

SALVATION

Justified, saved, received forgiveness, trusted Christ, converted, born again, received salvation; it all means the same thing. It does not matter what you call it - just so it has happened to you! The word “saved” is a Bible word used much in Scripture. Acts 4:12 says: *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* In Romans 10:10, it is called Salvation *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* You need to get the entire picture of what salvation is if you are to adequately deal with others about their souls. **You will never do much for God until you realize how much He has done for you.** Salvation is the theme of the entire Bible. Let us begin our study with giving some definitions of commonly misunderstood Bible words:

SAVED

Salvaged, forgiven, spared, or saved from sin and hell. Acts 16:30 says: *“... Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* Eph. 2:8-9 says: *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

CONVICTION

To convince of sin. Acts 7:54 says: *“When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.”* The crowd was “cut to the heart” and felt guilty for their sin. John 8:9 says: *“And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”* The religious leaders felt guilty too. Acts 24:25 says: *“And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”* Felix was convicted under Paul’s preaching. A person must feel guilty for their sin before they can be saved.

REPENT

To change one’s mind or purpose. To turn from sin to God. (Acts 2:38). A soldier once described being saved as this: **Halt! Attention! About Face! Forward March!**

Many false teachers twist repentance into a “works” type of religion. They tell people that their life must be clean of all bad habits before Jesus will save them. That is wrong! You come to Jesus as you are and He makes the changes. Pardon the homely example, but if you hired a maid to clean your house while you were gone and did not leave the door unlocked, the house would not be clean upon your arrival. You have got to let Jesus inside your house first; THEN He cleans it and rearranges it the way He likes it.

BELIEVE

To trust. Acts 16:30 says: “...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Believe does not mean just to acknowledge or believe in, but to put full trust in Him as Saviour to do what He has promised: to save your soul.

GRACE

Unearned favor. Eph. 2:8-9 says: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Why does God choose to save sinners like us who all deserve Hell? You cannot explain it apart from:

God’s
Riches
At
Christ’s
Expense

FAITH

Trusting God’s promise enough to claim it and put it to the test. Heb. 11:6 says: “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” There are three parts to FAITH:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Must know how to be saved. 2 Tim. 3:15 says: “And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
2. **BELIEF** - Must believe what the Bible says about being saved.
3. **TRUST** - Action. Rom. 10:10 says: “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

When poisonous snakes began biting the people in the desert, God told Moses to make a brass serpent and wrap it around a pole. It was to be a picture of Jesus who became sin for us on the cross. The command was LOOK & LIVE! All the Jews had to do was know that Moses made the pole, believe God would heal them and then trust His promise enough to look. The story is given of a famous tightrope walker that walked across a canyon blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow. The crowd cheered! The tightrope walker asked a man in the crowd if he believed he could walk the canyon again with the wheelbarrow. The man enthusiastically replied, “YES!” Upon that, the tightrope walker told the man, “OK, get in.” Now that is faith.

The United State Secret Service, when training workers who fight counterfeiting always spend a majority of their time studying genuine bills so they can easily spot a counterfeit. That is why we are studying salvation in detail; so we can readily spot false teachings.

There are two beliefs in the world on Salvation:

1. WORKS
2. CHRIST

Works is spelled **DO**. These false teachers major on doing to be saved. Christianity is spelled **DONE**. Jesus did it all. That is why on the cross Jesus said, *“It is finished.”* (John 19:30) Jesus alone saves. It is not Jesus plus baptism, Jesus plus church, Jesus plus good works, or Jesus plus anything else. It is Jesus alone!

TWO PREREQUISITES TO SALVATION

1. The Word of God - gives facts of salvation; proves guilt.
2. The Holy Spirit - convicts of sin; draws to be saved.

Before a person can be saved, they must hear the Word of God (whether printed, preached, explained, quoted, etc.) and the Holy Spirit must draw or give them a desire to be saved. Anyone can pray a prayer - **but salvation does not take place without the work of the Word and the Holy Spirit.**

Something happened to you the moment you got saved that you may or may not know about: You became Justified! “Justified” or “Justification” means God now looks at your record Just As If You Never Sinned. You have a clean slate! **Jesus’ Perfect Record** traded for **Your Sinful Record!** 2 Cor. 5:21 says: *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* On the cross, Jesus took your record of sin upon Him. The moment you receive Him into your heart as Saviour, you receive His record. God no longer sees your sin - it is gone forever. He only sees His sinless Son’s record.

But, you say, what happens when a Christian sins? We do still sin after we are saved, do we not? The answer to these questions is best illustrated in the family relationship. The moment you got saved you were born spiritually into God’s family. God became your heavenly Father and you experienced a closeness to Him like never before. Sin separates that closeness, or breaks the fellowship and makes you lose the “joy” of salvation (Ps. 51:2). Remember how you disobeyed your parents in the past? You did not feel close to them until you asked forgiveness and made things right. Then you were close again. You did not have to ask them to be your parents again. The relationship was not lost, just the closeness. It is the same way with our Heavenly Father. When we sin after we are saved, we need not ask to be saved again, but only ask for forgiveness to stay close to the Lord. 1 John 1:9 says: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

CAN A SAVED PERSON EVER BE UNSAVED AGAIN?

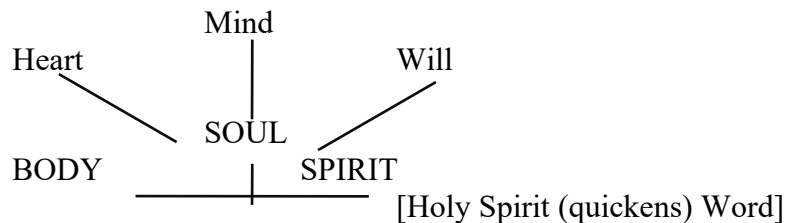
Once you are saved are you always saved? John 10:28 says: *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”* Rom. 6:23 says: *“...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* John 3:16 says: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

SALVATION IS ETERNAL. ETERNITY NEVER ENDS. SINCE JESUS IS A GIFT, YOU MUST ONLY RECEIVE HIM ONCE.

