

# SALVATION



We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

While salvation is a simple act, it has a life-changing effect. Just as a single person stands to say his wedding vows, and that simple act changes his whole lifestyle and direction, so the simple acceptance of Jesus is totally life altering. Paul says we are “new creatures” once we have taken that step of faith.

***2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

We must understand that salvation is much more than just repeating the words of a vow, however sincere those words may be. The simple truth that is salvation is a divine thing. What man cannot do for himself, God does through the washing away of our sins by the Blood of the Lamb and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit.

Salvation is actually being “Born Again”.

***John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will.***

God wipes the slates of our lives clean by the Blood of Jesus and lets us start all over again. This is why those who love Jesus lift their voices in worship and praise to the One who saved them.

***Revelation 5:9-10***

***<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;***

***<sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***

## I. YOU NEED A SAVIOUR.

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

The Greek word for “saved” is “sozo”, which means to rescue from danger, death, bring out safely from a situation fraught with mortal danger, and be restored to health. This is exactly what Jesus does for us when we give our hearts to Him. We each need a Savior because:

**A. Sin is the tragic inheritance of all mankind.**

Each is born into sin with a propensity for sin.

***Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:***

**B. Every person is guilty of sin.**

Although we are born into sin, we are also personally guilty of evils we have committed.

**C. The Bible pronounces all men guilty of transgression against God's eternal law.**

***Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.***

***Romans 3:9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;***

**D. Failure to acknowledge our personal guilt and sin only fools ourselves.**

***1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***

**E. Our sin makes us enemies of God.**

***Romans 8:7-8***

***<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.***

***<sup>8</sup> So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.***

**F. The end result of our sin will be death.**

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

**G. Man cannot be better by himself.**

He may resolve to do better, but keeps dipping back into those patterns and habits of evil.

***Romans 7:19-24***

***<sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.***

***<sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that***

*dwelleth in me.*

*21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

*22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:*

*23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

*24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

## **II. HOW TO ACCEPT JESUS**

Just knowing we need a Saviour is not enough. A thirsty man knows he needs a drink, but diagnosis is not a cure. The Bible not only points to our need of salvation, but tells us how we can accept Jesus.

***Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***

### **A. Salvation is a free gift to you.**

You cannot earn or deserve it.

***Ephesians 2:8-9***

***8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***

***9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

### **B. Salvation comes by the atoning death of Jesus Christ.**

***Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***

***Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the Blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in Heaven.***

### **C. We must repent.**

That is, we must truly be sorry for our sins and tell God that we are.

***Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.***

### **D. We must come as a humble child to God, not as a proud and arrogant “know it all”.**

**Matthew 18:3** *And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.*

God's Word plainly states that man by his own wisdom can never know God.

**1 Corinthians 1:21** *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

E. We must believe in God, in His Son Jesus Christ, and in the power of His forgiveness.

**Acts 16:30-31**

<sup>30</sup> *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

<sup>31</sup> *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

F. There are two very simple steps to take to receive salvation.

**Romans 10:9** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

It is not enough just to say "I love You, Jesus." We must move on to "believing in our hearts"; that is, obeying the commandments of our Christ, and desiring Him to take control of our lives.

G. A final question.

**Hebrews 2:3** *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;*

### **III. THREE FACTS OF YOUR FORGIVENESS**

**John 10:10** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

Salvation involves more than just forgiveness of sin. There are three things God does for you when you give your heart to Jesus.

**Psalms 103:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases;*

***4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies;***

The abundant life in Christ involves forgiveness, healing, and power.

**A. Guilt is gone.**

Guilt has been called the most difficult problem in psychology. But the Bible says God takes away our guilt when we give our hearts to Jesus. Jesus often said, ***“Thy sins be forgiven thee”***, because He knew man needed to hear that all his iniquities were forgiven. We are free from guilt because of Jesus.

***Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

**B. Healing for the stain of sin**

Like a river overflowing its banks and running wild, sin tears our souls as it spills forth in its fury. We need not only forgiveness, but healing for our spirits that have been victimized by sin. Note the devastating hurt of sin in the life of the demonic child. The Bible says the evil spirits ***“tare him”***.

