

Salvation

A Guide for New Believers

**by
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The First Step is Salvation

The Cross - The Power of Salvation

The Decision:

"I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses: therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live." Deuteronomy 30:19 (Amplified)

"Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him and sup with him and he with me." Revelation 3:20

We thank God for your decision to make Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of your life. God has created every human being with a free will (free moral agency). God does not have any robots on planet Earth. Each one of us must make a decision as to whom and what we will serve. The Bible says God has set before us life or death, blessings or curses. God encourages YOU TO CHOOSE life that you and your descendants may live.

The Background:

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

Back in Genesis chapters 2 and 3 we read the story of original sin; how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought a curse on all of mankind, a separation between God and man. God can not allow sin in His presence therefore something had to be done to restore His relationship with His beloved creation. In order to repair what was broken, God instituted the sacrifice. It was to be a covering for our sins. Animals were used for many years awaiting the promised Messiah that would atone for or take away our sins.

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us).” Isaiah 7:14

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Might God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, ‘Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” Matthew 25:34

“[In fact], under the Law almost everything is purified by means of blood, and without the shedding of blood there is neither release from sin and its guilt nor the remission of the due and merited punishment for sins. By such means, therefore, it was necessary for the (earthly) copies of the heavenly things to be purified, but the actual heavenly things themselves [required far]

better and nobler sacrifices than these. For Christ (the Messiah) has not entered into a sanctuary made with [human] hands, only a copy and pattern and type of the true one, but [He has entered] into heaven itself, now to appear in the [very] presence of God on our behalf. Nor did He [enter into the heavenly sanctuary to] offer Himself regularly again and again, as the high priest enters the [Holy of] Holies every year with blood not his own. For then would He often have had to suffer [over and over again] since the foundation of the world. But as it now is, He has once for all at the consummation and close of the ages appeared to put away and abolish sin by His sacrifice [of Himself]. And just at it is appointed for [all] men once to die, and after that the [certain] judgment, even so it is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and for all, will appear a second time, not to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting him.”

Hebrews 9:22-28 (Amplified)

When Jesus arrived, He fulfilled every Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah. Jesus entered heaven itself with Himself being the sacrifice. It was through Jesus' sacrifice that

our sins are forgiven and we are made alive. From the foundation of the world God had made a way for us to return to Him in a right relationship. No one wants a relationship where you have to beat the other party to remain with you; God gives us the choice to love and be submitted to Him. Again, God does not make us serve Him. He asks us to serve Him and gives us a choice.

The Truth:

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except by me." John 14:6

"When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of. Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:20-23 (NIV)

In Romans we just read that at one time we were “slaves to sin” and of our own desires, unable to break free. Now that we have received Jesus as our Lord, we have become the “slaves of righteousness” so to speak. The benefits of serving God are holiness (peace of mind is a byproduct of holiness) and eternal life. The payment of serving sin is shame and ultimately death. The truth is that we owed a debt that we could not pay and Jesus came to pay that debt for us that He did not owe.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world!” John 1:29

The Cross:

*“And on His robe and His thigh He has this name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”
Revelation 19:16 (NIV)*

What does it mean to make Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of our life?

Lord = Jesus is master of our life. We no longer live for ourselves. We are now servants of Jesus Christ. We follow and serve Him and do what He says to do because He is Lord of our life. How do we know how to follow Him? We study His Word; we attend church and spend time with other people who are saved. We do not follow anything or anyone that is contrary to the Word of God. We'll cover this further in the booklet.

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” I Corinthians 1:18

Savior = We have accepted that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was enough to save us. He is our hero, our savior. We are saved when we look to Jesus. There is great power when we look to and put faith in Christ. The cross is the way to atonement for our sins. Atonement means to cover, cancel, appease, cleanse, forgive, be merciful, pardon, and to purge. Great victory

was won at the cross. This is God's plan for salvation. Jesus made atonement for you and me so that we could be in right standing with our God. When we put faith in Jesus Christ, in the blood He shed for sin and His resurrection from the dead, something supernatural happens. We become born again. The Holy Spirit comes to live in our spirits. Now we are born of God.

