

Salvation & Baptism

Saved → Baptized → Discipled → Conformed

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Introduction

I was raised in church, given the gospel as a child, and I seemingly received it. I was then baptized at the age of eight. Yet time would soon show that believing and following are two different paths. Many people today go to church, pray, and even say they believe. Yet following Christ requires walking a different path; it is following our Savior, Yahshua (Jesus Christ), on the highway of holiness. This can only be done through having a true born again experience, not just an emotional church experience. It happens only as God supernaturally comes into our lives and draws us closer. He gives us a new heart and new vision. He shows us a new path of a new life, using His word to light the way.

I had been given the light, but when I became older, at the age of 13, I decided to walk my own path. That path led me down a dark road filled with many disappointments and regrets. It was a life full of robbers and thieves living off my life and my pain. At the age of 23, I was sitting in my home lonely and broken. I got down on my knees and cried out to God. I told Him I did not want this worldly life anymore, and that I desired to give Him my life completely. At that moment I felt the Spirit of God come over me and in me. I felt forgiven and I felt that a new life had been given to me with a different path to walk. I had been born again and saved!

That moment changed my life forever! I pray that as you come to understand what salvation is, you too, may experience the moment in your life where you become a born again follower of Yahshua!

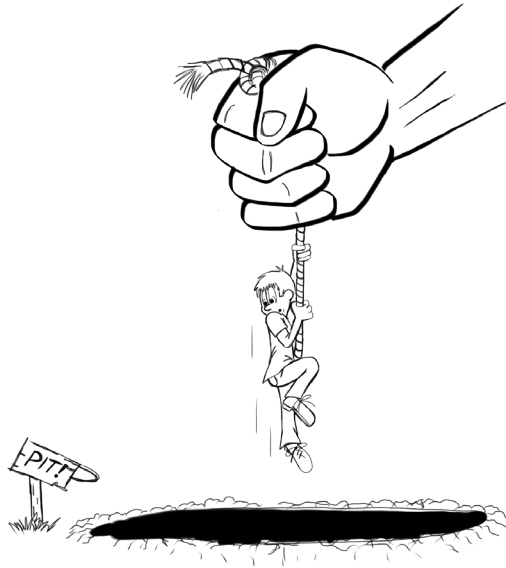


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What is salvation?



Salvation: Preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin or loss.

What are we saved from?

Sin

We were born into sin through the first Adam. We then committed sin through wrong actions. Because of original sin, judgment and death have come. We have to be saved from those sins that we committed in our body, and also saved from the curse committed by the first Adam.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—”
Romans 5:12

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23

Wrath

The whole world has been judged and is under the wrath of God. He will destroy everyone who remains under the curse of sin.

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”
Romans 5:9

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Thessalonians. 5:9

This Perverse Generation

This world is a wicked place ruled by satan. To fit into this world is to be under the same judgment as satan and the world. That judgment is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire, where there is no relief from agony and pain.

“And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’”
Acts 2:40

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; or you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.”
Ephesians 5:6-8

If we live like the world does, we will receive the same consequence that the world receives. If God destroyed the

world once, only saving eight people, what makes people think He will not do it again? If He cast out a third of the angels, destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, commanded Israel to go into cities and countries and kill every woman, child, man, and animal - how could someone think that God would not judge and destroy those who reject such a great salvation? He is the same God today as He was during those times.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

2 Peter 2:4-9

However, God loves man and does not wish for him to be destroyed with satan and the fallen angels.

“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. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has

been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:16-18

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:3-6

Therefore salvation only comes through Yahshua (Jesus Christ).

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

There is no other way to be saved but through Yahshua. Many people think there are multiple ways to be saved, but that is not true. The only way to be saved is a narrow path. All other paths lead to destruction. Some may ask, “Are you saying every other religion is wrong, and that all of them will perish under God’s judgment?” The answer is yes! According to the Word of God, all who do not accept His son, Yahshua, only will remain under the curse of sin.

What must I do to be saved?

Listen to God’s Spirit and Word!

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:44

The Father draws us by His Spirit to accept His Word (Son)!