***Mark 9:20 And they brought him unto Him: and when he saw Him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.***

Clearly we need healing for our souls. Jesus heals.

1. Our memories

***Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,***

2. Our broken hearts

***Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,***

3. Our “spirit of infirmities”

***Luke 13:11-12***

***11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.***

***12 And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.***

He is not only the One Who rids us from guilt, but also heals our souls that have been left bleeding and broken from sin's fury.

### **C. Power over the pull of sin**

All of us have a pull downward within us.

***Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.***

But we do not have to yield to that pull. Jesus not only takes away guilt and heals our spirits, but also gives us sure power to overcome sin.

***John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name.***

We can overcome because Jesus lives within us.

***1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.***

We are “redeemed from destruction” by the living Christ. Paul said it best.

***Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.***

## **IV. YOUR NEW LIFE**

***Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

We are saved to serve, not just sit. The Christian life is like a bicycle — we either go on or we go off. Thus, after we have given our hearts to Jesus, there are certain things He wants us to do.

### **A. We are to grow up in Christ, not remaining static in our spiritual experiences.**

***Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:***

### **B. We are to grow in grace and knowledge of the things of God.**

***2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.***

C. We grow as we read the Word.

***1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby:***

D. We are to be witnesses of Jesus to others.

***Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

E. We are to pray always; that is, we are to live in a constant attitude of prayer.

***1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.***

F. We are to pray in the Holy Ghost, letting Him have control of our thought life in prayer.

***Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,***

G. We are to receive help from the Holy Spirit when we do not know how to pray.

***Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.***

H. We should join ourselves with a body of believers and regularly attend worship.

***Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***

We should remember that Jesus loved the Church.

***Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;***

I. We should give to God.

***2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.***

There are some Bible guidelines how we are to give. They are:

1. We should give liberally.

**Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

2. We should give in obedience to God.

**Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

3. We must be faithful in our giving.

**Corinthians 4:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

**<sup>2</sup> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

4. We should give without fanfare.

**Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.**

5. We should give freely.

**Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

**1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.**

6. We should give every week.

**1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.**

7. We should give our share.

**Acts 11:29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:**

**2 Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.**

8. We should give cheerfully.



**2 Corinthians 9:7** *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

## **V. YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED.**

**1 John 5:13** *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God.*

**John 20:31** *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name.*

There are only two Bible books that tell us exactly why they were written. The first is **John**, written so we can know how to believe in Jesus and **1 John** written so that we can know that we have been saved. In the book of **1 John**, there are five clear tests of the believer. If we pass these we know that we know Him.

### **A. Because we obey God**

**1 John 2:3** *And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

### **B. Because our attitude is different**

**1 John 3:14** *We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

Where once we lived for ourselves, now we live for Christ and others. We now really love people rather than just use them for our own personal fulfillment. We start to “give” rather than “get”. This is a telltale sign that we know we know Him.

### **C. Because our love is real.**

**1 John 3:18** *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

We do not just tell people we love them, but by our actions show them that we love. We move from lip service to life service. The real believer does not say “*call if you need me*”, but recognizes needs and moves to fill them. This is another sure sign we are now born of the spirit, rather than the flesh.

### **D. Because of God’s Spirit**

**1 John 4:13** *Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

**Romans 8:16** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: The Comforter assures us we know Jesus and are born of Him.*

#### **E. Because of God's Word**

**1 John 5:13** *These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God.*

God's Word has been given to us so we can be assured of our salvation. Satan may be able to argue with our testimonies, but he can never argue with God's Word. It will defeat him every time.

#### **Matthew 4:1-11**

**1** *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

**2** *And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred.*

**3** *And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

**4** *But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

**5** *Then the devil taketh Him up into the holy city, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

**6** *And saith unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.*

**7** *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

**8** *Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

**9** *And saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

**10** *Then saith Jesus unto Him, Get thee hence, satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.*

**11** *Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.*

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