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.' 'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!' Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"
John 3:3-7 (NIV)

A prisoner would have his charges nailed on his cross so that people could know what he died for. Jesus nailed the charges (handwriting of ordinances) against us to His cross. He died for us so that we could live for Him.

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross. And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Colossians 2:14-15

By the cross Jesus took the Law of Moses (a grouping of laws which also contains the Ten Commandments) and nailed it to the cross so we could have a new start in life. By the law we are all guilty and deserve death. Jesus annulled the law that was against us. He killed the killer. He crucified the thing that brought guilt and death to all men.

“Now we know that what things so ever the law says, it says to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin,” Romans 3:19-20

So no matter how hard you try to keep the law, or earn your salvation by being good enough, if you mess up one time you have broken the law and are guilty of death. Now as you look to Jesus and put faith in Him and what He did on the cross for you, His power will manifest in your life. You do not have to work because Jesus did the work for you. As you look to the power of Jesus you are free. Put faith in Christ and rest.

“If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

The Power:

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:15

Jesus said, "Therefore, does my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." John 10:17-18

"Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you. Luke 10:19 (Amplified)

The next thing Jesus did on the cross was to defeat and conquer Satan and his demons. By crucifying Jesus, Satan and his demons thought this would destroy and put an end to God's plan and the Savior of the world. Satan thought to bring public shame to Christ but the cross turned out to be his public defeat and shame. The devil is defeated because Jesus has defeated him. As you put faith in Christ, now you are free from the devil. As we look to the finished work of Christ we are made free. Our faith

is in Christ and what He did for us. We choose by our free will to follow Christ. We are Disciples of Christ. We are lean, mean devil-stomping machines. Now give God glory! If you are even one second old in the Lord you have authority and power over demons. Now stand up and take your God-given authority. You have the power, you have dominion. Nothing will happen until you take authority.

Some Christians live defeated lives because they do not know who they are in Christ and what God has called them to do. You are God's man on earth standing with power and authority. You are a warrior in a battle. God has given you dominion and power to use for Him. He tells you to subdue the earth, rule over the earth. Don't you understand oh great man of God that if you don't pray and call heaven's power to earth, nothing will happen.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and let them rule ... over all the earth.'"

Genesis 1:26

God bound Himself by His Word to give man dominion to subdue. Now by your free will take your God-given creative order of authority. Call down the power of God and you will see signs and wonders. Again, most Christians live defeated lives because they are not walking in their authority. Some say, "I'm going to sit here and wait on God." Well, you will never see the power of God while you are just sitting. I choose to stand up and call forth the power of God and release Him to work in the earth. If you are a little confused right now, I want you to ask yourself if we have nothing to do with releasing God's power then why were we told to pray. We were told to pray because when we pray God moves to honor your dominion and authority as you pray according to His will and Word. Consider these scriptures:

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."
Matthew 16:19

The key is that you must release God by standing for Him on earth. When I pray I see miracles all of the time, why? Because I know who I am in Christ and what God's will is as revealed in the Word of God. I realize that I am nothing special

within myself, but there is something supernatural that happens when we identify with Christ and receive what His word has said concerning us and apply those truths to our lives.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:18-20 (NIV)

"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well." Mark 16:17, 18 (NIV)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:12-14 (NIV)

"And Jesus said unto him, If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes!" Mark 9:23 (KJV)

Let me just encourage you. If you have repented of your sins and made Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of your life, then you are forgiven because of the blood of Jesus that was shed for you on that cross. Your relationship with God is restored. You are a child of God and all of heaven is rejoicing and backing you up!

*"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."
Luke 15:7*

The Freedom:

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

"And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free." John 8:32 (Amplified)

No more fear! The devil is defeated because Jesus Christ died and rose again. We have power over the enemy because of our relationship with Jesus and His victory. You no longer have to stay bound up in habits, fear and sin. You have the authority and keys to freedom through Jesus Christ and His word. Apply it to your life!

“For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14-15

“For while we are still in this tent, we groan under the burden and sigh deeply (weighed down, depressed, oppressed) - not that we want to put off the body (the clothing of the spirit), but rather that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal (our dying body) may be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection]. II Corinthians 5:4 (Amplified)

Death has no power! Because Jesus arose from the dead so also will you arise from the dead. The devil has no power of death over you. Jesus is your Lord, He is your Savior, and you are protected and covered by the power of God in the name of Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus

is the power and authority of God. Demons tremble and all of heaven rejoices in the name of your Lord, Jesus Christ. Have no fear of death, you will be on this earth to fulfill your purpose in Christ and when you cross to the other side God will welcome you home and there you will live eternally.

