What IS Salvation According to the Bible?

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### A snapshot of what salvation involves

1. I repent (change my mind) for being master of my own life and living separate from God.
2. I accept Christ’s death on the cross which purchased my rescue from the devil’s dominion.
3. I receive You, Jesus, as MY personal Lord, King, Commander and Savior.
4. I welcome You, Holy Spirit, into my life to rescue and empower me, and to restore me to intimacy with my Heavenly Father.

**New Testament words reviewed in this document:** *“salvation, saved, gospel, kingdom, repent, repentance, eternal life.”* Experiencing salvation is our most important message. **We recommend** that you [prayerfully meditate](http://www.cwgministries.org/blogs/steps-biblical-meditation) on the verses in this document and record what God shows you.

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## How Is *“Salvation”* Obtained?

**Salvation** - *sōtēria* (Strong’s #G4991-45 occurrences in KJV)

***Greek Definition:*** *Physical or moral rescue or safety, deliver, deliverance, health*

### Salvation is through the name of Jesus

The name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene … there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:10-12)

### Salvation is through belief in the gospel and appropriating righteousness by faith

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. For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

(Rom. 1:16-17)

### When we believe the gospel we have heard, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 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. (Eph. 1:13-14)

### We are chosen by God, sanctified by the Spirit, sprinkled by Jesus’ blood, and protected by the power of God through faith for salvation

Chosen 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. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet. 1:1-5)

### Salvation is obtained through faith

Obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls (1 Pet. 1:9)

### Godly sorrow produces a repentance which leads to salvation

For the sorrow that is according to *the will* *of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2 Cor. 7:1-10)

### Salvation, power, the kingdom of God and the authority of Christ come once the accuser is cast down, which occurs when we speak of the blood of the Lamb

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (Rev. 12:10-11)

### The Bible’s final statement on salvation

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; (Rev. 19:1)

## What Does *“Getting Saved”* Involve?

**Saved** - *sōzō* (Strong’s #G4982 – 110 occurrences in KJV)

**Greek Definition:** *Keeping one safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, injury or peril, disease or from perishing, to make well, heal, restore to health, to preserve one that is in danger of destruction.* [Click here for every occasion of *sozo* in the Synoptic Gospels](http://www.cwgministries.org/saved-sozo-strongs-g4982).

**Overview:** According to the verses below, “saved” includes *– Repenting, being baptized, confessing that Jesus is Lord, believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirt! It is not the result of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

1. Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized 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 your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be **saved** from this perverse generation!" (Acts 2:37-40)
2. 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. (Rom. 10:9)
3. Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mk. 16:15-16)
4. Your faith has saved you; go in peace. (Lk. 7:50)
5. Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. (Lk. 8:12)
6. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (Jn. 10:9)
7. AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED. (Acts 2:21)
8. Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. (Acts 16:31)
9. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him. 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. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (Rom. 5:8-11)
10. WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED. (Rom. 10:13)
11. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:18)
12. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)
13. With all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (2 Thess. 2:10)
14. 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, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:5-7)
15. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows … "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 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; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." … for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Rom. 10:3-13)

## I Repent of WHAT? My Sins or Something Else?

**Key Concept:** *Repentance is changing my mind about God and His kingdom*. [Click here](http://www.cwgministries.org/repent-and-repentance-all-new-testament-verses) for a list of all verses in the New Testament which contain the words “repent” or “repentance.”

* Repentand believe in the gospel. (Mk. 1:15)

Notice that the above verse (Mk. 1:15) does not say “repent of your sins,” nor does it define what you are supposed to repent of, nor does it define what the gospel is. So that leaves us with quite a few questions to answer. Amazingly, the phrase “repent of your sins and be saved” does not occur in any New Testament verse. Repentance of sins does not appear to be a prerequisite of salvation.

I believe we can get a hint as to what the gospel is, and what we are to repent of, by reading the preceding verse, Mark 1:14 in conjunction with verse 15.

* Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the ***gospel*** of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the ***kingdom*** of God is at hand; ***repent***and believe in the gospel." (Mk. 1:14-15)

In the above verse, the “gospel of God” is the good news about the “Kingdom of God.” So we are calling people to repent (change their mind) concerning the Kingdom of God.

