

Lesson 5

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED BEFORE GOD.

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# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED BEFORE GOD

Most Christians, have only a vague idea as to what is involved in their salvation. To most, getting saved just means keeping out of hell or just getting into heaven. They see salvation in terms of an eternal destiny. But there is much more to salvation than just a destination. It is a new life and position before God. Understanding salvation is key to living a maturing, God-centered life. Key to living a life at total peace with God, our environment, and the people around us.

Therefore salvation encompasses an experience, a destination, and a position before God.

It is this very position before God that allows us to experience salvation, build a close relationship with God Almighty and spend eternity with Him. For believers, a correct understanding of our position before God will enable us to better understand the grace God has given each of us.

To this end our discussion shall focus briefly on how to be saved, while concentrating on our position before God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the order of salvation and finally the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Let's briefly review our previous discussion on what it means to be lost before God Almighty.

The cause of being 'lost' is sin. Adam and Eve's original sin (capacity/desire to sin) has been inherited by all generations of man since Adam and Eve 'lost' paradise in the Garden of Eden. As sinners we are spiritually dead and subsequently unable to live a perfect, sinless life to 'earn' our way to heaven. God must give us new life through Spiritual rebirth if we are to be reunited with Him.

To be lost is the Biblical term used to describe man's position or standing before God prior to personal salvation. This is God's assessment of the natural man.

This implies that ... Man is totally depraved. He is in a desperate condition and can do nothing to rescue himself from his position before God. Sadly, the 'lost' man is unaware of his spiritual position until he is convicted of his moral plight by the Holy Spirit. Man is guilty and loss before God Almighty for the following reason.



# BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF SALVATION IN A NUTSHELL

To be saved, you need to confess with your mouth that you are a sinner and believe in your heart that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin through his crucifixion on the cross and are resurrected with Him to new life as you ask and receive Jesus as your savior. You must acknowledge that there is nothing you can do to earn salvation and that Jesus is the only way to be saved (John 14:6). You must turn from your sins (Acts 3:19).

## Saved from:

- In the Christian doctrine of salvation, we are saved from God's judgment of sin (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).
- Sin has separated us from God, and the consequence of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequence of sin and therefore involves the removal of sin and the cleansing of the believer's nature.

## Who does the saving?

Only God can remove sin and deliver us from sin's penalty (2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5).

## How does God save?

- God has rescued us through Christ (John 3:17). It was Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection that achieved our salvation (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 1:7). The cross paid the penalty for sin and the resurrection is the power of God to save.
- Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved **gift** of God (Ephesians 2:5, 8)

Salvation is only available through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

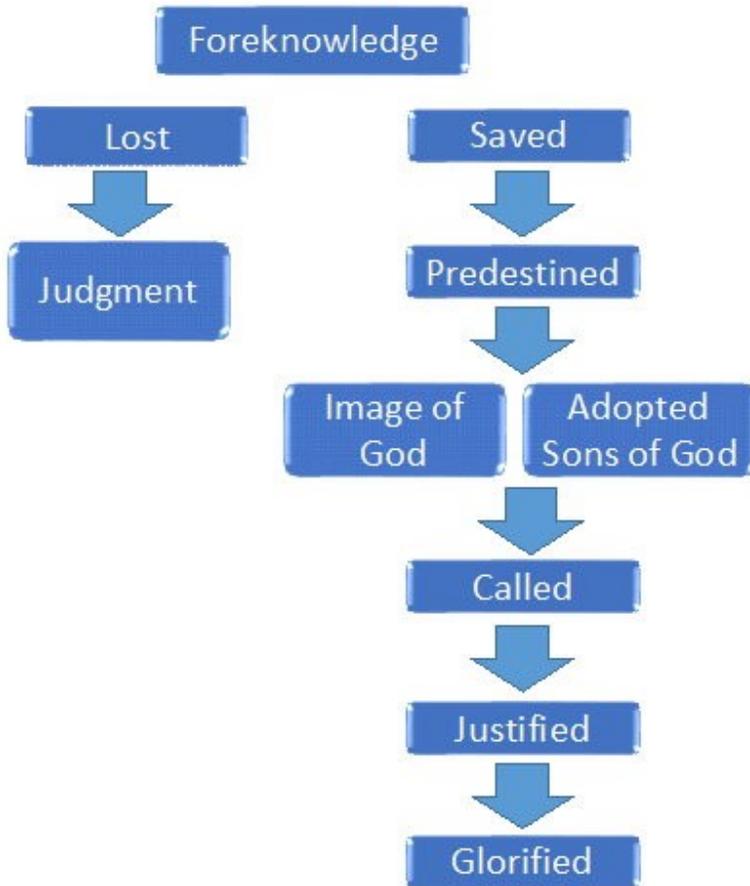
## How do we receive salvation?

- We are saved by *faith*.
- First, we must *hear* the gospel—the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection (Ephesians 1:13).
- Then, we must *believe*—fully trust the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:16). This involves repentance, a changing of mind about sin and Christ (Acts 3:19),
- Then we must *repent* from our lives, ask for *forgiveness* for our sins *confess that Jesus is Lord* and to invite Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9-10, 13).

**A definition of the Christian doctrine of salvation would be: The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus. Salvation is available in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and is dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security. "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, 9 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;" (Romans 10:8-9)**

# The Order of Salvation

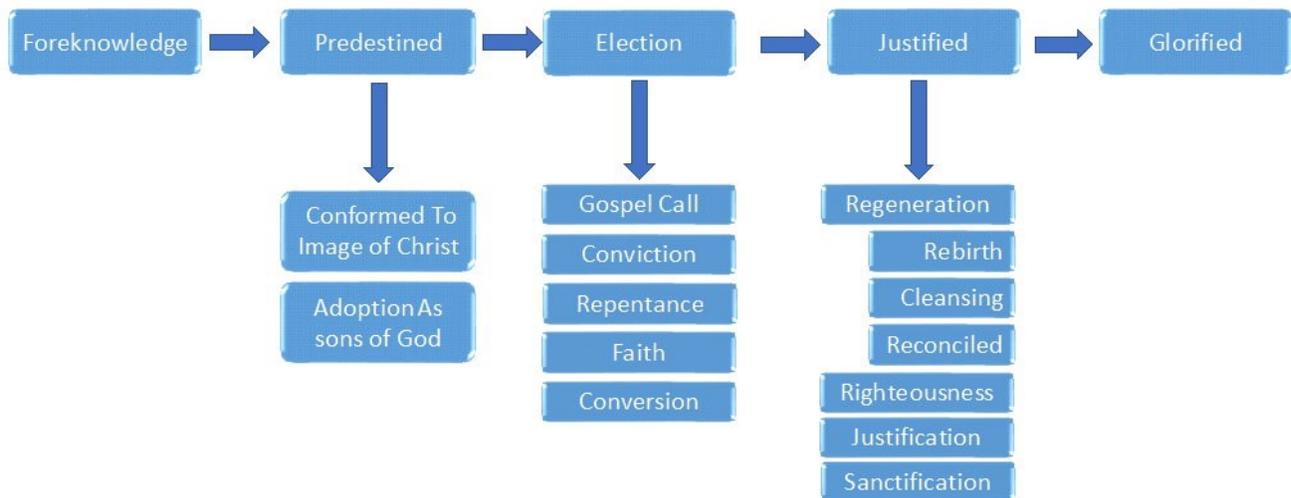
Before we begin discussing what it means to be saved before God, let's look at what is typically called the *ordo salutis* or rather the order of salvation. The *ordo salutis* focuses on the acts of God and the response of the individual in salvation. The *ordo salutis* is not concerned with a temporal sequence of events, but with a logical order.



- The *historia salutis* is the history of salvation, and most of the Bible is concerned with it. When we speak from the perspective of the *historia salutis*, we consider what Christ has done and what He has been given from God the Father Almighty. Jesus suffered and was glorified. He was raised, ascended to heaven, and sits enthroned. In union with Him, as members with Him, we have positionally participated in all these events and will participate with Him in all these privileges to their fulness in the world to come.
- The *ordo salutis* is the logical order of salvation. This focuses on the acts of God and the response of the individual in salvation. God calls us, produces regeneration in us, so that we respond with repentance, faith, and obedience. Behind the divine call is God's electing decree.

Paul describes the *ordo salutis* in Romans 8:29–30. He tells us that God foreknew all saved people and predestinated them to be conformed to the image of His Son. Since God exists in eternity, foreknowledge and predestination are not sequential actions on His part, but logical aspects of His decree. Romans 8:30 says that God called these people to His kingdom, and that those who are called are justified. Again, this is a logical sequence and not a time sequence. There are no lapses of time between these logical steps of salvation. When God calls us we are immediately regenerated, and we turn from sin to God in one action, which justifies us. And those who are justified are immediately glorified in the sense of being conformed to the image of Christ, and adopted as children of God. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).* These blessings or gifts from God that Paul references are bestowed upon a believer at the time of their salvation. They belong to the believer now and they are abundant. These gifts are not the daily blessings that God gives believers when they obey Him and walk in His will. Rather many of these blessings play a major role in re-establishing our position before God. By breaking them into logical steps, this allows us to comprehend what all God has planned, is doing, and shows His glory.

