

Salvation

When exactly is one considered saved? Can I lose my salvation?

When exactly is one considered saved?

- The Bible teaches clearly that the way to **salvation** is to **believe** in and **confess Jesus as Lord**:

Rom. 10:9 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;

Rom. 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

- Eph 2:8-9 Paul teaches that God **moves** a person to make such a **confession** by His Spirit through the **gift of faith**. This means that a person believes in confesses in Christ because God gives that person the ability & desire to do so.
- This means no gift = no confession
- We will cry out to Him when we receive the gift:

Rom. 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

- Receive spirit of adoption leads to crying out (gift then confession).
- The **moment** of our **salvation** comes when the Holy Spirit gives the **gift of faith**, and that moment inevitably leads the person into making a **confession** of Christ. In the course of events, the moment of **confession may follow sometime after the arrival of faith**, but **salvation is assured from the moment of faith**. Our confession is result of believing and therefore is the means by which salvation is shared with others.
- For a complete description of Romans 10:9-10, please listen to the [Romans Bible Study](#).

Seven important things to consider regarding salvation

1. A Christian is a new creation. [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)
2. A Christian is redeemed. [1 Peter 1:18-19](#)
3. A Christian is justified. [Romans 5:1](#)
4. A Christian is promised eternal life. [John 3:16](#), [1 John 5:11](#)
5. A Christian is marked by God and sealed by the Spirit. [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)
6. A Christian is guaranteed glorification. [Romans 8:30](#), [1 Corinthians 1:8-9](#)
7. A Christian cannot lose salvation. [Romans 11:29](#), [Titus 1:2](#)

- For a complete discussion of these matters, please listen to the [Ephesians Bible Study](#).

What is the Bible's standard for salvation?

- Imagine a child is born and accepts Christ at a **young age**. He displays signs of being a Christian, but then grows up to live a life of complete decadence before they die. Imagine a second child born and growing up, having always given in to his fleshly desires and sought the ways of the world. But at the last moment on his **death bed** he accepts Christ. Who goes to Heaven? - **HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO**
- The Bible's **standard for salvation**:

ROM. 10:8 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,
ROM. 10:9 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;
ROM. 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

- A person who believes the Gospel truly is **born again spiritually**, Jesus says. The person is forever spiritually new, adopted as a child of God, and nothing that comes before or after this moment will change the person's eternal destiny (eternal life).

ROM. 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
ROM. 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JOHN 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.
JOHN 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
JOHN 6:39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.
JOHN 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

EPH. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
EPH. 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Therefore, a believer's salvation is never in jeopardy.
- No Christian is saved by "good" works, and neither can a Christian be lost by "bad" works.
- Remember, even one sin is enough to bar us from Heaven apart from the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, so no one is more worthy of heaven than another. We all need grace and we all have sin that must be forgiven by the blood of Christ. Apart from Christ, everyone stands equally guilty before God regardless of how long someone has lived or how much sin he or she has committed:

ROM. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Neither is the timing of our salvation important. The Lord saves each person when He chooses:

MATT. 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

MATT. 20:2 "When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

MATT. 20:3 "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place;

MATT. 20:4 and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And so they went.

MATT. 20:5 "Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing.

MATT. 20:6 "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?'

MATT. 20:7 "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

MATT. 20:8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.'

MATT. 20:9 "When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius.

MATT. 20:10 "When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.

MATT. 20:11 "When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner,

MATT. 20:12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.'

MATT. 20:13 "But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?'

MATT. 20:14 'Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

MATT. 20:15 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'

MATT. 20:16 "So the last shall be first, and the first last."

Turning away from God?

Unbelievers can act like believers and believers can act like unbelievers.

- A **believer**, who **rebelled against the Lord in a severe and lasting way**. If so, then that person was welcomed into the Lord's presence in the manner Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 3:

1Cor. 3:12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

1Cor. 3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

1Cor. 3:14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

1Cor. 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

*Also Rom 8:38-39, John 10:28-29, Luke 15:5-6

- If someone **never accepted Christ as saviour in a sincere way**, and after a period of living as a cultural "Christian," they gave up the act and returned to their true nature. If so, then that person was demonstrating the truth that Peter taught:

2Pet. 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

2Pet. 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

2Pet. 2:22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

*Also 1 John 3:6, 1 John 2:19, Matt 7:16, Rom 7:4

- In the **second example**, the Bible teaches that people can **portray** themselves as Christians in a **convincing way, even to themselves**. These portrayals include confessions of faith, the appearance of godly living, and even a degree of Biblical knowledge and piety. The Pharisees of Christ's day are the best example of this kind of **counterfeit religious observance**.
- Never truly born again as one of God's children. The **missing ingredient** was **saving faith**. The Bible says that saving faith is a gift of God, not something men acquire for themselves:

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
Eph. 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Saving faith itself is a **gift**, and once it comes to a person, they confess and believe and are **saved forever**. The gift comes with the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**, Who indwells the person permanently as a **down payment** on the eternal inheritance God has granted to the believer:

2Cor. 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,
2Cor. 1:22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

Eph. 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

More verses on salvation:

- Salvation by faith, not by works:

GAL. 3:1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?
GAL. 3:2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?
GAL. 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

- Once the Spirit of God enters a man, He changes the man's nature forever, making him alive with the indwelling of God's spirit:

EPH. 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
EPH. 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
EPH. 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
EPH. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
EPH. 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
EPH. 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
EPH. 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- Salvation is permanent:

PHIL. 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly, a person's nature is changed into something entirely different by the working of the Spirit, and that change can never be reversed. As Paul says:

2COR. 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;
2COR. 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.
2COR. 5:16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.
2COR. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

- Our salvation is a supernatural, spiritual change, not something obtained nor maintained by the thoughts in our head nor by the works of the flesh, but by the power of God.