**Greek definitions:**

* **Repentance** – "think differently afterwards.” *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* #3340 *metanoéō* (from 3326 /*metá*, "changed after being with" and 3539 /*noiéō*, "think"). The Greek word translated as *repent* does **not** mean “to be sorry for.” There is another word for sorrow (*Strong’s* #G3077 – *lupē*) and that sorrow can lead to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10).
* **Gospel** – to announce good news – *euaggelizō*; from *Strong’s* #G2095
* **Kingdom** – sovereignty, royal power – *basileia*; from *Strong’s* #G936 (*Where the rule of God is recognized, experienced and extended*)

**Verses dealing with repentance:**

* Repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. (Acts 26:20)
* The kindness of God leads you to repentance. (Rom. 2:4)
* For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2 Cor. 7:10)
* There is a repentance that leads to life. (Acts 11:18)

## Do I Preach the *Gospel of Salvation* or the *Gospel of the Kingdom*?

Is the good news “the gospel of salvation,” or is it “the gospel of the kingdom”? Below are verses which **help us define** what this good news is that we are proclaiming.

* The phrase “gospel of salvation” is mentioned only ***once*** in the New Testament (Eph. 1:13)
* The words “gospel and kingdom” show up together ***six*** times (Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mk. 1:15; Lk. 16:16; Acts 8:12).
1. Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. (Matt. 4:23)
2. Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. (Matt. 9:35)
3. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt. 24:14)
4. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mk. 1:15)
5. "The Law and the Prophets *were proclaimed* until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. (Lk. 16:16)
6. But when they believed Philip preaching the good news (Greek = Gospel) about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. (Acts 8:12)

Out of these seven times, we are NEVER commanded to preach the gospel of salvation. Four times the Bible says Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 4:23; 9:35; Mk. 1:15; Lk. 16:16), once that Phillip preached the gospel of the kingdom (Acts 8:12) and once it states that the end will come after the gospel of the kingdom has been preached to the whole world (Matt. 24:14) which makes me believe we are supposed to be preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom.

### In addition to the above direct links between gospel and kingdom, the message we proclaim is the good news of “God’s advancing kingdom!”

1. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa. 9:7)
2. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (Matt. 10:7)
3. When they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. (Acts 8:12)
4. And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. (Acts 19:8)
5. I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom… (Acts 20:25)
6. When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. (Acts 28:23)
7. Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered. (Acts 28:31)
8. If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matt.12:28)
9. Heal those … who are sick, and say to them, ‘The **kingdom** of God has come **near** to you.’ (Lk. 10:9)
10. He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. (Lk. 9:2)
11. He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing. (Lk. 9:11)
12. But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Lk. 11:20)
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.’ (Jn. 3:3)
14. 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.’ (Jn. 3:5)
15. Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. (1 Cor. 15:24)
16. He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father – to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1:6)
17. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth. (Rev. 5:10)
18. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever. (Rev. 11:15)

**Summary:** The word “kingdom” shows up 160 times in the New Testament. The words “saved” and “salvation” together show up a total of 155 times. So “kingdom” is an extremely important theme which we are to speak about, demonstrate in our lives and call people to. We preach the good news of God’s Kingdom, saving (rescuing) people from the ravages of satan’s domain. Freedom can be immediately experienced through the new birth, deliverance and healing.

## What Accompanies My Preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom?

### The gospel of the Kingdom is demonstrated with healing.

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. (Matt. 4:23)

### The gospel is accompanied with release of the captives, recovery of sight and freedom for the oppressed

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED (Lk. 4:18)

### The gospel is turning from vain ideas to a living God

…preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. (Acts 14:15)

### The Gospel is the power of God for salvation for all who believe

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. (Rom. 1:16)

### The Gospel abolishes death

Our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel… (2 Tim. 1:10)

### We receive an inner witness within that we are saved – that we are now God’s children

You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:15-16)

### The Kingdom produces righteousness with accompanying emotions

The kingdom of God is…righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

### Following Jesus involves obeying His voice as your King

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you wish to be complete, go and…and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving” (Matthew 19:16-22). **Note:** Since he was grieving, this would be an example of a sorrow which does not lead to repentance.