## Order Of Salvation



• *Romans 8:28-30* And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; (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.

When one realizes the lost condition from which they have been saved and the holy and glorified position to which they have been given through salvation, their understanding of God’s purpose of the program of salvation will deepen considerably. *so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)* God’s grace can be seen in the spiritual blessings that He has bestowed upon us and throughout eternity God will be glorified for what He has done.

Scripture reveals about fifty of these spiritual gifts, although, there are probably more. These gifts or blessings can only be known by studying the Bible. Just as a child cannot remember what happened at the moment of conception or birth, so a child of God must be told what happened to them at the moment of their salvation after they have matured in the faith a while. This is why salvation rests upon what God has done, not upon our feelings at the moment it was done for us. We learn after the fact.

- These spiritual blessings are given to the believers instantaneously at salvation; not gradually.
- These spiritual blessings are the permanent, eternal possession of the believer and not given as rewards for faithful Christian living. They are simply God’s gifts to us.
- These spiritual blessings are given believers by God apart from any merit within them.
- These spiritual blessings are an integral part of the eternal salvation God has given each believer and constitutes the character of salvation.

If a person could lose his salvation, then all of these blessings would have to be lost or surrendered. Not just a few, but all. Since they were not gained as the result of practice or human merit, they cannot be forfeited by the lack of practice or lack of human favor. These spiritual blessings manifest the glorious position of the child of God. They are true of every believer, regardless of whether or not the believer is aware of them.

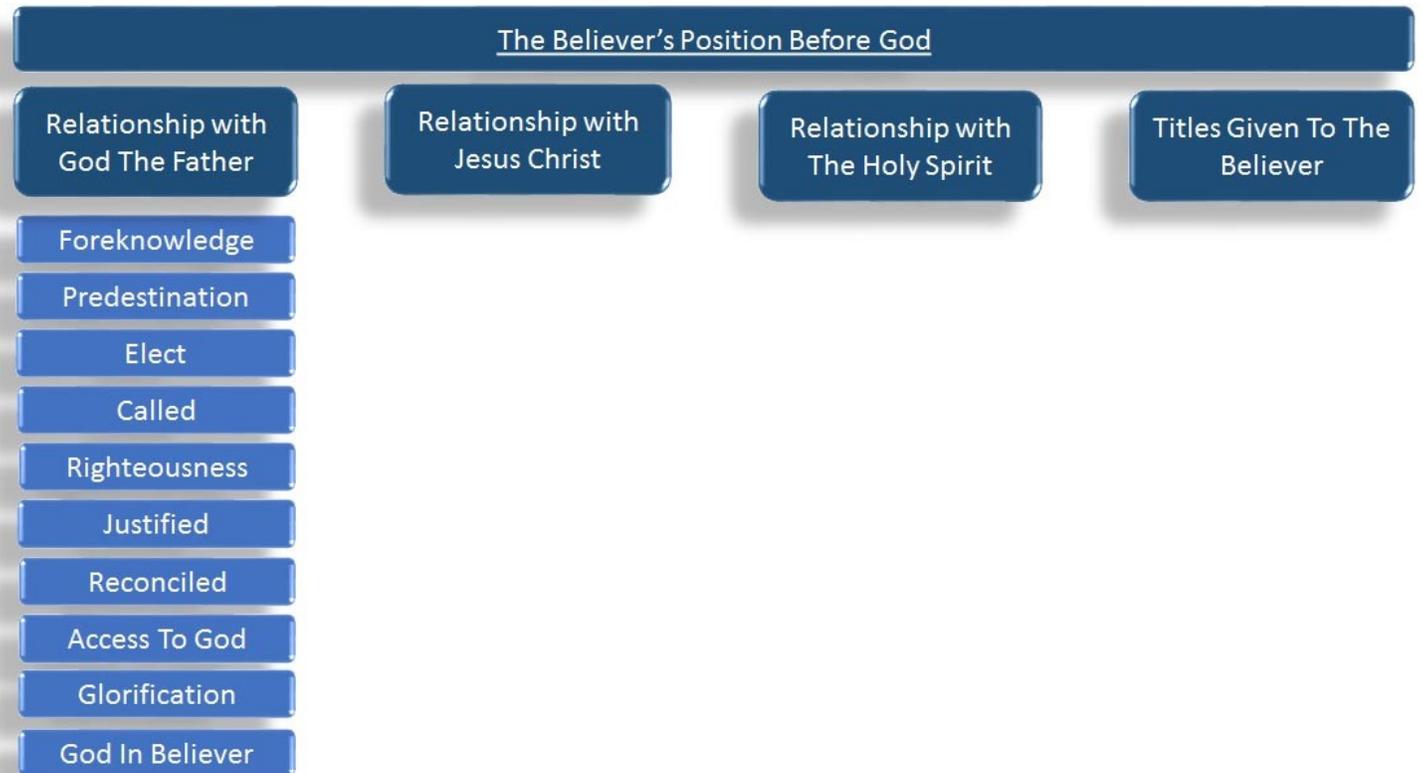
Some spiritual blessings reflect a special relationship to God the Father, some to God the Son, and some to God The Holy Spirit. God planned the program of salvation in eternity. It is being executed in time and will become a part of eternity. The believer should be aware of God’s sovereign purpose for their life so their attitudes and behavior can assist in conforming them more and more to the image of Christ now.

Each blessing is just as important as another. For convenience of this discussion, they have been arranged into groups that bear a common relationship.

# SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS: GOD THE FATHER

Some spiritual blessings reflect a special relationship to God the Father.

On the chart below, I have grouped what I consider are the top ten or so ‘blessings’ bestowed upon the believer at the moment of being born again and that deal with our special relationship with God the Father.



## 1.0 Foreknowledge:

God knows everything both actual and possible. He knows the end from the beginning; He is omniscient.

In our discussion on eternity we covered how eternity is without the bounds of time. Eternity is absence of a beginning, an end, a past and a future. Only the eternal now exists. God lives in eternity and all time, all past, all present, and all future is known and experienced continuously in the now by God Almighty. He is not looking ahead to see what will happen, nor is He looking behind to see what did happen. Therefore God knows everything, both actual and possible. He knows the end from the beginning. He is omniscient. His foreknowledge is thorough and complete.

Choice, determination, and decree, are all involved in the biblical meaning of foreknowledge. God's foreknowledge is certain, because it is based upon His decree or His will to act. In our discussion on God's Will- we delve into the three types of wills God has displayed.

God foreknew Israel and Christians corporately. God knows Christ personally. God's will to decree fulfills the total meaning of predestination and foreknowledge.

- God foreknew Calvary because He decreed that Christ would die according to His will or counsel.
- God foreknew Israel because He chose to make of Abraham a great nation through whom He would bless the world. This was done in spite of the fact that God surely knew of Israel's sinful and faithless history.
- Christians likewise are *“according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. (1 Peter 1:2)*

- God foreknew you and me because He determined to save us, in spite of our future sins and failures which He also knew in eternity.
- The eternal plan of foreknowledge for the believer cannot be rescinded any more than that for Israel or for Christ's death. All are eternally certain. *SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO. (Acts 15:18)*

## 2.0 Predestined By God

Believers are not only foreknown, but also predestinated by God.

