

## God offers salvation through Jesus Christ

Salvation is deliverance from spiritual death and enslavement by sin. God provides salvation for all who believe and accept His free offer of forgiveness. Humankind's only hope of redemption from the fallen sinful state and its consequences is through the blood of Jesus Christ

**Why do we need salvation?** We are born with a sinful nature that separates us from God. Meaning we have a nature of sin-predisposed to love everything else more than God. It is our nature to oppose God and be attracted to sin. Therefore, because of that sinful nature that we are born with, we stand guilty and condemned from the beginning, and in need of Salvation that can only be through Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:23** "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"

### Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through **REPENTANCE** toward God and **FAITH** toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Luke 24:47** and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

## What is repentance?

- Repentance: a change of direction, a sincere and complete change of mind concerning sin, and how sin offends God, his commandments, and principles.
- In short, repentance changes your perspective on sin and, as a result, changes one's actions, direction, and heart

### Three elements of repentance

**Intellectual:** Knowledge of a change of perspective regarding God, sin, and ourselves.

- True repentance understands how sin offends God and how it violates God's commandments and principles. Therefore, true repentance will lead us to admit to our sin, turn away from it, and submit to Christ's lordship.
- Sin becomes known not as a weakness, an unfortunate act, or a mistake but as a personal grief of trespassing against God's will and his commandments. **Psalms 51:3** For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned
- Sin is also recognized for what it is in **Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
  - Sin is a transgression of God's statutes and commands
  - The most frequently used words for "sin" in both the Old and New Testaments are *ḥāṭā'* in Hebrew and *hamartanō* in Greek, which means "to miss the mark". So, to sin is to transgress (break) God's statutes and commands. We "miss the mark" of upholding His standards
  - More than just breaking the rules, the true nature of sin is rebellion against God.
- Because sin contaminates and violates a person, we must continue to go before the Lord and ask him to create in us a clean heart. **Psalms 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Emotional:** Repentance has commonly been described as anguish or shame before God because of sin. Similar to when you wrong a loved one, this sorrow is sorrowful over the grief one causes to a person because of their actions, as opposed to simply being sorrowful because of the consequences of sin **2 Corinthians 7:9** Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- The tax collector and the **Pharisee**, Luke 18:9-14
- This Godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to Salvation
- There is no way to determine how much emotion is needed for true repentance, however, there is a crunching of the heart when you come face to face with the realization that you have sinned against a loving, merciful, and kind God who loves you.
- This crunching of the heart ultimately leads to a change of heart that causes you to turn away from sin and submit to God.

**Action:** There must be a willingness factor for repentance to be effective. An internal denial of sin and a wholehearted change, seeking Jesus for forgiveness.

- The story of the Prodigal Son, **Luke 15**, shows us that this willingness results in a confession of sin, a separation **from** sin, and coming back to the Father's house. (Action)

## What is faith

**Faith:** deals with the fact that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remove and bring forgiveness for sins. **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; is the gift of God.

Faith is not a blind man feeling his way into darkness, but the conviction of the substance that what the word of God reveals is true.

We don't jump into the darkness hoping it turns into light, we jump into the promises of god, believing they are true

**Faith takes God at His word and does not base its hope on visible circumstances but on confidence in the Word of God**

## Three Elements of Faith

**Intellectual** faith is to walk in the light, the light of the Word of God. Faith must be based on the knowledge of God; no one can believe in something they don't know. Faith is based on the best evidence, which is the word of God, and this knowledge produces faith. **Romans 10:17** So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God..

We must know the Gospel to believe in it!!

- We can say that when I read the Word of God, it produces faith
- When I hear the word of God, it produces faith
- When I quote and meditate on the word of God, it produces faith
- I know that what the Word says is true.
- Do you want to grow in your faith and grow your knowledge of the Word of God?
- We cannot have faith in God without knowing God's word

**Emotional:** This is often described as an overwhelming joy that we experience when we first realize that a loving God has provided us all that we need for salvation. An **awakening** of the soul when it acknowledges salvation and followed by immediate approval of this truth.

- The church has called this “first love.”
- Pastor Mike’s personal experience. “I would fall asleep thinking and thanking God, saying He is real, He is real, and He loves me and has accepted me, AND HE IS MY FATHER I was so wicked and I could not get across the idea that I was forgiven. I felt His acceptance, His forgiveness, His Love ”.
- It awakens your heart, and you find yourself sleeping with your heart awake
- King David, somewhere in His walk, lost this joy. he then repented and asked to be forgiven and restored, **Psalms 51:12** [Restore onto me the joy of your salvation](#)
  - One of the things restored in David’s life was the Joy of salvation
- The emotional part of being saved has an overwhelming Joy to a man’s heart.

**Action:** After knowing the Gospel and rejoicing because of the Gospel, we come to the truth that knowledge is not enough, and rejoicing is not enough. Then willfully surrendering your heart to Jesus in a full acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior

- There must be works to our faith, **James 2:17** [Faith without works is dead](#)
- This is when sanctification begins, where we see great life changes in a new believer, as they surrender to the will of God in their lives
  - They look different (not clothing but their continence), speak differently, they think differently, now they are under new Lordship (the Lords)

### Evidence of Salvation

- **Inner evidence:** a direct witness of the Holy Spirit giving one the assurance that they are now children of God **Romans 8:16** [The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.](#)
  - This is a subjective witness in your heart that comes from the Holy Spirit that **no one** can take from us.
- **Outward evidence:** a life of righteousness and true holiness **Ephesians 4:22** [that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.](#)
  - This is the objective witness from you to all who know you
  - In other words, is living a life totally committed and pleasing to God

The relationship between God and mankind was hindered by sin; its restoration is the central message of the Bible. The entire story from Genesis through Revelation points to a God who loves us. He loves us so much that he gave his son to die in ransom so that those who believe in Jesus Christ and his work of providing salvation might have new life and salvation. Every true Christian experiences salvation and becomes a new person in Christ. More importantly, without this experience, life is empty and without a real meaning