### The kingdom is a demonstration of power and this power overcomes sins in our lives

* For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. (1 Cor. 4:20)
* 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, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9,10)

[Click here for a list of all New Testament verses containing the word Kingdom.](http://www.cwgministries.org/kingdom-all-new-testament-verses)

## Key Elements in the Kingdom Message Which I Proclaim

*He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.* (Col. 1:13)

#### At Calvary, Jesus accomplished the following…

* Jesus appeared to destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn. 3:8)
* Six things Jesus paid for at Calvary: 1) Our griefs He Himself bore, 2) Our sorrows He carried; 3) He was pierced through for our transgressions, 4) He was crushed for our iniquities; 5) The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and 6) By His scourging we are healed! (Isa. 53:4-5 )
* Christ’s death tore the veil between the Holy of Holies and Holy Place, so now all can hear His voice. (Matt.27:51; Heb. 10:19,20; Jn. 10:27)

#### Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33) granting us kingdom authority and power to…

* Overcome sins (Rom. 8:12-14)
* Heal the sick (Lk. 10:9)
* Cast out demons in Jesus’ name (Matt.10:8)
* Extend God’s Kingdom as we disciple all nations. (Mk. 16:15-20; Matt. 28:18-20)

#### Our current position of divine authority…

We are currently seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). **We command,** “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt.6:10). This is written in the imperative mood in the Greek, meaning command.

#### Summary

The Gospel of the Kingdom that we preach is to repent for belief in false gods (including making ourselves god, as we have been living as god of our own lives), and believe in the Living God and the rule of His kingdom (Acts. 14:15). Repent for not believing in Jesus Christ as God’s Son, and His provisions for us through His death on the cross, and His showing us how we are to live here on earth as kingdom citizens. We cast out demons and heal the sick (Matt. 10:8; Mk. 3:14-15; Mk. 6:7; Lk. 9 & 10).

## Deliverance and Healing Show the Kingdom Is Near

**Key concepts:** *When we rescue a person from satan’s kingdom through salvation, healing and deliverance, the kingdom of God has come upon them.*

### God’s kingdom is constantly expanding, meaning satan’s is constantly diminishing

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the **increase** of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The **zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this**. (Isa. 9:6-7)

### God’s kingdom is extended when we cast out demons

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons." And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the **kingdom of God** **has come upon you**.” (Matt. 12:24-28)

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and **healing all** who were **oppressed by the devil,** for God was with Him. (Acts 10:38)

But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.” (Heb. 1:8)

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe. (Heb. 12:28)

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (Jas. 2:5)

### Salvation, power and God’s Kingdom authority are one and the same

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. (Rev. 12:10)

## How Shall I Begin? With Teaching or with Power?

**Key Concepts:** *You begin where the Spirit tells you to begin. It can be with a demonstration of God’s power and grace, followed up with proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, or it can be vice versa. Jesus did it BOTH ways! Sometimes it may just be healing or deliverance. Sometimes it may just be teaching.*

### Teaching and preaching came first

* THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED. (Lk. 4:18)
* Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. (Matt. 4:23)

### Healing and miracles came with no gospel message being presented

* As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed. (Lk. 17:12-14)
* On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out…Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water."…So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."…The headwaiter said…“You have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. (Jn. 2:1-11)

## Sinners Do Not Inherit the Kingdom of God

**Key Concepts:** *Evidence that you have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light is that you have a new heart and a new spirit (Ezek. 36:26), and you honor and obey your new King.*

Nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:10)

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (1 Cor. 15:50)

Envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:21)

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Eph. 5:5)

His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the **true** knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. (2 Pet. 1:3-11)

## Sanctification Is a Process of the Spirit

**Key Concepts:** *Even though we did not find a verse saying we need to repent of sins in order to get saved, we find lots of verses saying that now that we are saved we must stop sinning and practice righteousness, and this is accomplished by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit working through us.*

### Salvation is through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit

God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (2 Thess. 2:13)

### Overcoming sins must be done by the empowering of the Holy Spirit

If by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Rom. 8:13)

### We grow in respect to salvation by putting aside evil and feeding on Scripture

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation. (1 Pet. 2:1-2)

### If you obey Jesus, He becomes the source of your salvation

And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation. (Heb. 5:9)

### Repentance must lead to overcoming sins

Repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. (Acts 26:20)

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. (Matt. 3:8)

### If you don’t repent, God reproves and disciplines you for your ultimate goal – eternal life

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

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. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:13-15)

Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor. 5:5)

### Paying attention – persevering – ensures your salvation

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. (1 Tim. 4:16)

### If you are born of God, you do not continue on sinning

We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him (1 Jn. 5:18). The word “sins” in this verse (*ouch hamartanei*) is in the lineal present active indicative in the Greek, which interpreted means, “does not keep on sinning.”