“And Jesus came and spoke unto them saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. GO YE THEREFORE and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.’” Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus Christ has all power and authority in heaven and earth. He is the Man! He is operating. He told His church to GO YE THEREFORE. All that Jesus is and all that He has accomplished is ours. Jesus has delegated all authority and power to us by

saying GO YE THEREFORE. He has given us power of attorney to use His name, to use His power, to use His authority. We are His and He is ours. We are one as His Spirit lives in us.

*“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”
I Corinthians 6:17*

We become one together in spirit. We are in union with the Lord; one in mind, purpose and life. You are now living the life of Christ. His Spirit is in you.

*“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the HOLY GHOST which is IN you, which ye have of God and you are not your own. For ye are bought with a price (the blood of Jesus), therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, WHICH are God’s.”
I Corinthians 6:19-20*

This is what it means to be saved, born again. The Spirit of Christ has changed your life. Now by His power you must grow up in Christ. The

more you live for Jesus, the easier it gets. By His power in you, you have victory. Stand and fight by the power of Christ in you.

The Change:

“For it is God which WORKETH IN YOU both to WILL and to DO of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

Who is in you working? OH, that is God. What is He doing in me? Glad you asked. He is giving you the will and the desire to do His good pleasure. He is enabling you to live for Him. Without God’s Spirit in us we have no power to live for God; the sin nature will overpower us. The sin nature is a rule of action that drives us to chase the things of the world, as well as, to live a carnal fleshly life. ONLY by God’s Spirit do we have the power to live for Him. It is only by totally laying our lives down for Christ that we can receive that overcoming power.

"I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion] it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Galatians 2:20 (AMP)

"For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

"Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether): the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold the fresh and new has come!" II Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

We are His workmanship. We are created in Christ. The power of God changes us in Christ. When we get saved our spirit is born again. This means God's Spirit comes to live in you. The sin nature is overpowered by the nature of God. Let me say that your spirit was

born again; your mind and your flesh were not born again. Yes, that's right; those blemishes are still on your face. We'll deal with the flesh a little further down.

"But grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen." II Peter 3:18

Why does he say grow in this passage? We must walk in the light as we receive knowledge and we will grow to maturity. It takes time to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Rome was not built in a day. We are doing this to bring glory to God. We are created for one reason and that is to glorify God. We are not created to live for ourselves. We have been designed and created for a purpose and plan. God wants us to be saved so we can live for Him. This is why He calls us to grow and mature; to bring Him glory in His creation. We are created to live with God in His family for eternity. God is growing us up for eternity.

By the way, we did not create ourselves. Any use for which we were not designed to function is abuse. For example, if I take a screwdriver

and use it like a hammer, it won't work properly or be very efficient because it wasn't created to be used in this manner. Well, it's the same with us. We were created by God for Himself, not for our own selfish purposes. When we live for God and serve Him, it brings fulfillment and satisfaction. Nothing else will, because God's purpose is that we live for Him.

"For by him were all things created that are in heaven and that are in the earth, visible or invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers. All things were created by HIM and for HIM, and He (Jesus) is before all things and by HIM all things consist." Colossians 1:16-17

We are created by Jesus and for Jesus. And by Him all things consist. He is the source of all life. He is the Creator and Savior. Everything we are is because of Him. We owe everything, even our life, to God because He created us and by Him we live, move and have our being.

“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life and breath and all things.”

Acts 17:24-25

“In Him we live, move and have our being.”

Acts 17:28

We do not own ourselves therefore we cannot live for ourselves. Life, breath and everything we have and are is because God has given unto us. We must live for God. We must grow and mature in order to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our life. So how do I grow?

First, we need to understand that we are a spirit, we have a soul (mind, will and emotions) and we live in a body. We ride around in planet Earth in this body. When we die, our spirit and soul will enter the spirit realm and this body will go back to the dust from which it was created.

