

**Heart Check: The Revealing Questions of Jesus**  
*"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?"*  
 Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46-49

**All of life boils down to one of two realities:**  
**We are either \_\_\_\_\_ of God's kingdom or we are \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

**Luke 6:46-49** "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who **comes** (keeps on coming) **to me** and **hears** (keeps on hearing) **my words** and **puts** (keeps on putting) **them into practice**. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who **hears my words** and **does not put them into practice** is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

**Jesus taught that those who truly know him, i.e., are known by him,**  
**are those whose \_\_\_\_\_ in him is demonstrated by \_\_\_\_\_ to him.**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF OUR SALVATION**

Jesus never taught that a right standing with God could be earned through \_\_\_\_\_. From the very beginning, salvation from sin's curse has always been \_\_\_\_\_ in God's provision of a sacrifice for sin, which was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, God's Lamb. (**John 1:29**)

- **Ephesians 2:8,9** *It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*
- **Titus 3:3-7** *At one time we were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

Salvation from sin's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and, ultimately, its \_\_\_\_\_, is a gift from God.  
**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Through the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, God provided the way...

...for our sins to be \_\_\_\_\_, past, present, and future. (**Romans 4:24-25; Colossians 1:13-14; Acts 10:43; Matthew 26:27-28; 1 John 1:9**)

...for us to be \_\_\_\_\_ righteous **IN CHRIST**, even though our personal righteousness is utterly \_\_\_\_\_. (**Romans 3:21-4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21**)

...for us to live free of sin's \_\_\_\_\_ over our lives and to grow in our personal \_\_\_\_\_ before God. (**Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:1ff; Ephesians 6:10ff**)

In Christ, we are "dead to" (i.e., separated from) sin's penalty and power. Our old self was crucified with Christ, in order that our "body of sin" (i.e., our flesh or fallen nature operating in our bodily members) might be brought to nothing. As those in Christ, sin and Satan have no authority over us. We are under a new Master—the Lord Jesus.

The picture Paul paints in these passages is graphic. If, after being untied with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection, we turn back to our former manner of life, it's like putting on a dead corpse and walking around in that stench. It's unthinkable! We are new creations in Christ, the old has passed away, the new has come. As God's people, we can stand fast in the freedom and power of the Spirit as he progressively transforms us into the likeness of Christ!

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF OUR SALVATION

Even though initial salvation (a right standing before God) is a gift received through faith in Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith that receives this gift moves the believer to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and follow him as \_\_\_\_\_.

- **James 2:14-26** *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? (v. 19 Even the demons "believe" and shudder.)*

James cites Abraham's story as an example of a living and saving faith in Christ. Abraham's faith was initially evident when he acted on God's call to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldees and go to the Land of Canaan (**Genesis 12**). His ongoing faith, seen in **Genesis 15**, was credited to him as righteousness; i.e., it was the kind of faith God considers as righteous, and Abraham continued to demonstrate this kind of genuine, saving faith through his ultimate act of obedience nearly two decades later in **Genesis 22**. This is the whole point of James' teaching on the "kind" of faith that saves.

- **Ephesians 2:10** [**vv. 8-9** It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.] *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

**Verse 10** is just as much a part of our salvation as **verses 8 & 9**. Good works for God's people are not optional, peripheral, and unnecessary. **Verse 10** is integral to what saving faith does. If **verse 10** is not happening in the overall direction of our lives, we have to seriously question if **verses 8 & 9** ever happened. As we saw in the life of king David, in this world, God does not expect sinless perfection from his people, but he does expect a life direction of growth in personal righteousness as we "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 3:12-14**)

- **Hebrews 12:6, 8** *The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives...If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.*

If we're not being disciplined/trained by God as a normal part of following Christ (conviction about needed areas of growth through the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the deepest longings of our new heart), God's Word is straightforward: *We do not belong to him*. As any good parent, God disciplines/trains his beloved children. This is especially the case when one of his children chooses to defy him and walks in a pattern of sin. God's discipline can be severe in these cases. (**Psalms 32:9; 1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 John 5:16**)

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF OUR SALVATION

God knows exactly how we stand with him. However, our personal assurance of salvation is realized experientially through an \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

- **Romans 8:16** *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

This is as true when we *grieve the Spirit* (**Ephesians 4:30**) as when we *keep in step with the Spirit* (**Galatians 5:16-25**). However, both speak to the same reality—\_\_\_\_\_ is the sign of an authentic relationship with Christ. The opposite of faith in the Bible is not \_\_\_\_\_; it's \_\_\_\_\_.

In **Galatians 5**, Paul touches on a truth that explains the times in which we live. **The kingdom of God is already here, but not yet in its fullness. Jesus inaugurated God's kingdom on earth. The consummation is yet to come.** That's why, at this time, even though every provision for life and godliness has been made for us in Christ (2 Peter 1:3-4 – i.e., in Christ, we are free from sin's penalty and power), we are not yet completely free from sin's presence, both in the world and in us. Paul says the flesh in us (old self/sinful nature) wars against the Spirit who indwells us and the Spirit wars against the flesh. That's why Paul commands us in **Ephesians 4:20-24** *to put off the old self with its sinful desires, and put on the new self/heart with its righteous and holy desires so that we do not grieve the Spirit (v. 30).* Paul speaks the same truth with a different twist in **Romans 13:14** – *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.* At this time, our sinful flesh remains in our bodily members and it will until we die or Jesus returns. Then, our mortal bodies will be redeemed (instantly transformed or resurrected and perfected), and God will apply the full benefits of our salvation to our entire being—both material and immaterial. (**Romans 8:22-23**) Then, we will be saved, finally, from sin's presence.

- **1 John 2:3-6** *We know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*
- **2 Peter 1:10** *My brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.*

### 2 Corinthians 13:5

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?*

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