



What is Salvation?

A New Believer's Guide to the Gift
of Grace By Jesus Christ

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Table of Contents

- 3** Introduction
- 4** What is Salvation?
- 5** The Gift is by the Grace of Jesus Christ
- 6** The Beginning of Salvation is a Decision
- 7** The Salvation Package
- 10** What Happens at Salvation?
- 13** Your New Identity
- 16** What You Get as a Believer
- 17** Growing Spiritually
- 18** About the Author

Introduction

It's free! You don't do anything to deserve it. You don't clean up before you receive it. Come as you are and let Jesus do the cleaning up.

Many new believers say the prayer of salvation and give their lives to Christ without fully comprehending the gift of salvation. They know they are saved but don't know what comes with the salvation package or what they are entitled to as believers.

What is Salvation? is a guide that will go into detail about the gift of grace that comes by Jesus Christ.

There are people in the world who wonder what salvation is and what it means to them. Others say they don't do the "Jesus thing" because it seems like some kind of bondage with restrictions they don't think they can handle. Some question how Jesus can save them if He never saved Himself from the cross.

What is Salvation? keeps it simple and to the point and helps you understand what it means to be saved.

Salvation is a gift God gave the world out of His great love for us. He promised that whoever would receive it, they would not perish but have everlasting life. This gift came through Jesus, who gave of Himself as a sacrifice for the world.

One thing is for sure when you receive the gift of salvation, your life will never be the same. The gift of salvation is by grace, that is, you don't do anything to deserve it. It's God's gift to you by His grace. Yours is to graciously receive it by faith, and God will transform your heart. God doesn't give you this gift because of something you did, He gives it to you because He loves you.

What is Salvation?

Salvation is what we usually refer to as “being saved” or “born again”. It is when someone gives their life to Jesus Christ and is redeemed from their sins and their consequences. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father, and instructed him to name the child Mary was expecting “Jesus”. This was because Jesus would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-21).

Salvation is more than forgiveness of sins. The Greek word for salvation is “Sozo” and the Strong’s Concordance defines it as: to save, i.e. to deliver or protect (literally or figuratively), heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole. Salvation in its fullness includes deliverance, healing, restoration, and wholeness. We shall discuss this in more detail under “The Salvation Package”.

Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins because sin requires atonement. In the Old Testament, atonement for the sins of the Israelites was made with the blood of the atoning sacrifice (Exodus 30:10). The high priest offered the sacrifice yearly. Christ offered Himself once for all people (Hebrews 10:10) and because of that, we don’t need to offer God any kind of sacrifice for our sins. We are to accept Christ’s sacrifice for our sins. He offers it to us by His grace. We don’t earn it, we simply receive it by faith.

Jesus came to save us from our sins which require death and an eternal separation from God. He forgives us and gives us eternal life. The free gift of salvation by the grace of Jesus Christ is available to anyone in the world. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God has made the gift of salvation available to the world, but people must accept it in order to be saved.

It doesn’t matter what you have done, when you come to Jesus, He will receive you and offer you the free gift by His grace. Is it not comforting that Jesus said He would never reject anyone who comes to Him?

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. - John 6:37

The Gift is by the Grace of Jesus Christ

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! - Romans 5:15

How gracious our God is, He knew we deserved death but instead gave us life through Jesus Christ. His love for every person in the world is immeasurable and offered us a solution for sin. Jesus willingly died on the cross for the salvation of the world, and anyone who believes in Him has eternal life and redemption from their sins. The gift is available, and all you have to do is receive it.

There is nothing you can do to justify yourself before God that you deserve salvation. If that were the case, imagine how many people would go to God with a very long list of the good works they have done. They would give Him *10 reasons* why they deserve salvation. Or better yet, others would come to Him with PowerPoint presentations about the powerful things they have achieved. Others would feel they deserve salvation more than others because they have been “good”. These things are what God calls self-righteousness.

Our works can never compare to the righteousness of God. The only way we can be righteous is through Jesus Christ. If man could save himself, Christ's death would be in vain.

Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear why man cannot save himself.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

We are saved by the grace of God and by faith we receive salvation. If man could save himself, he would boast about it and even tell others the secrets to getting saved. The gift of salvation is a sign of the love God has for each of us. He doesn't want anyone to perish but have eternal life.