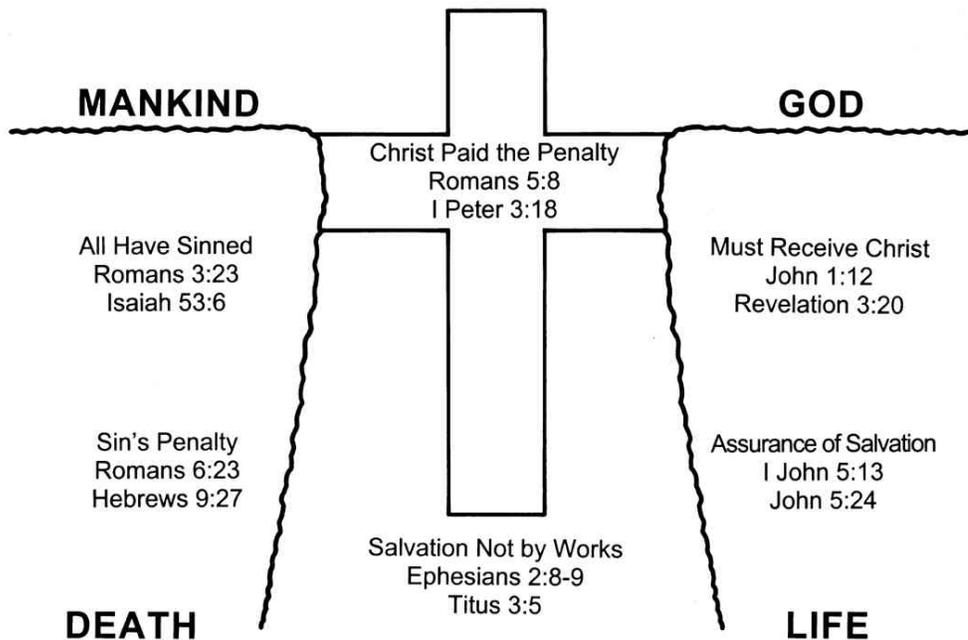
Predestination is a greatly misunderstood term and doctrine. It is nowhere used in the Bible to denote a predestination of a person to hell or to heaven. If this were true, than we could totally dispense with this discussion on the position of the Believer before God and the next discussion on eternal security. If God made the decisions on who goes to hell or to heaven, prior to mankind, than all we need is to wait until the Book of Life is opened to see if we won the lottery. Thankfully, this is not the case. Predestination is a term used only to point out the guaranteed future destiny of the child of God. God has determined that every believer will be conformed to the image of Christ and one day come into the full position of sonship. Adoption means to be put into the position of a son. This will take place at the coming of Christ. Paul said, *“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. (Romans 8:23).*

God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all would come to Him. The Bible says ... *As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; (15) so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. (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. (17) For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (John 3:14-17)*

God corporately wants all of mankind to be saved and reconciled to Him. This is His decreed will.

When our mortal, corruptible bodies are changed into immortal, incorruptible bodies, then we will be fully conformed to the image of Christ. John wrote, *“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. (1 John 3:2)* Predestination means that we shall be like Jesus. As Paul says in Romans *those whom He foreknew He predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ. (Romans 8:29-30)*

Within God's decree, it is certain; “He did predestinate” - note the tense. Time awaits the fulfillment in our experience. The standard of divine predestination is the good pleasure of God's will. The ultimate goal of this decree is the glorification of His grace. Since grace (the giving of God's favor apart from human merit) involves predestination, the goal of predestination rests not upon the faithfulness of the believer, but rather the certainty of God's will.



The Christian is known as a son of God. He becomes a son through adoption. The Greek word for adoption means “to place into the position of sonship.” Do not think of this in the natural, human order of adoption wherein a child, a genetic outsider, can become a legal member of another family. A person receives the nature of God and eternal life, at the moment of saving faith, and thereby becomes a child of God. At that same instant, God puts His child into the position of sonship. God regards the child as an adult son, with all of the privileges and responsibilities pertaining to maturity. The new Christian has the same claim on the blessings of God as older Christians, and the same responsibility to obey God’s word.

- *Romans 8:14-15 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*

Adoption is based upon redemption (so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Galatians 4:5). It permits a believer to receive by inheritance all that our heavenly Father has willed to us. Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:7)

“And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. (Romans 8:17). Because of our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection we are fellow heirs with Christ. The fullness of our adoption will take place at the redemption of our bodies. (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. Romans 8:23). Adoption is the second or end state goal of God’s predestination for us. (He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, Ephesians 1:5) The sonship of the believer is as secure as the eternal purposes of God.

The Christian is called God’s inheritance. Paul prayed that the Ephesians might know, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” (Ephesians 1:18) God gained you and me when He saved us. If we could somehow lose our salvation. God would be the greater loser. He would have lost part of His inheritance, and Satan would chuckle and gloat over his seizure of what belonged to God throughout eternity.

### 3.0 Elect

*Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; Here the "faith of God's elect" is mentioned. Therefore the elect are those who have faith in Jesus Christ.*

The believer is also designated as elect and chosen. Jesus said to His disciples: "*You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*" (John 15:16) The apostles did not originate the choice; Jesus did. He chose them out of the world of lost, guilty sinners (John 15:19 *If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*)

Election in Christianity involves God choosing a particular person or group of people to be the objects of His grace, i.e. a particular relationship, The question further evokes to whether election to eternal life is conditional on a person's faith, or unconditional of a person's faith. The results of God's election is that believers will be justified before God and clothed in Christ's righteousness. The believer is without blame since their sins have been forgiven and pardoned. Graciously, believers are holy in position because they are completely covered by Christ's righteousness.

Jesus said in the conclusion of the parable of the marriage feast, "*For many are called, but few are chosen.*" The significance of the guest who was rejected was conditional. It was the custom of the times for the groom's family to provide celebration garments to all guests attending a marriage feast. The guest refused to wear these clothes thus Jesus used this parable to exemplify that man's relationship is conditional on man donning the clothes of Christ's righteousness. God has invited all men to the blessings of salvation through Christ. *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.* Every believer must confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in Christ's atoning work on the cross.

As God's elect, no one can condemn the believer, because their position is secure. (*Romans 8:33-34 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*) Our election is according to God's foreknowledge (*1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure*)

### 4.0 Called of God

Man has been called to salvation. This is how God establishes a personal relationship with us. As we discussed what it meant to be Lost, we saw that God also reveals Himself to each of us in the wonders of nature all around us (*Romans 1:20. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*)

To all men, God has issued a general call to salvation, as Jesus said in the conclusion of the parable of the marriage feast, "*For many are called, but few are chosen.*" God has invited all men to the blessings of salvation through Christ. *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.* Every believer is under obligation to pray for all men and to witness to all men:

This general call is an expression of divine grace. It alone does not save nor will it always lead to salvation. Man must respond to this call. Paul wrote, for "*WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.*" (*Romans 10:13*). However; not every man accepts God's general call. Many are called, but few are chosen. Chosen in this case is based upon the response of those called. The chosen are those who are the results of God's effectual call. They are the called ones according to God's eternal purpose. It is God's direct will that all men be saved. ALL THAT IS INVOLVED IN GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION. The called

## 5.0 Righteousness

When a person receives Jesus Christ by faith, he also receives the gift of God's righteousness. At the cross our sins were imputed to Christ and at salvation Christ's righteousness is imputed to the believer. We are therefore said to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When God looks upon us, He sees Christ's righteousness, not our unrighteousness. (*even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; Romans 3:22*) The believer is made righteous by God. Paul write in 1 Corinthians 1:30, "*But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.*"

Paul wanted to be "*found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.* (Philippians 3:9)

Just as Jesus Christ, who neither knew or committed any sin, was made sin on the cross of Calvary for us, so we, who neither knew nor did any righteousness, were made righteous at the moment of faith (*2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*) We have no righteousness of our own (*as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; Romans 3:10*); but through Christ we are not only given God's righteousness, but we are made righteous.

- *1 Timothy 2:3-6 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

In position and standing, we are just as righteous as Christ. In practice we are not as righteous or holy as we should be. Compare this truth with what Christ did on the cross. In practice, He never sinned, but positionally, He became just as sinful as we are when the wrath of God came upon Him and when He was forsaken of the Father during those last three hours of darkness. That event cannot be reversed or repeated. Christ can never return to a position He held before Calvary (to an unslain Lamb position); nor does He have to die again. So it is with the child of God. The event of the imputation of righteousness to him cannot be reversed or repeated.

## 6.0 Justification

Simply put, to justify is to declare righteous, to make one right with God. Justification is God declaring those who receive Christ to be righteous, based on Christ's righteousness being imputed to the accounts of those who receive Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*). Justification is a legal act, wherein God deems the sinner righteous on the basis of Christ's righteousness. God can only declare righteous those who really are righteous. He cannot justify a sinner per se; He can and does justify sinners who have been made righteous in Christ.

The main passage describing justification in relation to believers is *Romans 3:21-26: But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*

- We are justified, declared righteous, at the moment of our salvation. Justification does not make us righteous, but rather pronounces us righteous. Our righteousness comes from placing our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. His sacrifice covers our sin, allowing God to see us as perfect and unblemished. Because as believers we are in Christ, God sees Christ's own righteousness when He looks at us. This meets God's demands for perfection; thus, He declares us righteous—He justifies us.
  - *Romans 5:18-19* “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. <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

It is because of justification that the peace of God can rule in the believers lives and have the assurance of eternal salvation. It is the fact of justification that enables God to begin the process of sanctification—the process by which God makes the believer in reality what they already are positionally. “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

## 7.0 Reconciliation

The sinner has also been reconciled to God by God.

Paul wrote, “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Man was God’s enemy; God was not man’s enemy. Sin turned man against God. Adam went into hiding, not God. Reconciliation is man-ward, not God-ward. Calvary made possible a reconciliation, “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10)

The resurrection of Christ guarantees the permanence of the reconciled position. Reconciliation has provided a way back for the sinner to God and for a sinning Christian to his father. Reconciliation gives access by the removal of the sin barrier.

