

YOUR SALVATION

week 4



NOTES

Accepting Jesus as Saviour is an experience like no other, realizing that eternal hope and salvation can be found through Him alone. Throughout God's Word, we can find several analogies that help us understand what happens to us at the moment of salvation:

Darkness to light

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Born again

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever

Redeemed – bought back

1 Peter 1:18–19

¹⁸*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

¹⁹*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*

Adopted into the family of God

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father

At the very moment of salvation, you underwent a spiritual transformation that has changed your outlook on life as well as your eternal destination. The goal of this week's lesson is to help you better understand salvation and answer a few questions new disciples of Christ often have concerning their salvation.

CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION?

Many religions teach that favor with God is something that has to be maintained by obeying and serving Him, and that if you disobey or fail Him, you risk losing your salvation. This is simply not true nor is it possible according to God's Word.

SALVATION IS GOD'S ETERNAL GIFT.

Though God wants us to glorify Him, He does not require service or obedience to earn or keep salvation. Salvation is a gift. When we received salvation it was free with no strings attached.

John 3:16; Romans 6:23

CONVERSATION STARTER: *Can you recall the joy brought to the life of someone you love after giving them a gift? Would you ever have a desire to take that gift away from them?*

God's gift to us is eternal life which means it is yours forever. There is no expiration date, and you will never lose it.

John 10:28–29; John 5:24

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS SURE.

Upon salvation, we are adopted into God's family. This adoption is permanent, and no matter what we do, God cannot and will not disown us. We will be His child forever.

John 6:37

WE HAVE A "SECURITY DEPOSIT."

When making a major purchase such as a house or car, one will often have to make a down payment or pay earnest money in order to secure the purchase. God gave us an earnest of His Holy Spirit to assure that we would one day have a heavenly home.

2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5

God placed His seal of the Holy Spirit in you the moment you were saved to secure your soul for all eternity. So can you lose your salvation? No. A thousand times no.

WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL SAVED?

Emotions can be deceiving, and at times, our emotions can give us feelings of doubt concerning our salvation. God wants you to know that you are saved, and he has given us evidence in Scripture that allow us to have assurance of our salvation.

CONVERSATION STARTER: *Recall a time when your emotions deceived you. Contrast these feelings with the reality of the situation.*



THE PROMISE OF GOD GIVE ASSURANCE.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This passage promises that whoever calls on the Lord shall (not *might* or *can*) be saved.

Titus 1:2

THE PRESENCE OF GOD GIVES ASSURANCE.

We have seen that upon your acceptance of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God took residence in you. This same Holy Spirit reaffirms the relationship we have with God and reminds us that we are His child.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

One of the responsibilities of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of sin, but we can resist this conviction. This is very dangerous as a disciple of Christ because the same voice that brings conviction also brings assurance. Therefore, Christians who consistently sin and ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit will find themselves struggling to feel the comforting assurance of salvation also brought about by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 3:24

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us

THE LOVE OF GOD GIVES ASSURANCE.

Nothing can ever separate us from the unconditional love of God. His love for us is greater than anything we could ever imagine.

Romans 8:35–39

THE WORK OF GOD GIVES ASSURANCE.

2 Corinthians 5:17

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

God does a marvelous work in the heart of those who accept Christ, and he continually works in their lives in specific ways. Look at the following evidences of the working of God in the life of one who is saved:



A desire to grow in God's Word**1 Peter 2:2**

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

Obedience to God's commandments**1 John 2:3**

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Love towards fellow believers**1 John 2:10**

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him

We will know that we are saved as God continues to develop these evidences of salvation in our lives.

THE CORRECTION OF GOD GIVES ASSURANCE.

You cannot lose your salvation by doing wrong. The child who disobeys his parents is still the child of the parents. Likewise, when we sin against our Heavenly Father, we are still His Child. However, when we sin, we disappoint God and thereby create a strain in our relationship with Him.

Hebrews 12:5–11; Proverbs 3:12

God corrects us because He loves us. His goal is to bring us to restore our fellowship with Him even though we have sinned. This correction is yet another way we can have assurance we are saved.