God says no man can pluck you out of His hand. Behavior after salvation does not jeopardize your soul, but it does affect the rewards you will receive in heaven. One Pastor illustrates that truth by the behavior of two men on an airplane. Both had their tickets paid for and were on their way to the same destination. One man behaved as a gentleman. The other man cut the seats with a knife, tripped the stewardess, yelled, and screamed the entire trip. Now, both will reach the same destination - but with a different welcome at the airport. Did you make the application? Once you are saved, it is for keeps - but the reception you receive in heaven will be according to your behavior on the trip. A Christian, who lives a selfish life, disregarding God's plan for his life, will not have the rewards he could have for his Lord.

WHAT CHANGES WHEN YOU GET SAVED?

2 Cor. 5:17 says: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* You are made in the image of God (A three-fold being). He is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You have a body, soul, and a spirit.



BODY This houses your Soul and Spirit. It is your transportation.

SOUL Contains the heart, mind, and will. The mind understands the Gospel (knowledge), the heart gets convicted of sin (belief), and the will decides to get saved (trust).

SPIRIT The Spirit is dead or dormant until quickened or made alive. It comes alive at salvation. Eph. 2:1 says: *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;"* That is why a saved man has a desire to serve God and an unsaved man does not. The saved man's spirit is alive; the unsaved man's spirit is dead.

So what changes at the moment of salvation? The Spirit comes alive and the Lord moves into your heart. There are three stages in salvation. One has already happened to you, the second should be happening and the third will happen in the future. The three stages are Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. You will be reading these terms as you read the Bible and need to understand how they apply to you.

JUSTIFICATION (The day you got saved)

You were justified the day you got saved. This is when your spirit became alive. Luke 18:14 says: *“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”* 2 Cor. 6:2: *“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”* This is an ACT. It is not gradual, but immediate. This deals with your record in heaven - a clean slate. This stops the penalty of sin - Hell.

SANCTIFICATION (Growing in your Christian life)

Sanctification is when your soul (heart, mind, and will) changes as it hears God’s Word. It is a process whereby God is continually making us more and more like Jesus and less and less like the world.

1 Thess. 4:3: “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”

2 Thess. 2:13: “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:”

1 Tim. 4:5: “For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

Rom. 15:16: “That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.”

Rom. 12:1-2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Sanctification involves your daily living. It always follows Justification. The word “sanctify” means “set apart for service”. We do not gradually get better and better and then become a Christian. We get justified first, then God gradually makes us more and more like Him (sanctification).

GLORIFICATION (New body when Jesus comes)

This is the stage of salvation that affects your body. This is a definite act where you will get your perfect body that will not ever be capable of sinning.

John 7:39: “(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

Rom. 8:30, 23: “Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called them he also justified: and whom he justified them he also glorified. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

1 Cor. 15:43: “It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

REVIEW

<u>JUSTIFICATION</u>	<u>SANCTIFICATION</u>	<u>GLORIFICATION</u>
Spirit made alive	Soul constantly changes	New body given
Has already happened	Is happening	Yet to happen
ACT	PROCESS	ACT
Sin’s penalty	Sin’s power	Sin’s presence
(WORM)	(COCOON)	(BUTTERFLY)

In Rom. 12:1-2, the beautiful word “transformed” is used regarding salvation. It is where we get our word metamorphosis. The moment the caterpillar attaches itself to a living branch, it is a picture of justification. When it weaves its cocoon and begins changing inside, it pictures sanctification. When it emerges one day as a beautiful butterfly, it pictures our new bodies, or glorification. It is a package deal (all three in salvation). A wise pastor has compared salvation to an old tin can on the side of the road. A man found it and put it in a bag (justification). He brought it to a recycling plant where it was crushed and reformed (sanctification). It then emerges a brand new can ready for use (glorification). I am so glad Jesus looked for us one day and picked us up and said, **I WANT YOU.**

**BEING SAVED (SALVATION) IS MORE THAN MEETS
THE EYE . . . IT IS SIMPLE AND FREE FOR US, BUT
PLANNED AND COSTLY FOR GOD.**

PRAISE GOD - JESUS SAVES!

REVIEW SALVATION – STEP 1

- 1. Acts 4:12 says: _____

- 2. You will never do much for God until you know _____

- 3. Name the two beliefs in the world on salvation:
W _____ C _____

- 4. Define the following:
Saved: _____
Convict: _____
Believe: _____
Grace: _____
Faith: _____

- 5. Name the three parts of faith: _____

- 6. Name the two prerequisites to salvation:

- 7. Whose record do you have in your heart since you got saved? _____

- 8. What happens when a Christian sins? _____

9. Does a Christian need to be saved more than once? _____
10. Eph. 2:8-9 says: "For by _____ are ye _____ through _____ and that not of _____; it is the gift of _____: Not of _____, lest any man should boast."
11. Name the three parts of a person:
B _____ S _____ S _____
12. What comes alive at the time of salvation? _____
13. Give the Scriptural reference: _____
14. Name the three parts of the soul:
H _____ M _____ W _____
15. Name the three stages in salvation and in your own words define each:
J _____

S _____

G _____

16. What insect best illustrates all three stages of salvation? _____
17. Where were you when you got saved? _____
18. What day or approximate time was it? _____
19. What or who helped lead you to Christ? _____

20. Are you presently reading your Bible daily to help your Christian growth?