The Beginning of Salvation is a Decision

I've heard people say their salvation was a process that happened over time. They don't talk about the moment they surrendered to Jesus in repentance. The danger in this is that one can go about life thinking they are saved when they are not. Salvation starts with a decision you make to accept Jesus Lord and Saviour over your life.

God draws people to Himself over time and brings them to the point where they receive His gift of salvation. But if God draws you to Himself and you never make the decision to get saved, then you are not saved.

Salvation begins with the decision to get saved or born again. It continues throughout our lives. God saves us from the enemy, our sins, patterns of the world, deception, and the snares of the enemy throughout our lives.

How does one get saved?

Getting saved is more than confessing it with your mouth. You have to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and make Him Lord over your life. If your mouth says you are saved and you don't believe with your heart, you lack the conviction that you are saved. And because you are not saved, the Holy Spirit cannot bear witness with your spirit that you are saved.

Salvation is saying with your mouth that you accept Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead. You declare with your mouth what you already believe in your heart.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. - Romans 10:9-10

Believing in Jesus is knowing Him and having an intimate relationship with Him.

The Salvation Package

When Jesus said “It is finished” on the cross, He did a lot for us that is evident when you read the Bible. The salvation He offered us when He died and rose again included healing, deliverance, restoration, and wholeness. For us to experience the abundant life He came to give us, we need the fullness of His salvation. In John 10:10 He said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

What does the salvation package include?

Salvation

We were slaves of sin until Christ saved us and set us free. "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." - Romans 6:17-18

This does not mean that you don't sin, but that you are no longer enslaved by sin. Our old self is crucified with Christ, and we are no longer mastered by sin. By the help of the Holy Spirit, you can repent and turn away from any sin. Jesus saved us from eternal punishment and separation from God and gave us eternal life. Hebrews 5:9 says, “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Anyone who believes in Him will spend eternity with God in heaven.

The name of Jesus is the only one given to us by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). He is the way to the Father.

Deliverance

We have an enemy who does not want us to prosper and live a full life. 1 John 3:8 tells us that the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. In the four Gospels, we see Jesus casting out demons from people and setting them free to fulfill their God-given purpose. He delivered the man who lived in the tombs in the Gerasenes area who later went to evangelize in the Decapolis (10 cities). You can read the story in Mark 5:1-20.

After being born again, we need to deal with the evil spiritual influences that stop us from fulfilling our life's purpose. These include generational curses and the spiritual consequences of our sins. Jesus has given us authority to trample on and overcome the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19). This means that the devil doesn't have to stop us from experiencing everything Jesus died to give us. Jesus became a curse for us so that we don't have to live under any (Galatians 3:13).

Jesus redeemed us from the hand of the enemy and secured our freedom (Psalm 107:2). This means that the devil has no right to put his hand on anything that belongs to you. Jesus rebuked him at the cross.

Restoration

Our sins and those of others have caused us great losses in life. We end up losing years of our lives, property, health, etc. We cannot turn back the hands of time and undo what we did. Even those who hurt us cannot repay us for what they took from us. That is why God comes in to restore everything we lost.

I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm—my great army that I sent among you. - Joel 2:25

We can rejoice because God will make up for the damage we suffered in the past. He wipes away our tears and gives us better than we had before. He may not always restore the exact same thing you lost, but with something better. King Nebuchadnezzar ate grass for seven years for his pride, but after that time, God gave him greater glory than he had before he sinned (Daniel 4:36). Thank God that restoration is part of His salvation plan.

Wholeness

God longs to restore us to wholeness so that we can be fruitful and have healthy relationships. Life can serve you a deadly dish sometimes and you are left broken and bitter. Even a physical illness can leave you wounded in your soul. God's plan is to restore you to wholeness and that is why He sanctifies your spirit, soul and body while you are on earth.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

God wants your entire being to be free of disease and pain. When you get saved, it is your spirit that gets saved. For your soul to align with your spirit, you renew your mind with the word of God. You receive healing for your physical body and restoration of health.

The woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5:33-34 also received healing for her wounded soul. The torment she went through because of her affliction needed the attention of Jesus. She not only received healing for her physical condition but her inner being too.

As you read the Bible, you will understand salvation more deeply so that you can take hold of all that is yours in Christ. Many times we suffer because we don't know what God made available to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. You can ask God to show you great things about salvation from His Word.

What Happens at Salvation?

