

**I'M SAVED...**  
**NOW WHAT?**



If you are reading this material chances are you have recently made a decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ. You've asked Jesus to save you, you believe He has, and now you may be asking, where do I go from here? Hopefully this information will help answer some of your questions.

### **1. Salvation:**

**Q:** *What does it mean?*

**A:** Hopefully you can already answer this question yourself, but if you are still confused, or have questions, being saved simply means that you, believing what the Bible says about salvation, about sin, and about our Savior Jesus Christ, have admitted that you are in fact guilty of sin; you have confessed your sins, and you have transferred all of your confidence and your hope from yourself to Jesus, trusting that He being the only one that can save you, has saved you.

Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks.

**Romans 3:23** "For \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_, and come short of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

**Romans 5:8** "But God commended His \_\_\_\_\_ toward us, in that while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ died for us."

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_; but the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_ life through \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_."

**Romans 10:9** "That if you will \_\_\_\_\_ with your mouth the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, and shall \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart that \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ Him from the \_\_\_\_\_, you will be \_\_\_\_\_."

**John 14:6** "Jesus said unto them, I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ comes unto the \_\_\_\_\_, but by me."

**Q:** *What have I been saved from?*

**A:** According to the Bible you have been saved from sin's penalty, which you already discovered in Romans 6:23 to be death. Obviously the Bible isn't talking about physical death alone, for we are told many times elsewhere that we are eternal beings who will live forever either in heaven or hell. Hebrews 9:27 says that it is appointed unto all men to die once, and then comes the judgment.

Therefore, when we say that being saved from sin's penalty means that you are saved from death we mean spiritual death, which the Bible teaches, is separation from God, in a place of eternal torment reserved for those who have rejected His Son. If a person rejects Jesus, then they have to be punished for their own sins, but by receiving Jesus as your Savior, you are spared an eternal death sentence, because you have agreed with God to allow Jesus' death on the cross be the payment for your sins. All of this is amazing; it sounds too good to be true, but this is what the Bible clearly teaches.

Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks.

**John 3:16** "For \_\_\_\_\_ so loved the world that He \_\_\_\_\_ His only begotten \_\_\_\_\_, so that whoever believes in \_\_\_\_\_, should not \_\_\_\_\_, but have \_\_\_\_\_ life."

**Ephesians 2:8** "For by \_\_\_\_\_ you are \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_; and that not of yourselves: it (salvation) is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

**John 5:24** "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that hears My \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ on Him that sent Me, has \_\_\_\_\_ life, and shall not come into \_\_\_\_\_; but is passed from \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_."

**Q:** *How long am I saved for?*

**A:** Forever! It would seem strange that God would promise someone eternal life, and not keep His word, or that He would give a gift and then take it back, yet that is what some people believe. They believe that salvation is a free gift; that we are saved by the grace of God but we can only stay saved if we perform at a certain level. Hopefully you can see the danger in this type of thinking. The implication is that Jesus alone can save me, but He needs my help to keep me saved. The Bible calls us to a high standard of living, it teaches us to avoid sin at all cost (Matthew 5:29-30), and forbids us from taking advantage of God's grace (Romans 6:1-2), but nowhere does it teach us that our salvation is dependent on our behavior. To the contrary it teaches that if salvation were simply a matter of us being good, then Jesus' death was unnecessary, (Galatians 2:21). Some have said it this way, "salvation is not based upon performance, but on a person," and as you know by now, that person is Jesus Christ. You will fail. You will sin. In addition to that, it is possible that you will go through long periods of time where you don't "feel" like you are saved, but rest assured that if you have truly trusted Christ as your Savior, you have been saved, you are saved, and you will be saved!

Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks.

**2 Timothy 1:12** “I know whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, and am persuaded that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ to keep that which I have \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ against that day.”

**Hebrews 10:23** “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ that promised.

**1 Peter 1:3-5** “Blessed be the God and Father of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which according to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and that \_\_\_\_\_ not away, \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven for you, who are \_\_\_\_\_ by the power of \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Notice that it is He who is able, He who is faithful, and He who keeps us by His power, not the other way around!

**John 10:28** “And \_\_\_\_\_ give unto them \_\_\_\_\_ life, and they shall \_\_\_\_\_ perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Just as Christ died once for all sins, you have been saved once for all eternity!

## **2. The next step: Baptism**

**Q:** *What is it?*

**A:** Baptism is the first and most important act of obedience spoken of in the Bible. It is an outward demonstration of faith. You are publicly announcing to the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. The most significant baptism recorded in the Bible was Jesus’ own baptism found in Luke 3:21-22. Jesus set the example, and commanded us to follow (Matthew 28:19-20).