- *Ephesians 2:16-18* and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; <sup>18</sup> for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

To lose reconciliation, the enmity would have to be resurrected and the access turned into prohibition.

## 8.0 The Believer Is Positionally Close To God

It is said of the believer that he has been made nigh: This is especially true of Gentile Christians. In their racial heritage they were “aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,” “strangers from the covenants of promise,” “far off,” and “foreigners.”

- *Ephesians 2:12-13* “remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. “
- *Ephesians 2:19* So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,

Positionally, the Gentile sinner was once far from God, but now he is near. Practically, he is exhorted: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:8).*

A husband and a wife can live under the same roof and still be miles apart in their love relationship. Likewise, a Christian can be practically far away from God even though his position is near. We are made close positionally to God and we grow closer in relationship to God in our daily experience.

### **9.0 The Believer Has Access To God**

The believer has access to God by saving faith in Jesus Christ. *(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. Romans 5:2)* The believer has gained access into a grace position or standing, not of his own doing, but of His giving. The believer can rejoice because this access was gained and is maintained by God's grace, and is not dependent upon man's merit, either past or present. The believer also has access by the Holy Spirit: *(for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:18)*

This access assures the believer that at any time for any reason he can come before God. In ancient times, one would not dare enter into the king's presence without first being called. In Israel, men were shut out of the direct presence of God in the holy of holies (both in the tabernacle and in the temple) by the inner veil. The high priest gained admission into that sacred place only once a year on the Day of Atonement, and then he stayed just briefly. But God's presence is open to the believer.

- *Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

### **10.0 Glorification**

God has also glorified the believer.

At first, this sounds ridiculous because the believer does not have his glorified body yet. But God calls, *"as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist."* (Romans 4:17) God called Abraham a father of many nations even before Abraham had his first son. He regards us as glorified, even though Christ has not yet come and our bodies are still mortal and corruptible. God's eternal purposes are a present reality and certainty to us. Glorification is the climax of His eternal purpose for us.

As far as God is concerned, we are as good as glorified because we are in Christ, and Christ is in heaven in a glorified state. If we could lose our glorification, then Christ would have to lose His. Paul says, *"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. (Romans 8:18)* The deliverance of the Christian is just as certain as the deliverance of creation from the curse *(For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*

<sup>20</sup> *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. Romans 8:19-22)* Both rests upon God's sovereign purpose.

## 11.0 The Believer Is In God & God Is In The Believer

The Bible states that the believer is in God and that God is in the believer. To be in God is our position. God in us is our possession, our privilege and our power.

- The Believer is in God the Father
  - *1 Thessalonian 1:1* “the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.”
  - *Ephesians 4:6* “one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”
- The believer is in God the son, Jesus Christ
  - *Romans 8:1* “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”
  - *John 14:20* “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”
- The believer is in God the Holy Spirit
  - *Romans 8:9* “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”
  - *1 Corinthians 6:19* “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

This is our Spiritual position.

As we’ve seen above, every believer is indwelt by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Here is a truth that definitely illustrates Paul’s declaration to the Corinthians. “*THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.*” <sup>10</sup> *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.* (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

How could a finite, sinful person ever be joined in union with an infinite, holy God? The natural man would call this an impossibility, but God says that it can take place.

The union of believers to one another and to the persons of the Godhead is similar to the union of the divine persons within the God head. Jesus prayed, “*that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.*” (John 17:21) The union or oneness between the believer and God can no more be broken than the oneness that exists between the Son and the Father. It is a secure and eternal union.

These blessings just discussed reveal the special relationship between the believer and the Father. *Christ in God.* <sup>4</sup> *When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.* Col 3:3-4).

## SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS: RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

The Bible describes a unique relationship that exists between every Christian and God the Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. This does not mean that the Father is totally absent from this second relationship; it only means that the emphasis or focus is switched to the Son. Now that you have believed, let's review what special positions or titles the believer now possess before the Savior.



### 1.0 God Has Made The Sinner ACCEPTABLE

A sinner does not make himself acceptable to God, either in the past or in the present, by his deeds. The sinner is solely made acceptable by someone else, namely by God. His sphere of acceptance is in the beloved Christ. Apart from our position in Christ, we have no acceptable standing before God. *(you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5)*

Paul wrote that God, *"to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6), "and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:17).*

This is why Paul wanted to be found in Christ *(and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, Philippians 3:9)*. Because only in Christ could Paul find an acceptable, righteous standing. Our acceptance by God therefore, is not based upon our practice, either before or after saving faith, but rather our position in Christ.

### 2.0 The believer Is Now A CITIZEN Of Christ's Spiritual Kingdom.

Paul wrote, *"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son," (Colossians 1:13)*. This verse gives both a negative and a positive truth. The believing sinner has

been delivered from satanic dominion, but he has also been removed into the kingdom of the Son of His love. Salvation is both from and to. The change of personal rulership has already taken place. Note the tense of the verse. This is an everlasting kingdom. (*for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. 2 Peter 1:11*) Therefore, Christ's dominion over the believer is an everlasting dominion. There is no mention of the possibility of a translation back to the dominion of Satan. Believers have been called unto Christ's kingdom and glory (*so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:12*). The certainty of this call rests upon the faithfulness of God to His word. (*Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass 1 Thessalonians 5:24*)

Let's review Matthew 7:24-27. "*Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.* <sup>25</sup> *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.* <sup>26</sup> *Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* <sup>27</sup> *The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.*"

In His conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave the story of two houses and two foundations. One house was built upon a rock; the other was built upon sand. The rock represented Christ and his righteousness; the sand represented the scribes and Pharisees and their type of righteousness. The houses represent people and their decisions. A life that is founded upon Christ (hearing His sayings and doing them) cannot be destroyed by the storms of circumstances; a life that is constructed upon the pride and effort of man will fall. The foundation determines the security of the house, not vice versa.

The believer is built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. Paul elaborated this truth to the Corinthians. "*For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.* <sup>10</sup> *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.* <sup>11</sup> *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:9-11)*

Nothing can be added to the foundation to make it more secure. Salvation is based upon the foundation. The foundation is the person. *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* (*Matthew 16:16*)— and redemptive work of Jesus Christ — His death, burial and resurrection.

The Christian life, then, is built upon this foundation. It can be either a precious or a wasted life. Even if it is a wasted life, practically devoid of anything that God could reward, it is still a saved life because the foundation is solid. Loss of salvation would have to come from the removal of the foundation, not from the faulty construction of a life.

*1 Corinthians 3:12-15* "*Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* <sup>13</sup> *each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.* <sup>14</sup> *If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.* <sup>15</sup> *If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

### **3.0 A Believer Is A GIFT TO THE SON From The Father**

What a marvelous, yet strange, designation of the child of God. In His great prayer of intercession, Jesus used this title for Christians seven times: (John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 24). Every believer belongs to the Father and to the Son: <sup>9</sup> *I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;* <sup>10</sup> *and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. (John 17:9-10)*

- Eternal life is given to those who were given to the Son by the Father. *John 17:2-5 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*
- The believer was given out of the world to the Son by the Father. *John 17:6-7 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You*
- Such a believer keeps God's Word. *John 17:8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.*
- These gifted ones are the objects of Christ's prayer. *John 17:9-10 I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; 10 and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.*
- Both for preservation. *John 17:11-12 I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. 12 While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.*
- And for eternal habitation. *John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

When was the believer given by the Father to the son? Scripture is not definite here, perhaps in eternity as part of the eternal purpose of God, perhaps at Calvary, or at the time of one's personal salvation. In any case, Christ viewed them as belonging to Him, not because they had believed on Him, but because the Father had given them to Him.

And even greater security passage is given by Jesus, *"My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."* (John 10:29)

If Christians could lose their salvation, the Father would have to take back those whom He had given to the Son, but even then the Father would still have them. But why would the Father take back those whom He has given to Christ?

Has Christ been unfaithful to the extent that God takes away this gift from Him? Impossible! Every believer is an eternal gift to the Son from God the Father.

At Corinth, God encouraged Paul in his preaching with these words. *"And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; <sup>10</sup>for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."* (Acts 18:9-10)

Paul wrote to the Colossians, *"and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ (Colossians 2:11).* A believer is circumcised in Christ. Let us make a distinction between the physical and spiritual circumcision.

## 4.0 SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION

- Physical Circumcision.
  - was instituted by God as an outward sign of the Abrahamic covenant.
  - *God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup> This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. <sup>12</sup> And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. <sup>13</sup> A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup> But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.” Genesis 17:9-14).*
  - Eight days after birth, Jewish parents circumcised their male children in obedience and as a sign of their faith in the fulfillment of the covenant promises.
  - Circumcision became the mark of distinction between a Jew and a Gentile.
  - *Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands.*
  - *Many Jews trusted in their circumcision for their salvation, but Paul criticized this false concept:*
    - *Romans 8:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. <sup>29</sup> But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*
- Spiritual Circumcision
  - A true Israelite is one who has a double circumcision.
  - The outward sign relates him to Abraham as his physical father;
  - The inward, heart circumcision relates him to Abraham as his spiritual father.
  - *Philippians 3:3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.*
  - The rite of physical circumcision cannot be reversed or repeated; it is a natural impossibility. The reality of spiritual circumcision also cannot be repeated or reversed. It is a spiritual impossibility.