CONVERSATION STARTER: *Have you noticed a difference in how you feel about sin before and after your salvation?*

God makes it very clear in His Word that He wants us to have assurance of our salvation. He had the power to save us so He has the power to keep us. If you ever find yourself feeling unsaved or questioning your salvation, rest in the confidence that God has given Scriptural evidence that you are His.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

The first step of obedience as a follower of Christ is baptism. Baptism has nothing to do with your salvation, but is rather an outward expression of your inward decision. Your baptism declares to God and others that you have decided to follow Him with your life.



John 15:4

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

CONVERSATION STARTER: *What team or organization do you like to identify with? How do you let others know that you consider yourself a part of that group?*

BAPTISM IS AN IDENTIFICATION.

Baptism symbolizes the work of salvation in your life. Just as a wedding ring identifies a husband with his wife, Baptism identifies the Christian with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6:3–5

Baptism tells everyone that Jesus saved you, and you want to live for him.

In the New Testament, we see that those who were baptized were added to the church. Baptism identifies a believer with the local church and its doctrine.

Acts 2:41–42**EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.**

We cannot emphasize enough that baptism is not salvation. It is an external action that demonstrates what Christ has already done internally. Scripture teaches us that all who have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour should be baptized. The Bible gives three important reasons for baptism:

Christ commands it.**Matthew 28:19**

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Christ demonstrated it.**Matthew 3:13–15**

¹³*Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.*

¹⁴*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?*

¹⁵*And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.*

Believers practiced it.**Acts 2:41**

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.



BAPTISM SHOULD BE DONE BY IMMERSION.

The biblical meaning of the word *baptize* is “to immerse; to plunge; to dunk.” Baptism by immersion is the only method that correctly pictures Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. Simply sprinkling or pouring water on someone in no way pictures the work of Christ which is why immersion is the true biblical method of baptism as seen in the following examples:

Mark 1:9–10; Acts 8:38–39

Some people have been saved after they were baptized. If this is the case for you, you should be baptized in accordance with the Word of God after your salvation.

If a husband refuses to wear his wedding ring, others around him as well as his wife will question his commitment to his marriage. Likewise, the one who refuses baptism lacks the commitment to follow Christ and jeopardizing his testimony by not publicly identifying as a believer.

James 4:17

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

If you have not yet been baptized, make plans to do so soon and take first step of a committed follower of Christ.

The greatest gift ever bestowed upon anyone is that of salvation. Jesus paid a high price so that you could have this gift of eternal life. Though this gift is eternally yours, Satan will do everything he can to make you doubt your salvation. When he does, just remember that God promises that you can never lose your salvation and that you are eternally His child.

Make these discipleship commitments today about your salvation:

Because I can never lose my salvation, I commit to learn Scripture passages and references that discuss eternal security. Look up the passages discussed in this lesson. Mark them in your Bible. Review them often and memorize certain ones that God has used to speak to you. You can also record the date of your salvation along with a brief description of your salvation experience somewhere where you will see it regularly such as the front of your Bible, a journal, or a planner. You can use the truth of Scripture and your salvation experience to defend against Satan’s attacks on your salvation.

Because I am saved regardless of my feelings, I commit to rest in the comfort of God’s Word and His Holy Spirit about my salvation. Remember that God has given you the Bible so that He can speak to you. The Holy Spirit has indwelt you since the moment of your salvation. Your emotions may not reflect the reality of your salvation, but the Word of God and the Holy Spirit always do. If you are ever feeling unsaved, do not let these feelings fester inside of you. Talk to a mature Christian such as your pastor or discipler. Allow them to pray with you and help you find reassurance in the Word of God.



Because Jesus saved me, I commit to publicly identifying with him by being baptized. Baptism is an exciting step of obedience for a disciple of Christ. It proclaims to others that you have decided to follow Christ and solidifies the truth of salvation in your own heart. If you have not been baptized, talk to your discipler about it now.

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