

What is Salvation?

Simply put, salvation is a remarkable rescue mission. Biblical salvation is God's way of providing his people with deliverance from sin and spiritual death through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is an unveiling of God's plan to save man. The rebellion of the first human beings, Adam and Eve, separated them and us—their descendants—from God because of their sin. God's holiness requires punishment and payment for sin, which is eternal death. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect God-man, to offer the pure, complete, and everlasting sacrifice on the cross to remove, atone, and make eternal payment for our sin debt.

God did this out of His unconditional love for us and a desire to have an intimate relationship with us. Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is not just a thing you do—it is answering the call of God to come to Him (a knowing from deep within). Although the Holy Spirit woos us to come, God allows our will to make the decision to receive salvation and be saved, or not.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. Revelation 22:17 NIV

Before any of us takes that step, we have to come to the end of ourselves by admitting that we know we have sinned, want to be saved from eternal death, and believe that Jesus Christ is the way to bring about our own personal resurrection (be born again).

Having salvation does not immediately make us experts about God, or in living a Christian life. Gradually, we learn about Godly principles, grow in obedience, develop our spiritual muscles, and especially,

spend our time on this earth with everlasting support. We each have a unique experience through salvation...our link to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It starts with knowing the greatest love of all—an unconditional love (we don't earn it, it is given freely) without limits. This carries a tremendous relief, a freedom from carrying the heavy burden of guilt and shame (sin), and the free gift of forgiveness. We can then depend on this new relationship (not religious laws or rituals) to deposit lasting joy and peace within us. Next, like overflowing water, we can experience (learn about and put into action) our true potential and purpose for life. Lastly, in the end, we receive the ultimate eternity with God when this temporary earthly stay is over!

The "Name" of Jesus

Jesus, Mighty God, Wisdom, Deliverer, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Word of Life, Advocate, Provider, The Great I Am, Helper, Savior, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lamb of God, Lord of Hosts, Root of David, Author and Finisher of our Faith, The Way, Healer, Son of God, The Truth, Chief Cornerstone, King of Kings, Light of the World, Chief Shepard, My Strength and Song, Righteous Judge, Son of Righteousness, Resurrection and Life, The Alpha and Omega.

There is power in the name of Jesus to break the chains of illness, emotional pain, financial lack, loneliness, addictions, or sorrow. Illness—whether in the physical, emotional, or mental realm—is really a spiritual problem. Even the presence of relational, financial, political, and social ills of lack and inequality in our communities and the communities of the world are manifestations of a spiritual problem. Our belief systems and functional plans to address each predicament

differ greatly. Just look at the numerous religions around the world! Trying to make God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit fit into a convenient package for man's understanding is a fallacy of humankind. God does not make sense. We can never fit Him into what we think or know, because He is always much greater!

He blesses people that we've determined to be unworthy, He has compassion in situations where we could not forgive, He takes the foolishness—the lack, the leftovers—in people and creates miracles of greatness. When everything else in life has failed us, He is there. For this reason, regardless of the conditions we see or may be experiencing, our lives don't have to be dragging in defeat and disillusionment. If the world were a perfect place, we wouldn't need faith and there would be no need for heaven—an eternal resting place of peace.

Faith Memories

The greatest benefit of having salvation and being Spirit-minded is that there is always a progression of growing, even when we are not aware of the forward movement. Evidence of faith can be observed well before we make a conscious commitment to God. We might notice models of faith and/or faithfulness in people around us, heed sudden thoughts—an inner voice that brings awareness or warning in a specific instance—and ultimately do—or not do—something just because you believe you should or shouldn't.