## 5.0 Member Of The Body of Christ

The believer is also a member of the Body of Christ. Paul revealed this organic, living relationship between Christ, the head, and Christians, the body in this fashion ...

- *Romans 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*
- *1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.*
- *Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*

- When Jesus Christ ascended in heaven, He then became the head of the church, which is His body. *(And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23)*
- This headship is equivalent to and illustrated by the headship of the husband in the home. *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.<sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,<sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,<sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.<sup>28</sup> So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;<sup>29</sup> for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,<sup>30</sup> because we are members of His body.<sup>31</sup> FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.<sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:22-33)*

A Christian is a member of Christ's body, a member of His flesh, and a member of his bones. Would Christ ever hate one of His members? Never. Rather, He loves, nourishes, , and cherishes every single member. Could Christ's body be dismembered? Absolutely not. If a Christian could his salvation, then Christ's body would be less than complete. It would be scarred or disfigured. Every believer is organically related to Him; he is a part of Christ's spiritual body, the church.

## 6.0 Baptized Into Christ

The Christian has also been baptized into Christ. Spirit baptism and not water baptism, accomplishes this identification at the moment of salvation

- *Colossians 2:12* *having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*
- *Romans 6:3-4* *Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?<sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

Just as the unsaved man sinned in Adam, so the saved man died in Christ, was buried in Christ, and was raised in Christ.

The Bible teaches the crucifixion and resurrection of the believer with Jesus Christ. God reckons His death to be yours and His resurrection to be yours. Just as sin and death no longer have dominion over Him, neither do they have dominion over Him, neither do they have dominion over the believer.

Christ cannot lose the reality and effects of His death and resurrection, that event cannot be reversed or repeated. Since we were in Him, neither can our salvation-identification be reversed or repeated.

- *Galatians 2:20* *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

## 7.0 Complete In Jesus Christ

The believer's relationship to Jesus Christ, God the Son, can be summed up with these words: Complete in Him.

- *Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,<sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;*

The words fullness and complete are based on the same Greek word, stem. In both His earthly and resurrected body, Jesus Christ was fully God. The perfection of the divine essence or nature has always been in Him. He could never be less divine nor more divine. So it is with the believer. The believer has reached a state of completion or perfection in his position in Christ that can neither be improved nor weakened. Positionally, the believer can never be more acceptable than he is right now. He did not reach this state of completion by good works. He has been made complete by God, and He rests in that standing of completion before a holy and just God.

## SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS: THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Christian also maintains a unique relationship to the third Person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit. The Spirit applies the plan of the Father and the redemptive work of the Son to the believer. He also protects and guarantees the secured salvation.



### 1.0 Born Again

First of all, the child of God has been born again, or begotten of the Spirit. Jesus said that a man had to be born again in order to see and to enter the kingdom of God (both the spiritual and the millennial kingdoms). When Nicodemus raised the question of the method of such a birth, Jesus replied *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* (John 3:6)

There is a difference between natural birth and spiritual birth. Natural birth gives natural life; spiritual birth gives spiritual life. Peter wrote that the Christian *“for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”* (1 Peter 1:23) The Holy Spirit, or the incorruptible seed, is the source of the new birth (of from ek, Greek). The Word of God, the Bible, is the means by which the Spirit effects the new birth (by, from dia).

Men become Children of God, they are not born that way. They are not automatically Christians because their parents “were not of blood” (John 1:13), because they themselves decided to become such (*nor of the will of the flesh John 1:13*), or because somebody desired to become that (*“nor of the will of man”*; John 1:13). A man must be born of God in order to become a child of God and to receive the divine nature or eternal life. Like begets like. An eternal God begets eternal children. In the human family, conception and birth are not based upon the will of the fetus, but upon the will of the parents. Spiritual birth is not based upon the will or effort of man, but rather upon the will of God. The birth event cannot be reversed or repeated.

- *John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- *John 3:4-13 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (4) Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” (5) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ (8) The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (9) Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” (10) Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? (11) Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. (12) If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (13) No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.*

A father may disown or disinherit his son legally, but he cannot remove the fact that his nature is in his son. The son may not enjoy the blessings of sonship, but he is still a natural son. The spiritual birth cannot be reversed or repeated either. What is born remains born.

A person is born into God’s family by the Spirit at the time of receiving Christ by faith. He remains in a “born state” forever. Just as it is impossible for a grown man to go back into his mother’s womb to be born all over, so it is impossible for a Christian to go back into the “womb” of the Holy Spirit and be born spiritually a second time.

## **2.0 Regeneration**

Closely related to the new birth is the fact that the believer has been washed in regeneration.

- *Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

The filth and guilt of the sinner must be removed before the pure robe of divine righteousness can be put on. Regeneration not only secures the new birth, but cleanses the sinner. This is a once-for-all cleansing. It cannot be repeated. Paul told the sinning, carnal Corinthian Christians, *“<sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11).*

When Jesus washed the feet of the twelve disciples in the upper room the night before His crucifixion, He said, *“Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed (léloumenos) needs only to wash (nipsasthai) his feet, but is completely clean (katharos); and you are clean (katharoi), but not all of you.” (John 13:10).*

Jesus was making a play on words here. Note the different Greek words for wash and clean. He had just told Peter that washing of the feet was necessary in order to have fellowship with Him. To this, Peter requested a bath for the entire body. Jesus said that in order to have fellowship with Him, one does not need to repeat the complete bath of regeneration. He only needs to have daily cleansings of his soul that becomes dirty by walking in a sin-cursed world. That is why Jesus declared that eleven of them were clean (saved through the complete bath of regeneration), but not Judas (who never experienced regeneration). The need of sinning, carnal Christians is not to be regenerated all over again, but to experience the daily cleansing through confession of known sin. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

- *John 13:10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."*
- *1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*
- *Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

### **3.0 Baptized In The Holy Spirit**

The Christian has also been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- *1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

The believer has been permanently immersed in the Spirit and is forever enveloped by Him. At the same time, he has drunk of the Spirit; therefore, the Holy Spirit is in him. The believer is not only identified with the Spirit but with other Christians who likewise are in the Spirit. They become one in the Spirit and thus are able to function within the body of Christ, the true church. Jesus predicted the baptism in the Holy Spirit during His forty days of post resurrection ministry (*for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.* Acts 1:5).

The disciples experienced this baptism on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit, as a wind, *"And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:1)* They were truly immersed in the Spirit. There is no indication in Scripture that a believer can lose his baptized position in the Holy Spirit.

### **4.0 Earnest Of The Holy Spirit**

To every believer has been given the earnest of the Spirit.

An "earnest" is a deposit of good faith in financial transaction. When I want to purchase an automobile, I am required to put down 'earnest' money so the bank will know that I'm serious and will carry out my responsibility of repaying the loan off. God has given the Holy Spirit as an earnest of our salvation to every believer.

- *2 Corinthians 1:22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."*
- *Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

In the example above, I defined ‘earnest’ according to modern usage. Although the words ‘down payment’ or ‘security’ is used more than ‘earnest’ in today’s legal documents, the usage of the word has not changed much since Biblical times. In Bible times, ‘earnest’ was used as a part payment in advance for security, as a first installment, and even as an engagement ring. The earnest is the pledge of God’s intention. It is God’s promise to us that He will continue to give and to love until we have received all that He has planned to give to us. Christians have *“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“ (Romans 8:23)*. The full harvest or reception of the inheritance will not come until the resurrection of the Christian dead at the coming of Christ. God, unlike man, will not break off the engagement. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is a guarantee that a believer will receive all that God has provided. The pledge of the earnest is based upon God’s faithfulness, not upon ours.

## 5.0 Sealed By The Holy Spirit

Closely linked with the earnest is the fact that God has sealed His children with the Holy Spirit of promise.

- *2 Corinthians 1:22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”*
- *Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.*
- *Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Chronologically, it takes place at the time of saving faith; logically it follows faith. A believer is sealed “unto the day of redemption.

The Spirit is the seal. A seal is a sign of ownership and authority. God has stamped or branded us with the Holy Spirit. His indwelling presence is the sign that we belong to Him and that we are under His authority. *(Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness. 2 Timothy 2:19)*

How can God tell who are His? He can tell by whether the Spirit is present in the life. If the Spirit is present, there will likewise be some departure from sin in the daily experience.

Simply put, the believer has received the Holy Spirit as a gift from God.