### God’s grace provides salvation to all and instructs us to deny evil

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14)

### The Bible can give you wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ

From childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:15-17)

## How Do I Overcome Sins BY the Spirit?

**Key Concepts:** *Salvation is returning to the Lordship of Almighty God, acknowledging Him and His Kingdom, and receiving His Spirit within to guide us and affirm that we are now His children, and the baptism of His Spirit to empower us. Part of this empowering is the putting off of sins. We overcome sin in our lives by drawing upon the power of the Holy Spirit.*

***Prayer:*** *Lord Jesus, would You circumcise my heart, cutting out this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (state sinful desire), *and give me a new heart with a passion to do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (state righteous attitude/action). *I place these evil desires on Your altar for You to consume with Your holy fire* (look and see this occur), *and I receive Your godly desires.* (Look and see Him placing these within your heart as He touches your heart. Feel it!) *Thank You, Lord, for this divine exchange! In the name of Jesus, I bind all demons connected with this evil desire and command them to leave now in Jesus’ name! Be gone, in Jesus’ name, NOW!* (Get intense, [roar at your enemy](http://www.cwgministries.org/blogs/you-need-roar-your-enemy)*.*)

The steps of overcoming sins by the power of the Spirit are explored more deeply in the book[*Naturally Supernatural*](http://www.cwgministries.org/store/naturally-supernatural-mp3-audio-package)*.*

### We overcome sin through the power of the Spirit, not through the striving of our flesh

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (Jn. 6:63)

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)

### If we are led by the Spirit, we are sons of God

If you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom. 8:13-14)

### Transformation must come by drawing upon the power of the indwelling Spirit

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did:* sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so,* and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 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. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Rom. 8:1-11)

### Positional righteousness precedes a righteous lifestyle, which is ultimately achieved through being tuned to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12-13)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-25)

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (1 Cor. 12:7-11)

## Can I Define *Eternal Life*?

**Key Concepts:** *Eternal life begins now when you choose to believe in Jesus and drink of the water of the Spirit Who flows within (Jn. 4:14; 7:37-39). Eternal life is living with your eyes fixed on Jesus (Heb. 12:1,2; Jn. 6:40; Acts 2:25; Ps. 16:8), and tuned to flow (Jn. 7:37-39). Eternal life is hearing Jesus’ voice and obeying (Jn. 10:27-28), allowing you to live and walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:25; 6:8). Eternal life is intimately experiencing God (Jn. 17:2-3).*

### One must believe in Jesus to have eternal life

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. (Jn. 3:16)

### Eternal life is intimately experiencing God and Jesus

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (Jn. 17:2-3). The Greek word for “know” is *ginosko*, which is the word for a husband knowing his wife and conceiving a child, thus it indicates intimate knowing, not simply head knowledge.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. (Jn. 10:27-28)

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (1 Jn. 5:11)

### If we drink from the River of the Holy Spirit within He releases to us eternal life

But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life. (Jn. 4:14)

Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will FLOW rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the *Spirit*, whom those who believed in Him were to receive. (Jn. 7:37-39)

### Keeping your eyes on Jesus and believing in Him provides eternal life

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day. (Jn. 6:40)

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

For David says of Him, I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. (Acts 2:25)

I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. (Ps. 16:8)

### Eating Jesus’ flesh and drinking Jesus’ blood causes you to have eternal life

He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats 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 he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. (Jn. 6:54-57)

### Being freed from sin and enslaved to God brings sanctification and ultimately eternal life

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:22-23)

### Sowing to the Spirit results in eternal life from the Spirit

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Gal. 6:8)