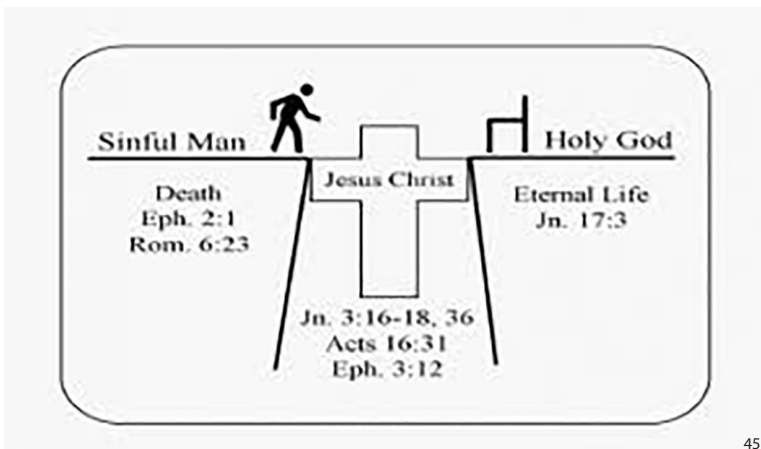
These are promptings from your Spirit, and the actions you take are the first steps in faith. Those memories of faith acts linger in your mind with the Holy Spirit's prompting to take more steps. It's like a seed that receives sun and rain and grows into a mighty oak tree. It seems

ridiculous that all of those branches come from a single tiny seed, but that's how faith works—a communication between us and God and the world we live in.

Faith is the one element of truth that keeps many people from having a relationship with Jesus Christ. They try to categorize it, predict it, make it self-serving without Godly counsel, turn it off and on depending upon their state of affairs, or use it to puff themselves up. None of these things will be recognized in God's eyes. We cannot package faith, wrap it up, or hide it—it's an individualized appendage to who we are in Christ. Faith finds its way to a loving, unchanging, ever-present Father (God) through Christ, without whom we have no purpose for who we are or what we were created to be.

So if you have a need to be saved today, the following is a Plan of Salvation. After that are Bible references you can examine and research yourself for greater detail and identification.

The scripture references in this section are from the *New International Version Bible* unless otherwise indicated.



John 3:16

*“For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Say this Prayer To Be Saved:

Prayer of Salvation

Father God, I thank you for who You are and that You alone are God. I humbly submit my life to You. Please forgive me for all of my sins and cleanse me of all unrighteousness. I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and I believe in my heart that You have raised Him from the dead. I believe that Jesus is now seated with You in Heavenly places and will intercede on my behalf.

I thank you, God, that I am now a new creature in Christ Jesus. Thank you for creating in me a clean heart and renewing a right spirit within me. I believe that I am now Your child, which entitles me to all of the blessings and benefits that accompany salvation.

Thank you, my Father God, for healing me and providing wholeness and restoration in every area in my life.

In the Mighty Name of Jesus,

Amen.

Scripture References

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 1: 19-20

“...That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...”

Romans 8:34

“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

II Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.”

Psalm 103: Praise for the Lord’s Mercies (NKJV)⁴⁶

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:
- 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

- 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies,
- 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
- 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him.
- 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

- 15 As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
- 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more.
- 17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
- 18 To such as keep His covenant,
And to those who remember His commandments to do them.
- 19 The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you His angels,
Who excel in strength, who do His word,
Heeding the voice of His word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,
You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all His works,
In all places of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

After Salvation, the Beginning of Life

Our eyes have to turn inward in order to change that which is outward. Getting our mind's eye aimed at our saved spirit changes everything.

Salvation is a part of God's process in knowing the end from the beginning, so that His plan for you is floorless. In the same vein as no one can give us salvation (it is an individual act of faith), nothing can ever take it from us, and it represents the best of what is yet to come.

Being a part of the family of God has some exciting promises:

- He will supply your needs. (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19)
- He will never give you anything too hard for you to handle. (I Corinthians 10:13)
- You are safe in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 10:27-33)
- He guarantees that you can do everything through Christ, as long as it's in His will. (Philippians 4:13)

These are but a small sample of the many, many promises and blessings that you will receive at salvation. You will learn more as you study the Word of God and will find it useful in how it unfolds new direction in the steps you take.

Faith Forward can be—or has already been—a part of your “everything changes” mode as a result of your faith and trust in God's plan for your life. Your eyes of faith can now see the edge, that vantage point of possibilities in moving your actions toward it, whatever your *it* is! Your new life projections contain pieces of body, mind, and spirit coordination that manifest into a unique wellness edge that knows the way to where you want to go.