- His presence causes the believer’s body to become a holy temple
  - *1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*
- He enables the believer to comprehend spiritual truth in the Scripture for the first time
  - *1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,*
- He motivates the Christian to love God in gratitude
  - *Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
- He causes the child of God to cry out “Father” toward heaven
  - *Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”*

- He creates within the believer that inner conviction that he creates is born again
  - *1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.*
  - *1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*
- If a person does not have the Spirit of God within his life, he is not a Christian
  - *Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

## 6.0 Forgiven and Released

A Believer has been given a two-part blessing from God. First he has been released from a relationship which he once had to Satan, and secondly, the Christian has been forgiven of his sins.

At our conversion, (God), *“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (2 Colossians 1:13).* Satan’s grip over the unsaved, as described previously when we discussed why man is lost before God, is formidable and awesome. Paul saw his missionary responsibility as, *“to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”* (Acts 26:18).

Read again about Satan’s power. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12).* No one could ever release himself or escape from such power. No man is capable of such a task. God, and God alone through Christ, could do it, and He has done just that.

In his lost condition man was under sin — under its ....

- Penalty
- Power
- Presence.

In describing man’s salvation the Bible often uses terms to show what man’s present relationship to sin is.

To the child of God, these truths are precious. Blind composer, fanny Crosby, has penned the song, I’ve sung weekly since my own salvation in 1974.

Redeemed, redeemed!

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,

Redeemed, redeemed.

His child, and forever, I am.

The Bible pictures the lost man as a slave to sin. He is owned by it and bound to it. Redemption, then, is an appropriate word for salvation. What could redeem man? Certainly not corruptible things as silver and gold. Man could only be redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:19). Redemption is in Christ alone.

- *Romans 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*
- *Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

Christ provided the ransom payment. He bought us. He paid the price with the infinite, eternal value of His shed blood. He bought us out of the marketplace of sin, and we now belong to Him by right of purchase. For us to return to such bondage, He would have to sell us back. Impossible. He has made us free.

- *John 8:36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*
- *Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery*

We are free from the hold of sin. How could a Christian lose his salvation? Is there any price that Satan could pay to buy us back into his control? Could we somehow loose ourselves from divine ownership by the payment of some price. Never. It took the blood of God's own Son to redeem us. That payment cannot be matched. We are His forever.

Jesus Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the believer. (*and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world* 1 John 2:2). God has accepted Christ as our propitiation. (*whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;* Romans 3:25) His death on the cross has satisfied God's demands for all of our sins — past, present, and future. When the blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the most holy place within the tabernacle, God was satisfied, and Israel was spared to another Day of Atonement. Christ's blood is indefinitely more valuable than animal blood. His death satisfied God forever. The believer knows that the eternal penalty for all his sins has been canceled because of Christ

Paul says in 2 Colossians 2:13, "*When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,*" and in Ephesians 1:7, "*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*" Forgiveness is a present possession. The standard of forgiveness is the wealth of God's grace. Note that it is "according to" and not "out of." If a multimillionaire would give fifty dollars to a Christian college building fund or to a missionary hospital project, he would be giving out of his riches. If, instead, he would send a signed blank check, then he would be giving according to his wealth.

How many sins do each of us have? Regardless of whether they are many or few, great or small, God has enough grace to cover and to remove your sins. Paul was a blasphemer of Christ, a persecutor of Christians, and an injurious person; yet God saved him and forgave him. (*even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;*<sup>14</sup> *and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.*<sup>15</sup> *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.* 1 Timothy 1:13-15). If God could save Paul, the chief of sinners, than He can forgive anyone.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul notes, "*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,*<sup>10</sup> *nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*<sup>11</sup> *Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). What a list of sins and sinners and yet Paul added, "and such were some of you. Yes, God can forgive the worst sins of immorality. His riches of grace are inexhaustible.

Because the sinner has been forgiven, he should likewise forgive.

- *Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*
- *Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

We cannot out-forgive God. If He has forgiven us so much, should we not forgive so little?

There is a difference between judicial and daily forgiveness. It is comparable to the once-for-all bath of regeneration and the daily cleansings of the believer's walk. (Also, refer to our discussion on page 17 on regeneration.) The forgiveness of sins, at the moment of believing faith, gives the new child of God a proper relationship to or an acceptable standing before God. Daily forgiveness is necessary to maintain fellowship with the Father and to enjoy the daily blessings of the Father-son relationship. When a child of God sins, he needs restoration, not a new regeneration.

Daily forgiveness is obtained through daily confession. (*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*). Daily sin will make the Christian feel bad or ashamed, but he will not sense the concept of guilty or liability to eternal punishment. He has been forgiven all of his sins judicially by God.

## **7.0 Freed From The Law**

The Christian is now free from the law. He is no longer under the law, but under grace.

- *Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*
- *1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;*
- *Romans 7:7-10 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." <sup>8</sup> But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. <sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; <sup>10</sup> and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;*

A man must keep all the law all the time in order to escape the penalty of violation. No man could do this; therefore, he was under the dominion and penalty of the law, and of sin until Christ's resurrection.

- *Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—*
- *Galatians 4:5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*
- *Galatians 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

Faith in Christ releases one from his obligation to a broken law and any further obligation to keep it. The believer finds favor before God, not through conformity to the Mosaic law, but through conformity to Christ.

The law is a ministration of death, then and always (*But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, 2 Corinthians 3:7*).

A believer is “dead to the law” and “delivered from the law” in his new position in Christ *Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.* <sup>5</sup> *For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.* <sup>6</sup> *But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.* Romans 7:4-6).

Just as a woman or husband is no longer under the law or dominion of the husband after his death, so a Christian is free from the law through his identification with Christ’s death and resurrection. We are now married to Him in resurrection life.

## 8.0 Quickened

The believer has also been quickened. The word quickened means “to be made alive.” This correctly implies that a lost sinner is dead.

- *Ephesians 2:1-5 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*
- *Colossians 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,*

A dead man cannot do anything for himself; his one need is life. Only God can make him spiritually alive. Just as God breathed into a lifeless body and Adam became a living soul, so God must breathe into the lifeless spirit of man. When God breathes, man responds. The believer has been just as permanently quickened from spiritual death as Christ has been made alive from the realm of physical death. Just as Christ can die no more, the believing sinner cannot either. He has a quickened position in the resurrected Christ.

- *Ephesians 2:5-6 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

## 9.0 Sanctification

The Christian is also a sanctified person. Sanctify, in its word derivation, means ‘to set apart.’ With reference to the child of God, it is used in three ways.

First, at the moment of salvation, the believer was sanctified positionally.

- The believer was and is now set apart from the world to God.
- *1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:*
- These carnal, sinning believers were nevertheless saints (“set apart ones”).
- The believer’s position in Christ Jesus made possible their sanctification
  - *1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,*

- *1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

Second, there should be progressive sanctification taking place in the daily life of a Christian.

- God wants every believer to be holy as He is holy
  - *1 Peter 1:16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*
- This was part of Christ's concerns in His intercessory prayer.
  - *John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*
- Jesus sanctified Himself for our sake.
  - *John 17:19 For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.*
- The believer's practice is not yet up to his position. He needs to be set apart daily from the influence of the sin nature, the system of the world, and the devil. Christ's death and resurrection. His ministry of intercession in the presence of God, and the application of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit can enable the believer to walk the holy separated life.

Third, permanent sanctification will come at the return of Christ.

When will the believer be without moral spot or wrinkle? When will he be perfectly holy and without blemish. When the Christian actually sees Christ and is changed to be like Him (*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is 1 John 3:2*), then he will be permanently set apart from the aftereffects and presence of sin.

- *Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.*

### **10.0 Perfected. God Sees Each Believer as Perfect, Complete Person.**

The Christian has also been perfected.

- *Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

To perfect means to bring to completion, to the end, or to maturity or adulthood. Positionally, God sees us as perfected or completed persons. Christ offered one sacrifice for sins forever. His death was done in time; the results of it last forever. So it is with the act of divine perfection. It was done at conversion; its results continue into eternity. Positionally, the believer can be no more perfect than he is right now.

### **11.0 Made Meet. The Believer Has Been Rendered Fit By God To Participate In The Inheritance.**

This is a scriptural expression. In his prayer, Paul gave thanks to God the Father (*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. Colossians 1:12*). The believer has been rendered fit or sufficient by God to participate in the inheritance given to all saints. This is a work of God done in the believer's past at conversion. It is a completed work (note the verb tense) which produces an acceptable standing.

The best words to summarize the believer's relationship to sin are no condemnation. Like the woman taken in adultery, the Christian is excited to hear those words of love and compassion from the Savior (... *And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."* John 8:11).