There is transformation that takes place in us when we get saved and this section breaks it down in an easy to understand way.

Born again

I'm sure you have heard believers say they are "born again" and you wonder what they mean. They are referring to Jesus' words in John 3:3, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." He made it clear that the new spiritual birth is by the Holy Spirit, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5).

A new creation

When one is born again, they become a new creation. Their spirit is made alive with Christ whereas it was dead in sin before then. The old self goes and the new one comes. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As a new creation you are no longer defined by your past or the sins and mistakes you committed. Your sins have been taken away. Others may bring up the things you did in the past or judge you by them, but now you are a new person and you have a new identity in Christ.

God reconciles us to Himself

People talk of turning to God or becoming more spiritual. The only way we turn to God is by being reconciled to Him through Christ. Where we were separated from God since birth due to inheriting Adam's sin, we are reunited with Him when we accept Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. - 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Not only does God reconcile us to Himself through Christ but has called us to share the Gospel with others so they too can be reconciled to God. This is why we are called the ambassadors of Christ.

Crossing over

Jesus said that whoever hears His Word and believes in God has eternal life and will not face judgement. Such a person has crossed over from death to life (John 5:24). Before getting saved you are headed for an eternal separation from God but through Christ, you have eternal life.

Jesus talked of a “crossing over” meaning you are coming from one place and going to another. This means that before you get saved, you are under the dominion of the kingdom of darkness. After salvation, God rescues you from this kingdom and brings you to the kingdom of His Son Jesus, which is also the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:13).

No condemnation

When you are in Christ, you are no longer under condemnation and will not face judgement at the end of your life. God did not send Jesus to the world to condemn it but that through Him, all those who live in it will be saved.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. - Romans 8:1-2

From one kingdom to another

Before salvation, a person is under the dominion of the kingdom of darkness, but after salvation, one crosses over to the kingdom of light. You transition from one side to the other and there is no in-between.

You are a king in the kingdom of God operating under the King of kings. You are to rule and reign with God, and His original intent was that you would have dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:26). The Bible has the rules of the kingdom so that you can know how to govern the jurisdiction God has given you. God has given you power and authority in the area of your purpose. He gives you an assignment and the authority to fulfill it.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - Colossians 1:13-14

One covenant to another

God makes covenants with His people throughout the Bible. He made a covenant with Abraham, Noah, the Israelites and has now made one with us through Christ. During the last supper, Jesus made it clear that we would be under a new covenant by His blood (Luke 22:20).

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. - Hebrews 9:15

The first covenant was the Law of Moses which had rules and regulations, which if disobeyed, one fell under a curse. It was a covenant of sin and death; you sin you die. Under the new covenant, you sin, repent and are forgiven. In Christ you are under the new covenant by His blood and it is everlasting.

Your New Identity

When you become a believer of Jesus Christ, you have a new identity that didn't apply to you before salvation. Being a new creation, you have a new identity in a new kingdom.

So, what is your new identity?

Child of God

Unfortunately, some churches make people believe that everyone who walks in through their doors is a child of God. It is only those who are saved who are children of God. Jesus gives us the right to become Children of God when we believe in Him and accept His gift of salvation. As a child of God, you belong to His household.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. - John 1:12-13

Citizen of Heaven

As a believer of Jesus Christ, you are a citizen of heaven. You have heard people say they are just passing by knowing their final resting place is in heaven. Jesus made it clear that we are in the world but not of it (John 17:16) and that is because we are citizens of heaven.

You are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6) and your spiritual blessings are in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:3). When you were born, you became a citizen of your country and were entitled to the benefits given by your government. Not everyone in the world has access to those benefits because they are not a citizen of your country. Citizens of heaven also have benefits and rewards that are available to them through Christ.

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. - Philippians 3:20

A Son of God

Romans 8:14 says those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. We have the Spirit of sonship that adopts us as the sons of God and causes us to call Him "Abba! Father!"

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). Whether man or woman, we have the Spirit of the Son of God living in us and we all become sons of God.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" - Romans 8:14-15

King and Priest

Jesus made us kings and priests and gave us the authority to rule and reign with Him (Revelation 5:10). As kings, we decree and declare things knowing that they will be established for us (Job 22:28). We declare the Scriptures and they are established in our lives. As priests, we offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ (1 Peter 2:5). We have direct access to God and don't have to go through priests like in the Old Testament. We have this authority through Christ who is the mediator of the new covenant and our High Priest.