*“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;”
John 16:8*

*“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”
James 1:21*

*He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 16:15-17*

You see the Spirit of God is at work in the earth using the preaching of the gospel to convict people of their sin, and to allow them to realize that if they remain in their sin, they will be judged. So when someone says, “You are judging me,” they are already judged. You are trying to keep them from that judgment. If they feel judged, let them know that it is because the Holy Spirit is at work in them. Tell them if they would believe, the Holy Spirit would show them that the only way to be saved from judgment is through faith in Christ, God’s righteousness.

**Respond to the Holy Spirit by repenting of your sins.
Even without the curse of original sin, we all have sinned, have fallen short, and deserve death.**

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins

*and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.
1 John 1:8-10*

*“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
Matthew 4:17*

*Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”
Acts 2:38-39*



Repentance: To be so grieved because of the knowledge of God’s heart and ways that we turn away from anything displeasing to God and turn to our Holy God for deliverance, salvation, and restoration - hating sin and loving righteousness.

For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while— I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
James 4:7-10

Real repentance is about having a brokenness toward God and a turning to God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Have you been broken because of your sin?

Believe in your heart and speak with your mouth. What we believe in our hearts, we are not ashamed to speak!

*...and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household”
Acts 16:30-31*

But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the

*word of faith which we are preaching,
that 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 10:8-10*



Believe: To rely upon, to put our trust in, to know to be true.

An example of biblical-believing is not just looking at a chair and thinking that it can hold you up, but actually sitting in the chair and allowing it to hold you. This is application, not just assumption.

Note: We do not earn salvation through our works. It was earned for us through the works of Yahshua.

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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good

works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
Ephesians 2:8-9

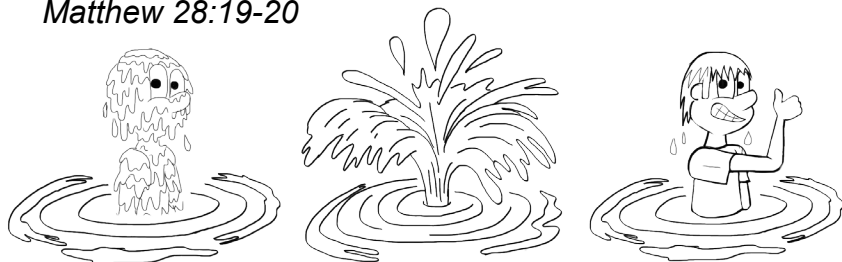
He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
Titus 3:5-7

(Our works outside of Christ is as filthy rags)

Be baptized and begin your walk of faith by being a disciple of Christ

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
Mark 16:15-16

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20



Baptism: Immersion, submersion. It's to be brought under the water; signifying the death and burial of our original sin, the sins we committed and our old life.

In Romans 6:3, Paul states we are "baptized unto death" meaning that we are not only dead to our former ways, but they are buried. To return to them is as unthinkable for a Christian as for one to dig up a dead corpse!

Baptism should be one of the first acts of obedience of someone giving their life to Christ. Even Yahshua was baptized, showing us the way - even though He had no need to repent. So, if we are going to follow Christ, then we must be baptized. To believe in Christ is to obey Him, and to obey Him is to be baptized.

Someone may say, "I was baptized when I was a baby." That was a decision by your parents, not by you. Have you been baptized since you have believed?

Respond to God's Word and Spirit by:

- Repenting of sin
- Believing in Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation; that He came, died, and rose again, ascended to the Father, and is coming back
- Accepting the holy teachings of His word as the way to live our lives
- Believing that His Spirit has come in us to teach us and help us
- Embracing His church as our new family

We are saved by the blood of the Lamb and made new by His Spirit, with our heart yearning to be baptized and willingness to start our new path – our race to the finish.

If you have not given your life to Christ, you can right now. Pray this prayer with me.

“Most Holy Father, I believe in Your Son, Yahshua. I am so sorry for the sins I have committed in my life. I repent of all those sins, and I turn from the kingdom of this world to Your Kingdom. Please forgive me of my sins and save me. I give You my life. I open my heart to receive Your Holy Spirit with this new heart you are giving me. I will seek to be baptized and to follow Your Holy Word with everything in me. I will be a part of Your local church, ready to serve, and give my life to Your Kingdom. I will seek to be conformed to the image of Your Son - To His life, His mind, His mission, and His promises. In the name of Yahshua, I pray this, amen!”