The guilt of sin, the penalty of sin, and the sins themselves have been erased. God could not condemn us any more than He could condemn His own Son and we are in Him. Saving faith delivers from condemnation. (*He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18*)

## **12.0 No Condemnation.**

Jesus also said there would be no condemnation of the believer. *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. (John 5:24)*

This is why a genuine Christian does not sense any moral guilt or the shadow of eternal wrath over him when an evangelistic message is being preached. He has peace with or before God by faith in Christ (Romans 5:1). God has instilled by the Spirit a sense of “no condemnation” within His child. There should be no fear within the Christian, but rather thanksgiving for what God has done for him and a prayerful concern for the lost. The Christian, of course, can sin; but he will never again experience the feeling of condemnation. Rather he will experience shame for disobeying his Father. God will chastise His child for sin now; the sin of the world will be dealt with at the great white throne judgment. *But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:32)*

## **SALVATION IS NOT A PASSPORT**

If salvation were only a passport from hell to heaven, then it would be conceivable that a person could somehow lose or misplace it. But salvation is not something possessed by the hand; it is in the heart. In fact, it is more than a heart matter.

It is an entire change of a person’s position before God.

There are nearly 40 blessings that describe the believer’s position before God within this discussion. If a person could lose his salvation, every single one of these blessings would have to return to a totally guilty position before God as we described in the discussion on what it means to be lost. Salvation is not only from, but also to a position before God. Loss of salvation would reverse all blessings completely.

God has provided salvation, not just a chance or opportunity for salvation. He has given eternal life, not just temporary spiritual life that might eventually lead to everlasting life. Salvation involves the total change of a person before God because he is now a new creation in Christ Jesus. Salvation is not purchased by the believing sinner, it is given by a gracious God.



Salvation is eternal. These positional spiritual truths never change. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (Ephesians 1:3)*

Let's just briefly review our position before God, given to us at the moment of being Born Again, at our conversion by God Almighty.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

There are just two positions before God for man. You can stand before God as either lost or saved. The choice is yours.

The lost position is how man enters this world. We are lost and therefore cursed by God. Man stands before God having (1) rejected God's Divine Revelation, (2) due to man's relationship to the world and (3) to Satan, and (4) due to man's own sin resulting from the nature inherited from Adam and Eve, (5) not to mention man's rejection of God and forming a holy relationship with God Almighty. The penalty for this position is eternal separation from God in hell.

The saved position is a gift of God that is freely available to anyone willing to *"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, <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the*

## The Lost's Standing Before God

Curse

Man's Rejection of  
Divine Revelation

Man's Relationship  
To The World

Man's Relationship  
To Satan

Man's Sins

Man's Relationship  
To God

## The Saved's Position Before God

Blessings

Relationship with  
God The Father

Relationship with  
God The Son

Relationship with  
God The Holy Spirit

God Gives The  
Saved Unique Titles

*dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;"*

At the moment of our Salvation, God bestows over 50 gifts upon us that changes our position before Him. We have gifts that change our relationship and our position with Him (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) from 'lost—bound to Hell' to 'saved — bound for Heaven'.

These gifts are freely given to us, not because of any merit on our part, but rather God responding to us in love for our profession of faith and acceptance of Jesus' work on the cross. Rather than being cursed and separated from God forever in hell, we shall be blessed with an eternal, loving relationship with God in heaven.

## Is Christ Risen From The Dead?

Christians, beginning with the Apostles, have recognized that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation stone of the faith. Jesus proved Christianity as the only way to heaven, death was conquered, and Satan defeated through His resurrection from the dead. The curse of sin is death. There is no greater enemy of mankind than death. This includes both physical and spiritual death. So strong is this fundamental Christian principle, that Paul, wrote to those in Corinth, who in general denied the resurrection of the dead: Paul first says in 1 Corinthians 2:2 *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* Then Paul explains why later in 1 Corinthians 15:14 *“and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”* Paul’s entire case rested on the bodily resurrection of Christ. Jesus either rose from the dead or Christianity was a joke and we were to be pitied. If Christ was resurrected, which He was, than this was the most sensational event in all of history; and all of the profound questions of life are answered. Who are we? What is our purpose? Is there a God? Where have we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? And many more. If Christ rose, we know with certainty that God exists, what He is like, and how we may know Him in a personal experience. Everything becomes purposeful, even our lives today.

If Christ did not rise from the dead, than all Christians since 32 A.D. are fools — nothing more. Christianity would not be relevant or valid. Christianity would not have survived after the first couple hundred years and religion everywhere would probably be non-existent. The Devil would have no need to sidetrack humans from becoming sons of God. The martyrs who went singing to the lions, and contemporary missionaries who have

## Who Moved The Stone?

The attacks on Christianity, by its enemies have mostly focused as on the resurrection as this event is the foundation of Christian belief. In the 1930s, Frank Morison, a young British lawyer decided to write a book exposing how false and ridiculous the Christian faith of a resurrection is by a once-and-for-all document that would systematically examine the evidence supposedly “justifying” Christianity. Morison felt he had the legal skills necessary to ardently examine and evaluate evidence and to admit nothing as evidence which did not meet the stiff criteria that would be admitted for in a court of law today.

Funny how God works. Morison stated in his book, *Who Moved The Stone?*, the following data convinced him that Jesus Christ was indeed resurrected 2,000 years ago.

- The Christian Church has continued to thrive and grow for over 2,000 years.
- The Christian day of worshipping Jesus Christ’s resurrection on Sunday is celebrated worldwide now.
- The Bible is the most read book in the world and has been for centuries.
- No one can account for the empty tomb of Jesus Christ on resurrection Sunday.
- Each disciples under threat of torture and martyrdom continued to preach that Christ has risen.
- Uncollaborated rumors that Roman soldiers moved the body after Jesus death proved to be false.
- The rumor that the women, while grieving entered the wrong tomb and incorrectly reported Christ as resurrected is dispelled through logical thinking of the facts.
- The rumor that Christ did not die during the crucifixion but was revived while in the tomb for three days is medically impossible.
- There are 10 recorded events of Christ’s appearance after crucifixion by hundreds of people spanning 40 days after the resurrection.
- Rumors that everyone hallucinated about seeing Jesus after death is disproved through what modern medical science knows about psychological phenomena.
- The record of Thomas, the doubter, further destroys the hallucination rumors of the resurrection.
- The power of the resurrection changed the disciples from timid men to bold preachers of the gospel.
- Believers of the gospel and resurrection for the past 2,000 years have recorded transformed lives.

## The Ten Appearances Of Jesus Christ After His Crucifixion

Each recorded appearance shows great variety as to time, place, and number of people. Two were to individuals, Peter and James. There were appearances to the disciples as a group, and one was to 500 assembled followers. The appearances were at different places. Some were in the garden near His tomb, some were in the upper room. One was on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, and some were far away, in Galilee. Each appearance was characterized by different acts and words by Jesus. For the same reasons that the empty tomb cannot be explained on the basis of lies or legends, neither can we dismiss the statement of the appearances of Christ on this basis. This is testimony given by eyewitnesses fully and profoundly convinced of the truth of their statements.

- 1) Mary Magdalene. (John 20:11-18) In the tomb's garden on resurrection day.
- 2) The other Mary, Salome, Joanna, and at least one other woman. (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 21:10. In the tomb's garden on resurrection day.
- 3) Simon and Peter. (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5) on resurrection day.
- 4) Cleopas and companion. (Luke 24:13-35) On resurrection day, on the road to Emmaus.
- 5) The disciples minus Thomas. (Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-25) On either resurrection day or the day after in a closed room.
- 6) The disciples including Thomas. (John 20:26-29) 1 week after the resurrection day in a closed room.
- 7) Seven disciples. (John 21:1-23) Within the few weeks after resurrection day at the Sea of Tiberias.
- 8) Disciples and a large gathering. (Matthew 28:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:6) Within the few weeks after resurrection day at a mountain in Galilee.
- 9) James. (1 Corinthians 15:7) Within the few weeks after resurrection day. Location not disclosed.
- 10) Disciples (Luke 24:49-53, Acts 1:3-11) Probably in Jerusalem before He lead them to the Mount of Olives, gave The Great Commission, and ascended into heaven.