And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth. - Revelation 5:9-10

Ambassador of Christ

An ambassador is someone who represents their country in another one. This is a person who represents the interests of their people in a foreign nation. Through Christ, God reconciles us to Himself and gives us the ministry of reconciliation. This is a ministry where we tell others to be reconciled to God; He is making His appeal through us. God has commissioned us as ambassadors of Christ because we represent the interests of His Kingdom on earth.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. - 2 Corinthians 5:20

Redeemed of the Lord

God has redeemed you from your sins and from the dominion of the kingdom of darkness. He calls you "the redeemed of the Lord".

You have been redeemed from the hand of the enemy and you are no longer under his bondage. As the redeemed of the Lord, you have been set free from slavery to sin and the curse of the law.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. - Psalm 107:2

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"). - Galatians 3:13

Righteous

Before salvation, you consider yourself righteous based on your good deeds and always wanting to do the right thing. This is a righteousness defined by you and it is known as self-righteousness. This is the kind of righteousness that Jesus condemned in the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. Our righteousness comes from Christ because He is the one who makes us righteous before God.

Before salvation, we can appear righteous on the outside but on the inside we have not been made right with God (Matthew 23:28). You carry your old nature with you, which is hostile to God and cannot submit to Him. You have not been regenerated, that is, born again.

As you read the Bible, you will become familiar with your identity in Christ.

What You Get as a Believer

Spiritual blessings

Ephesians 1:3 tells us that God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Our blessings exist in the spirit realm and when we ask God for them we are to receive them by faith. We don't have to beg God to give us things which He has already provided in Christ.

Promises in Christ

Promises in the Bible are ours in Christ. God fulfills His promises to us when we pray and declare them into our lives (2 Corinthians 1:20). You can claim them for yourself and your loved ones.

Eternal life

Anyone who believes in Jesus has eternal life (John 3:16). When you have eternal life, you will spend eternity with God. Before salvation, you face an eternal separation from God because you have not accepted His gift of salvation.

Spiritual gifts

Spiritual gifts are spirit-given gifts and we receive them when we get saved. They are a manifestation of the Spirit of God in us. The Spirit determines which gift to give to each believer. We use our spiritual gifts to serve the church and wherever else God has called us to serve.

Spiritual gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. These are: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Some believers have been called to the five-fold ministry gifts of Ephesians 4:11 of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Other gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Romans 12:6-8.

Holy Spirit (Helper)

After getting saved, God puts His Spirit in you and you can communicate with Him daily. He lives in us and He is our Helper (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit teaches, guides, and gives us wisdom and discernment. The Holy Spirit goes by many names: Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of prophecy, Spirit of adoption, Helper, Counselor and Advocate.

Growing Spiritually

For us to grow spiritually, we need the Word of God so that we can know Him and His ways. He has given us His Word to renew our minds so that we will live by the principles of His Kingdom. We are not to conform to the pattern of the world because it does not come from Him.

Our faith grows when we hear God's Word preached and we are to immerse ourselves in it. We are to meditate on the Word of God day and night so that we will obey it and live successful and prosperous lives (Joshua 1:8). When the Word of God is in our hearts, we will bear lasting fruit for His Kingdom.

God-given Purpose

God has a purpose for your life and it is fulfilled within a relationship with Him. It is His purpose for you and He will reveal it to you. When people out there discover their purpose by figuring it out, it is not authentic. Your purpose is not hard to find and no one can tell you what it is.

God set you apart from birth to fulfill your life's purpose and you don't decide on what it is. You align with it.

Final Thought

There is so much to learn about salvation and this guide is a good place to start. To know more about it, read the Bible and lay your foundation. As believers, we are called to be salt and light and to flavour and light up the world. God will help you live a godly life that pleases Him.

About the Author



Josephine Ngatia is a Christian Writer and Digital Content Developer who empowers marketplace professionals to fulfil their God-given purpose by providing them with online teaching resources and content development services.

Josephine has published three eBooks titled: *Life Purpose: A Beginner's Guide*; *Demystifying the Grey Kingdom: The Truth about the Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness*; and *Maiden Book: How to Plan, Outline and Write Your First Book*. She has also published several free Christian eBooks, guides and blog posts on her blog: [The Urban Christian](http://TheUrbanChristian.com)

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