As Southern Baptists we are convinced based upon what the Bible teaches that one must be a believer to be baptized. There are at least eight occurrences of baptism in the book of Acts, (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:36-38; 9:18; 16:13-15; 16:31-33; 18:8; 19:4-5), and in all of these cases people personally expressed faith in Jesus prior to being baptized.

We call this believer’s baptism and it is for this reason that we do not view infant baptism as biblical and therefore not legitimate.

We also insist that a person be fully immersed under the water, as that is what the word baptism means, and this is clearly the picture of being buried with Christ and raised with Him to a new life found in Romans 6:3-5.

**Q:** *Is baptism necessary for salvation?*

**A:** No, baptism isn't necessary for salvation in the sense that if you died without having been baptized you would die lost. We have already established that we are saved by grace through faith and faith alone in Jesus Christ. However, it only seems natural that if you have truly been saved that you would want to be baptized because again, Jesus set the example, and commanded His disciples to continue the practice.

If you are serious about your commitment to Christ and your decision to follow Him, then you need to be baptized, not for salvation, but as a matter of obedience. Jesus once said to His disciples "why do you call me Lord, and not do the things that I say," (Luke 6:46). The same question should be asked of anyone who claims to be saved, but refuses to be baptized, something Jesus clearly told us to do.

### **3. The Holy Spirit:**

"Then Peter said to them, repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you *shall* receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," (Acts 2:38)

**Q:** What does it mean that God's Spirit lives in me?

**A:** **1.** It means you are *saved*. Look up **Romans 8:9** and fill in the blanks.

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ dwells \_\_\_\_\_ you. Now if any man has \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, he is none of His."

**2.** It means you have been *spiritually adopted*. Look up **Galatians 4:6**

"And because you are \_\_\_\_\_, God has sent forth the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Son into your hearts crying Abba (father), Father."

**3.** It means you can be *certain of your salvation*.

Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks.

**1 John 4:13** “Hereby know we that we dwell in \_\_\_\_\_, and He in \_\_\_\_\_, because He has given us of His \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, whereby (or by whom) you are \_\_\_\_\_ until the day of \_\_\_\_\_.”

However, the importance of the Holy Spirit in your life is not limited to the subject of salvation; *He is also the one who empowers you for service.*

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive \_\_\_\_\_, after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

The Holy Spirit has several other functions as well. He is said to be our teacher (John 14:26), our guide (John 16:13), and the one who convicts us of sin (John 16:8), to name a few. You will learn much more about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life in the days ahead.

#### **4. Spiritual Growth:**

The Bible describes what has happened to you as being born again, (John 3:3). Obviously this doesn't mean that you were physically reborn, but spiritually speaking you have been. Think about it like this. When you are born as a person, under normal circumstances, over time you naturally grow from a baby into an adult. The Bible uses the same terms to explain the process that you as a new Christian will go through. As a new believer you are spiritually speaking a baby, but you shouldn't stay that way (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; 14:20; Hebrews 5:12-14). God expects that you will take the necessary steps to grow up. Amazingly many of the things that were required for you to grow physically are the same things that will be necessary for you to grow spiritually.

Things like:

- **Proper Nutrition**- “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word (the Bible), that you may grow,” (1 Peter 2:2).
- **Exercise**- “Exercise thyself unto Godliness,” (1 Timothy 4:7).
- **Instruction**- Read Acts 8:30-31.
- **Encouragement**- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says that we are to encourage one another and build each other up.
- **Discipline** – Read Hebrews 12:5-11.
- **Patience** – It has often been said that as Christians we are in a race, but isn’t a 100 yard dash, it is a marathon. So, be patient, being saved doesn’t mean that you are perfect, it means that you are forgiven.

In order to grow spiritually you *must* spend time communicating with God through Bible study and prayer. Start simple. Read the Psalms, or Proverbs; read the gospel of John. Use a daily devotional guide. Use a modern English version of the Bible such as the NKJV if necessary, but by all means read the Bible.

As for prayer, praise God, thank Him for all that He has done and is doing; ask Him questions; pray for yourself, and for other people. It isn’t hard! God isn’t concerned with how you say it, so long as you are sincere.

Finally, not enough can be said about the importance of the church in your life. The Bible says that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Ideally the church is your family, your classroom, and your partner(s) in accountability. In short, the church is a vital part of the Christian experience, and your attendance and participation in a church is essential to your spiritual growth.

It is our hope that providing this information to you will help you get off to a good start on your journey toward spiritual maturity. We celebrate your decision to trust Christ as your Savior, and pray that you will now make it your goal to grow up in your faith, and in the process grow closer to Him.