"For as the body without the spirit is dead so faith without works is dead, also. James 2:26

The Mind:

Okay, so how do I grow in Christ? How do I change? What changes and what is the process? Your spirit is born again. God living in you gives you the power by His nature who overpowers the sin nature. So why do I still have bad habits to cope and deal with? Why are there still some desires in me to lust or be carnal? Glad you asked because that is why I am teaching about growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. In order to grow we must renew our mind with the Word of God.

"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, acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2

We must start to think like God thinks. Most of us were raised in such a way as to live without thought of God. It is imperative that we study the Bible so that we can know the character of God as revealed in the Bible. Prior to salvation, we had no desire to intimately know Him or live for Him. Now that we are saved we have a desire to live for Him because of the Holy Spirit who is in us. This desire leads us to read and study God's Word which renews our mind allowing us to think through the mind of Christ. The Bible is the Word of the Lord. This Word transforms our mind and as we apply God's word, the knowledge of God, to our lives it changes us. Three things have to change in our life: our spirit (born again), our mind (renewed by the Word of God), and our flesh (crucified).

The Flesh:

"This I say then, walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Galatians 5:13

Next is the flesh. Flesh has evil desires in it with its sin principle and is the result of the fall of

man that came from Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Saved or unsaved, all men contend with the flesh; although being born again does change the spirit and gives you the upper hand on the flesh if we will use the provisions God has given to us for our victory through His Word.

If we will always have these desires in our flesh, how do we conquer? By renewing our mind and walking in the Spirit. This takes discipline by keeping our eyes on Christ and trusting what He did for us at the cross. When I am tempted I put faith in Jesus Christ, applying His Word. My faith is in Him and what he did for me. When I am at the crossroads of temptation I must make a choice to pick up my cross and follow Christ, I must choose by my free will to avoid what is tempting me. I must stand in the authority of Jesus. As I stand and fight the good fight of faith, I will walk in victory. Remember - you must choose to follow Jesus. In order to be victorious you must love God more than anything else in the world.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man. But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of HIS OWN LUST and ENTICED; then when lust is conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin when it is finished, bringeth for death.” James 1:12-15

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Corinthians 10:13

As we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. This is a major key to having victory in Christ. Be a spirit-led man rather than flesh-led man. Stay spiritual by reading the Bible and going to church. We must have Christian influence in our lives and keep flesh under subjection through discipline, applying the Word of God and

making right choices. This will require fasting, prayer and seeking God with all of our heart. The only way to live a strong victorious Christ-like life is to put flesh under subjection and authority by walking in the spirit. As you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

“But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). Galatians 5:16 (Amplified)

The Resurrection:

Just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead so also shall we be raised up.

*“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump; for the last trump shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.”
I Corinthians 15:52*

In a twinkle, not a blink of the eye, but a sparkle of the eye. This is a finstant which is five times faster than an instant. We will be changed, receiving a glorified body to house our spirit and soul for eternity. This will be a spiritual body made by God and equipped for the spiritual realm and designed to stand for eternity. Oh glory! Are you starting to see why we must put our trust and faith in Jesus Christ? We are talking about eternity. That is eons and eons of time. Wait, time has no bearing in eternity.

This world as we know it now is not our permanent home and this life is not the end. Stay faithful to your commitment to God, allow Him to change you and use you for His glory, fulfill your purpose and one day we will be home with God.

Remember God's vision and plan is to have an eternal family. Therefore life is simply a test. Those who choose Christ and serve God will pass this probationary period. Today you are on probation, tomorrow you are in eternity. Today make a decision that no matter what, you will serve the Lord. Declare in your heart that it doesn't matter whether your spouse, children

or friends go with you, still you will follow the Lord. As you make this kind of commitment to God the Father in Christ, He will give you the desires of your heart in righteousness.

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Let's pray:

Lord, I ask you to forgive me of every sin that I've ever committed.

Today I make a decision to totally sell out to you. I give my heart, mind and will to You. I declare Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I will, from this day forward, walk in your power and authority. I am Your vessel on earth to do Your will. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. I release Your power in my life and in the lives of all the people that I will come in contact with. Lord, together we will change this world. To You be all glory, honor and praise - now and forever more.

In Jesus' name - Amen