

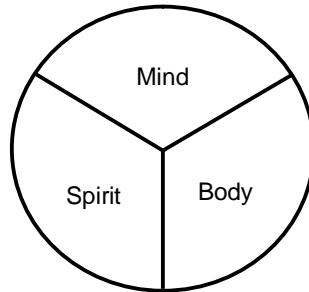
## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT: SALVATION

Definition: A divine act of God effected by the Holy Spirit whereby the spirit of a man is reborn of God, and he becomes literally a child of God with the Holy Spirit living inside.

### I. THE NEED FOR SALVATION.

#### A. ALL HUMANS HAVE AN ETERNAL SPIRIT.

1. Man is a three-part being.
  - a. Mind
  - b. Body
  - c. Spirit



2. Of these components, it is only the spirit that will never die.
3. The body and mind grow old and weak and one day will die.
4. The spirit, however, will live forever.
  - a. Genesis 2:7 states:

**"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."**

b. II Corinthians 4:16 states:

**"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."**

5. The spirit of every human being will live forever somewhere!

B. PHYSICAL DEATH IS THE SEPARATION OF THE SPIRIT FROM THE BODY.

1. The definition of the word "death" is "separation."
2. When the body dies, as it inevitably will, the spirit (which will never die) is separated from the body and goes to dwell somewhere.
3. However man may struggle, he is going to die physically.
4. Hebrews 9:27 states:

**"And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment:"**

C. THERE ARE ONLY TWO DESTINATIONS FOR THE SPIRIT OF MAN.

1. Heaven (eternal life with God).
2. Hell or the "Lake of Fire" (eternal torment away from God).

a. John 3:18 states:

**"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."**

b. John 3:36 states:

**"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**

c. Jesus stated in Luke 16:22-23:

**"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;**

**And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."**

D. WHAT DETERMINES THE ETERNAL HOME OF THE SPIRIT OF MAN?

1. Sin condemns the spirit of a person to hell.

a. Ezekiel 18:4 states:

**"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."**

b. Romans 3:23 states:

**"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"**

2. Therefore all humanity is condemned to hell!!

3. But God provided a plan of salvation.

a. Romans 5:8 states:

**"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

- b. Jesus stated in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- c. Again, Jesus stated in John 5:24:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

4. [THIS POINT INTENTIONALLY BLANK]

5. What a loving God, to give to humanity this free choice!!

- a. 1 Peter 1:9-12 states:

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

6. Yet every person must decide for himself! A choice must be made!!
  - a. Will I be saved (eternal life)?
  - b. Will I remain lost (eternal damnation)?

## II. HOW TO RECEIVE SALVATION.

### A. FIRST: CONVICTION IS NECESSARY.

1. No one can sincerely ask God to save him if he doesn't realize he is lost.
2. This realization of being lost is called conviction.
3. Conviction is accomplished by the Holy Spirit and salvation is not possible without this conviction.

- a. Jesus said in John 6:44:

**"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."**

- b. Jesus further stated in Mark 2:16-17:

**"And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?"**

**When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**

4. The Holy Spirit will convict every man of his lost condition by showing him his sins.

- a. Titus 2:11 states this great truth:

**"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."**

- b. John the Apostle stated in John 1:6-9:

**"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.**

**The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.**

**He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.**

**That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."**

5. Yet conviction alone is not salvation.

B. SECOND: REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION.

1. The definition of repentance:

- a. A genuine change of heart and mind.  
 b. To agree with God about the reality of sin.

2. Repentance consists of three elements:

- a. Intellectual: Realizing you have sinned against God.  
 b. Emotional: sorrow for those sins (children have less than adult).  
 c. Spiritual: Turning from sin to God for forgiveness.

3. It must be remembered that repentance is more than just regret, or remorse.

C. THIRD: FAITH IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION.

1. There can be no salvation without a man believing, by faith, that Jesus died for his sins, and that God will save him if he asks.
2. Faith also consists of three elements as outlined by the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 1:12 which states:

**"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I KNOW whom I have believed, and am PERSUADED that he is able to keep that which I have COMMITTED unto him against that day."**

- a. Knowledge: faith in someone, or something, for whom, or which, nothing is impossible. Simply stated, Paul became aware of the fact that Jesus was the Messiah, and indeed, died for his sins. He knew that!
  - b. Persuasion: no one will believe on Jesus for salvation until he is convinced, or persuaded, that He can and will save him.
  - c. Commitment: the placing the destiny of the individual's spirit, irrevocably, into the hand of God.
3. Three illustrations of the three elements of faith.
    - a. A bank:
      - (1) Knowledge: One may learn about the existence of a bank through advertisements, friends or observation.
      - (2) Persuasion: Through investigation and inquiry, he might become persuaded that the bank could protect his money and pay him appropriate interest on his funds.

- (3) Commitment: All this knowledge and persuasion can accomplish nothing until he commits by placing his money in the bank.

b. Marriage:

- (1) Knowledge: One may gain knowledge of a potential mate by observation and casual dating.
- (2) Persuasion: After an appropriate period of dating and courtship, one can become convinced that this is the person he would like to marry.
- (3) Commitment: This knowledge and persuasion will not provide a mate until one is willing to commit by marrying the individual.

c. Food:

- (1) Knowledge: A hungry person might become aware that he was in the presence of food by the use of his senses.
- (2) Persuasion: Through further investigation, he could become persuaded that the food is good, safe and nourishing.
- (3) Commitment: Again, all of that knowledge and persuasion will not satisfy his hunger or nourish his body until he is willing to commit by eating the food.
- (4) In summary, when an individual realizes he has sinned and is condemned to eternal torment because of those sins, then repents of his sins and, in faith, asks the Lord Jesus Christ to save

him, he is saved. Salvation is as complicated, or as simple, as that.

(5) This is salvation by grace alone, without any contributing work whatsoever on the part of the individual.

(6) Salvation is not a process; it is instantaneous. One is either saved or he is lost.

### III. HOW A PERSON CANNOT BE SAVED.

#### A. HE CANNOT BE SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS.

1. There is no possibility that a lost man can be good enough to be saved.

2. Isaiah 64:6 states the value of "good works."

**"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."**

3. Remember, man is naturally totally depraved. (Faith is a gift, not a good work!!)

4. Ephesians 2:8-9 states:

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

**Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

#### B. HE CANNOT BE SAVED BY BEING BAPTIZED.

1. Baptism is a burial, not a new birth.

2. The thief on the cross was never baptized, yet Jesus said he was saved in Luke 23:42-43.

**"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.**

**And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."**

3. Judas was baptized, yet he was never saved according to the words of Jesus in John 17:12.

**"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."**

4. Baptism without salvation will only get one thoroughly wet! There is nothing saving about this ordinance.

C. HE CANNOT BE SAVED BY JOINING A CHURCH.

1. You may join every church in town and still die lost if he has never repented of his sins and trusted Jesus Christ as his savior.
2. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23:

**"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

**Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

**And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."**