### We must obey the Son to have eternal life

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. (Jn. 3:36)

### Good and evil deeds have resurrection consequences

Those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment… (Jn. 5:29)

### Not keeping Jesus’ sayings brings one into judgment

If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me. (Jn. 12:47-50)

### Living in hate means you do not have eternal life

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. (1 Jn. 3:15-18)

### Eternal life includes receiving amazing gifts from God through His grace

He might show the surpassing riches of **His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:7; Read Eph. 2:1-13)

**Grace is** God’s "generous empowerment of gifts” upon those that believe. The Greek word for grace is *charis* (*Strong’s* #G5485). Grace is God’s influence upon the heart; His holy influence upon us, turning us to Christ, keeping us in Christ, strengthening us by His Spirit to walk in holiness and supernatural power.

Grace develops within us an increase in faith, knowledge, and love through the in-working power of the Holy Spirit. Grace is the understanding that all a Christian has or is, is centered exclusively in God and Christ, and depends utterly on God through Christ.

The kingdom of heaven is reserved for those who become as little children, for those who look to their Father in loving confidence for every benefit, whether it is for the pardon so freely given, or for the strength that comes from Him who works in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure. God pours out the spirit of grace upon us, and strongly cautions us not to insult the spirit of grace (Zech. 12:10; Heb. 10:29).

### God’s grace grants each of us spiritual gifts

"Having gifts (*charisma*) differing according to the grace (*charis*) that is given to us..." (Rom.12:6). Notice how closely the Greek words for "grace" and "gifts" are related. God's grace releases spiritual gifts within individuals. The suffix -*mata*, in Greek means, "things associated with" or "the expression of."  So *charis-mata*, means, "that which *charis* ("grace") expresses" "or "grace-things." These expressions of grace are listed in Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; 28-31 and Ephesians 4:7-16.

Note how Ephesians 4:7 begins: "But grace (*charis*) was given to each one of us." How was that "grace" expressed? In "gifts" of apostles, prophets, evangelists, etc. So "grace" should usually be translated, "gift of charismatic empowerment."

[See John Noland, "Grace as Power," Novum Testamentum 28 (1986), 31, "a tangible [charismatic] power in the believer. See also James D.G. Dunn, Jesus and the Spirit (Philadelphia: Westminster Pr., 1975), 202-05; G. Wetter, Charis, Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte des altesten Christentums (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs, 1913).]

### Grace functions as we receive God’s strength in times of weakness

And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may overshadow me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

### Jesus was full of grace

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn. 1:14)

### God’s great love for us has seated us with Him in heavenly places

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:4-7)

### God is our Heavenly Father Who loves us, comforts us and strengthens us

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. (2 Thess. 2:16-17)

### Our new family is the family of God

For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother. (Matt. 12:50)

### As part of the body of Christ we serve one another with the gifts of the Spirit

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 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. 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. For the body is not one member, but many. (1 Cor. 12:7-14; 1 Pet. 4:10)

### Our new signature is LOVE

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:7-19)

### Holy Spirit, Come

* Holy Spirit, I come to You. I welcome You (Eph. 1:17-18). I will not grieve You (Eph. 4:25-32).
* Holy Spirit, I look to see You, and You show me Your perspective (Jn. 5:19-20,30).
* You give me Your thoughts (1 Cor. 2:12-16). You tell me what’s on the heart of God (Heb. 3:7).
* I feel You (Ezek. 3:14). You release God’s emotions within me (Gal. 5:22-23).
* You guide me. You sanctify me for my life’s work (Matt. 12:18; Rom. 15:16).
* You anoint my lips, my mind, my heart, my hands (2 Sam. 23:2; Ex. 28:3; 31:3).
* You make me creative (Ex. 35:31-33). Let Your words flow through me (Lk. 1:67).
* You release Your ability through me (1 Cor. 12:7-11). You release in me the power to be holy (2 Cor. 3:4-6; Jn. 6:63).
* You release the power of God to me. Authenticate Your words with Your power (Acts 4:31).
* You take me away (Rev. 21:10; 22:17).

The above prayer is from the book [*Intimacy with the Holy Spirit*](http://www.cwgministries.org/store/intimacy-holy-spirit)