

The Process of Salvation

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1Timothy 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;...

Salvation is a lifelong process. For those of us who know the Lord or will come to know the Lord there is never a time in our lives when the Lord is not saving us from something.

2Corinthians 1:9-10

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:
10 Who **delivered us** from so great a death, **and doth deliver**: in whom we trust that **he will yet deliver us**;

We who preach the gospel do you a disservice when we lead you to assume that once you have placed your trust in Jesus, you are saved from everything and in no need of diligently guarding your life.

It is true that once you are born again, you can never become un-born again; you can never lose the eternal life you have been given.

That does not mean that there are not a whole lot of other things you still need Jesus to save or deliver you from.

Even though the new birth takes place in an instant as your spirit is eternally passed from death to life; salvation is a lifelong process finding ultimate conclusion when we leave this body and this life for the next.

So where are you this morning in this lifelong process of salvation?

The fact that you are here today indicates a strong possibility that you are engaged in this process of salvation.

Jesus said in

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Is that why you are here this morning? Are you coming to Jesus today?

Jesus furthermore goes on to say,

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.

The process of salvation begins with:

I. The process of preparation.

A. The Lord has been getting you ready to receive His great salvation your whole life.

1. God begins by showing us his glorious creation.

Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed *it* unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

2. Your reaction to this determines what comes next.

3. Some, who are likely not here today, reacted like this:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

4. Job describes the attitude of these.

Job 21:14-15

14 Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

B. How have you responded to God's preparation for your salvation?

1, You were designed by your creator to seek the Lord.

2. Acts 17:24-27

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 **That they should seek the Lord**, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

3. Are you looking for something today?

4. Are you here seeking the Lord this morning?

The process of salvation continues with:

II. The point of transformation.

A. This is that glorious time that gets all the celebration.

1. God has been preparing you by showing you His presence and power.
2. As I have been teaching Basic Bible Truths classes all these past 30 plus years, I have been privileged to hear about all the many spiritual experiences that God brings into the lives of those He is preparing for heaven.
3. Amazing stories of salvation from calamities of every kind; all designed by God to bring you to the point of clearly understanding the gospel and placing your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins.
4. Even Satan's attempts to deceive and sidetrack are often turned back on him by the Lord and ultimately used for good.

B. The point of transformation is truly glorious to us.

1. As well it should be!
2. Our spirit which was dead in sins is made alive and transformed by the power of God!
3. We become a new man: **Ephesians 4:24**
And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

4. Being born again is maybe for us the most wonderful and likely the biggest moment in our earthly lives.
5. But how many times did God step in and literally save your life just to get you to that point? Some you know about and most you don't.
6. Some of you have Guardian Angels that ought to be getting combat pay!
7. Being born again with a guaranteed home in heaven is wonderful but it is not the completion of God's great salvation.

God's continuing deliverance or salvation is needed now more than ever as we begin:

III. The process of sanctification.

A. God did not save you just to give you a ticket to heaven and then hand you back to the world.

1. Galatians 1:3-4

3 Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ,
 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

2. God's plan is that you be set apart from the rest of the world unto Him and that you live the rest of your life for His glory.

3. **2Corinthians 5:15** And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

4. **2Corinthians 6:14-18**

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you.

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

5. God will be sanctified in you who are saved one way or another.

B. When we are born again, we are placed in an extremely precarious position.

As we begin we are:

1. Weak; we are spiritual infants.

2. Ignorant; no one who just got saved knows the scriptures very well at all.
3. Frankly, a little bit stupid; based on some of the poor decisions and choices novice believers keep making,
4. And, we are totally unskilled with the weapons of our warfare.
5. Time after time after time, God in His mercy saves the new believer from one hopeless circumstance after another after another to finally get us to the place we are strong enough and wise enough to stand.

In Conclusion:

So where are you in this process of salvation this morning?

Are you in the preparation stage?

What will God have to put you through and how much will He have to save you from for you to realize that you desperately need Jesus in your life; that you desperately need to be born again?

Some see the need and make a wise positive decision early on. Praise God for that early wisdom.

Others go through a lot of damage and devastation before they are ready to trust Jesus and be born again.

Others trust Jesus and are born again yet fight God's every attempt to save them from the damage of their continual poor and sinful choices.

Are you a new believer?

How bad will it need to get for you to realize that you need the same Jesus who saved you to be in charge of your life as well?

Are you an older believer who has become hardened and stubborn?

What will it take for the Lord to save you?

Ultimately the Lord will save us by taking us home.

Until that day comes, maybe we could cooperate with the Lord a little better and take to heart the real purpose for which God saved us.