# Detailed Examination Of The Resurrection Evidence

1. There is the fact of the 2,000 year old, growing vibrant Christian Church. It is worldwide in scope. It's history can be traced back to Palestine around A.D. 32. The first century Christians turned the world of their time upside down. They constantly referred to the resurrection as the basis for their teaching, preaching, living, and significantly, their dying.
2. Sunday is the day of worship for Christians. Its history can be traced back to the year A.D. 32. Such a shift in the calendar was monumental, and something cataclysmic must have happened to change the day of worship from the Jewish Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, to Sunday, the first day. Christians said the shift came because of their desire to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This shift is all the more remarkable when we remember that the first Christians were Jews. If the resurrection does not account for this monumental upheaval, what does?
3. Then there is the Christian book, the New Testament. In its pages are contained six independent testimonies to the fact of the resurrection. Three of them are by eyewitnesses: John, Peter, and Matthew. Paul writing to the churches at an early date, refers to the resurrection in such a way that it is obvious to him and his readers that the event was well known in their time and accepted without question. Are these men, who helped transformed the moral society, consummate liars or deluded madmen?
4. How do we account for the empty tomb? The earliest explanation circulated was that the disciples stole the body. In Matthew 28:11-15, we have the record of the reaction of the chief priests and the elders when the guards gave them the infuriating and mysterious news that the body was gone. They gave the soldiers money and told them to explain that the disciples had come at night and stolen the body while they were asleep. That story is so obviously false that Matthew doesn't even bother to refute it. What judge would listen to you if you said that while you were asleep your neighbor came into your house and stole your television set? Who knows what goes on while he's asleep? Testimony like this would be laughed out of any court. Furthermore, we are faced with a psychological and ethical impossibility. Stealing the body of Christ would be something totally foreign to the character of the disciples and all that is known of them. It would mean that they were perpetrators of a deliberate lie which was responsible for the misleading and ultimate death of thousands of people. It is inconceivable that, even if a few of the disciples had conspired and pulled off this theft, they would never have told the others.
5. Each of the disciples faced the test of torture and martyrdom for his statements and beliefs. Men will die for what they believe to be true, though it may actually be false. They do not, however, die for what they know is a lie. If ever a man tells the truth, it is on his deathbed. And if the disciples had taken the body,, and Christ as still dead, we would still have the problem of explaining His alleged appearances in a number of places.
6. A second hypothesis is that the authorities, Jewish or Romans, moved the body. But why? Having put guards at the tomb which was sealed with a rolling stone estimated to weigh over 2 tons, what would be their reason for moving the body? A more convincing answer for this thesis is the silence of the authorities in the face of the apostles' bold preaching about the resurrection in Jerusalem. The ecclesiastical leaders were seething with rage and did everything possible to prevent the spread of this message and to suppress it (Acts 4). They arrested Peter and John and beat and threatened them, in an attempt to close their mouths. There was a very simple solution to their problem. If they had Christ's body, they could have paraded it through the streets of Jerusalem. With the one act they would have successfully smothered Christianity in its cradle. That they did not do this bears eloquent testimony to the fact that they did not have the body.
- 7.

8. Another hypothesis is that the women, distraught and overcome by grief, missed their way in the dimness of the morning and went to the wrong tomb. In their distress, they imagined Christ had risen because the tomb was empty. This theory, however, falls before the same fact that destroys the previous one. If the women went to the wrong tomb, why did the high priests and other enemies of the faith not go to the right tomb and produce the body? Further, it is inconceivable that Peter and John would succumb to the same mistake, and certainly Joseph of Arimathea, owner of the tomb, would have solved the problem. In addition, it must be remembered that this was a private burial ground, not a public cemetery. There was no other tomb there that would have allowed them to make the mistake.
9. The Swoon theory has also been advanced to explain the empty tomb. In this view, Christ did not actually die. He was mistakenly reported to be dead, but had swooned from exhaustion, pain and loss of blood. When He was laid in the coolness of the tomb, He was revived. He came out of the tomb and appeared to his disciples, who mistakenly thought He had risen from the dead. This is a theory of modern construction. It first appeared at the end of the eighteenth century. It is significant that not a suggestion of this kind has come down from antiquity among all the violent attacks which have been made on Christianity. All of the earliest records are emphatic about Jesus' death. But let us assume for a moment that Christ was buried alive and swooned. Is it possible to believe that He would have survived three days in a damp tomb without food or water or attention of any kind. Would he have survived being wound in spice-laden grave clothes, push the over 2-ton stone away from the mouth of the grave, overcome the Roman guards, and walk miles on feet that had been pierced with spikes? No one is that gullible are they?
10. If Jesus was not resurrected, then Christ Himself was involved in flagrant lies. His disciples believed and preach that He was dead but became alive again. Jesus did nothing to dispel this belief, but rather encouraged it. The only theory that adequately explains the empty tomb is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb.
11. The recorded appearances of Christ. These occurred from the morning of His resurrection to His ascension forty days later.
12. Hallucinations. At first, this sounds like a plausible explanation of an otherwise supernatural event. It is plausible until we begin to realize that modern medicine has observed that certain laws apply to such psychological phenomena. As we relate these principles to the evidence at hand, we see that at first seemed most plausible is, in fact, impossible. Hallucinations occur generally in people who tend to be vividly imaginative and of a nervous makeup. But the appearances of Christ were to all sorts of people. True, some were possibly emotional women, but there were also hard-headed men like the fisherman, Peter, and others of various dispositions. Hallucinations are extremely subjective and individual. For this reason, no two people have the same experience. But in the case of the resurrection, Christ appeared not just to individuals, but to groups, including one of more than 500 people. Paul says that more than half of them were still alive and could tell about these events. *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.* Hallucinations usually occur only at particular times and places and are associated with the events fancied. But these appearances occurred both indoors and outdoors, in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Generally these psychic experiences occur over a long period of time with some regularity. But these experiences happened during a period of forty days, and then stopped abruptly. No one ever reported that they happened again after the Ascension. Perhaps the most conclusive indication of the fallacy of the hallucinations theory is a fact often overlooked. In order to have an experience like this, one must so intensely want to believe that he projects something that really isn't there and attaches reality to his imagination. For instance, a mother who has lost a son in the

10. (Continued) Mary remembers how he used to come home from work every evening at 5:30 o'clock. She sits in her rocking chair afternoons musing and meditating. Finally, she thinks she sees him coming through the door, and has a conversation with him. At this point she has lost contact with reality. One might think that this was what happened to the disciples about the resurrection. The fact is that the opposite took place — they were persuaded against their will that Jesus had risen from the dead. Mary came to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday morning with spices in her hands. Why? To anoint the dead body of the Lord she loved. She was obviously not expecting to find Him risen from the dead. In fact, when she first saw Him she mistook Him for the gardener. It was only after He spoke to her and identified Himself that she realized who He was. When the other disciples heard, they didn't believe. The story seemed to them "as an idle tale." When the Lord finally appeared to the disciples, they were frightened and thought they were seeing a ghost. They thought they were having a hallucination, and it jolted them. He finally had to tell them. *"While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." (37) But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. (38) And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? (39) See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." (40) And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. (41) While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" (42) They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; (43) and He took it and ate it before them." (Luke 24:36-43)*
11. Thomas, the doubter. Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples the first time. They told him about it, but he scoffed and would not believe. In effect, he said, "I'm from Missouri. I won't believe unless I'm shown. I'm an empiricist. Unless I can put my finger into the nail wounds in His hands and my hand into His side, I will not believe. He wasn't about to have a hallucination. John gives us the graphic story in John 20 of Jesus' appearance to the disciples eight days later. He graciously invited Thomas to examine the evidence of His hands and His side. Thomas looked at Him and fell down to worship: *"My Lord and my God."*
12. Only the reality of the bodily resurrection of Christ could have produced the change in the disciples from cowardly, fearful, shy, timid followers into men of courage and conviction who boldly preached Christ and Christ risen from the dead. What was it that changed Peter from one who, the night before the Crucifixion, was so afraid for his own skin that he three times denied he even knew Jesus into a roaring lion of the faith? Some fifty days later Peter risked his life by saying he had seen Jesus risen from the dead. He preached it in Jerusalem where the events had taken place, where the facts could be verified, and where his life was in danger. Only the reality of the bodily resurrection of Christ could have produced this change in the disciple.
13. Finally, there is the evidence for the resurrection which is contemporary and personal. If Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He is alive today, powerful to invade and change those who invite Him into their lives. Thousands now living hear uniform testimony that their lives have been revolutionized by Jesus Christ. He has done in them what He said He would do. Jesus Christ's invitation to "come and see" still stands. The avenue of experimentation is open to each person.

# Salvation Verses

Romans 10:9-10 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38-39 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Acts 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

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

James 2:14-26 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ...

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:30-31 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 20:19-24 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ...

2 Timothy 2:1 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

John 3:19-21 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Romans 2:16 On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Romans 2:6-8 He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

John 3:22-26 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison). Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him."

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

John 6:55-59 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

John 6:67-71 So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Psalms 1:1-6 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ...

John 6:50-71 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ...

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Acts 16:31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Matthew 25:31-46 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ...

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Romans 6:1-7 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ...

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:1-28 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So he left them and departed. When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. ...

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Luke 13:3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Romans 10:9 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 6:28-29 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

Isaiah 53:1-12 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. ...

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 2:1-47 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ...

John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

Mark 10:17-27 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ...

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Matthew 9:6-8 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

James 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

1 Timothy 2:4 Who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Ephesians 4:17-32 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Romans 8:1-39 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

Romans 3:8 And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Acts 16:30 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Acts 16:24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 15:11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

Acts 10:43 ESV To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

John 20:31 But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 10:22-33 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ...

John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:24 ESV / 2 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

John 6:65 ESV / 2 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

John 6:44 ESV / 2 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”