

What You Must Know About Salvation

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. Ephesians 2:8-9

Repentance, salvation, confession, and baptism are powerful topics to understand and apply for a victorious Christian life. Each has distinct implications and applications. These topics are often muddled, creating confusion and doubt that undermines our victory in Christ. When these topics are taught as if they are interchangeable, they create doubt, fear, and defeat. We can experience a more victorious Christian life when they are clearly understood.

- Repentance is a change of mind resulting in a change of behavior.
- **Salvation is a kingdom change because you were crucified, buried, and raised in Christ.**
- Confession means “to acknowledge” that 1) Christ is Lord, or 2) behaviors are sinful.
- Baptism means immersion and being permanently changed like cloth dipped into purple dye.

What is salvation?

Salvation is God’s free gift of eternal life, received by grace through faith, not by the works of the Law. It’s available to all who confess Christ as Lord. God transforms the sinner by crucifying the old self and placing the new self “in Christ,” making them righteous through Christ’s indwelling life. At salvation, individuals are forgiven, accepted, adopted, made holy, and sealed by the Spirit for eternity.

Important Scriptures about Salvation

- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23
- 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. John 3:16
- 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. Romans 10:9-10
- God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

Prayer of Salvation

Father God,

I admit that I was born a sinner. I believe that my old man died with Christ. I confess that Christ is Lord. I receive Your forgiveness of all my sins and the gift of new life in your son. Thank you for canceling all the enemy’s evil plans for my life. Amen.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

Consider reading the *What You Need to Know About Baptism* handout for a clear distinction between salvation and baptism, while also seeing what they share in common. You may be surprised!