead, respond to God’s call, be cleansed from all sin by being washed with His blood and be freed from the bondage of sin. Amen

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I sincerely hope that each one of you reading this will be inspired to study God's Word even more heartily and that you will test what I have written according to God's Word... Never accept what is said about the Word of God without testing it and remember that "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." (**Ps 12:6**).

Also read the following scripture which joins with the above passage:

**Pro 30:5** "Every word of God is tested; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Add nothing to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be exposed as a deceiver."

The Lord also says in His Word in **Rev 22:18** "I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words in this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book. "

The question remains... Do you believe that God's Word is perfect...?

**I pray that our Lord, Jesus Christ will call your name and that you will answer to His call and accept Him as your Savior and by believing in Him you will have eternal life... Amen.**

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