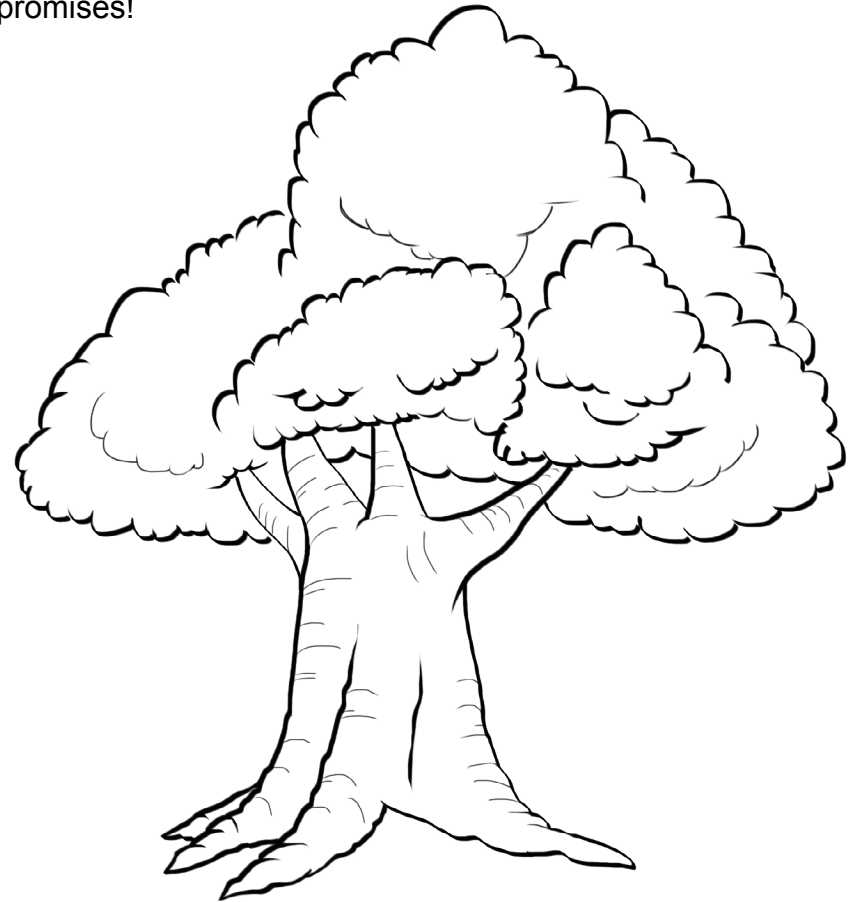
*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Now, begin your walk down the highway of holiness by becoming a disciple (student) of Christ!

- Attend a Connect Lunch here at The Church (Last Sunday of each month)
- Attend Making of a Great Life class (First Sunday of the month)
- Begin to pray and read your bible each day (Start receiving “The Ancient Path’s Devotional” through e-mail or get a hard copy in the foyer. Start receiving the Sparking Gems devotional through e-mail or purchase a hard copy in the foyer.)
- Attend Sunday and Wednesday Services each week

- Start serving in a ministry. (After attending the Making of a Great Life class, a facilitator will help you find a place to serve. Be faithful to serve and make it a priority.)
- Attend an Activity Group or Life Group to build relationships and grow in your faith.

If you make these things a part of your life and are faithful to them, then you will grow and start being conformed to the image of Yahshua- His life, His mind, His mission, and His promises!



*So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.
Isaiah 61:3b*

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His Life, His Mind, His Mission, and His Promises

There is but one path to eternal
life, and His name is Jesus...

The gift of salvation is a free gift to all those who believe. This booklet explains just what believing means, what repentance is truly about, and how a person can continue living for the one true God.

We encourage you to read this book to understand more about salvation so that you can rejoice in your free gift and share this gift with others.

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