

A Bible Guide about:

## Salvation

"There is salvation in no one  
[other than Jesus Christ of Nazareth],  
for there is no other name under heaven  
that has been given among men by which we must be saved."  
(Acts 4:12, NASB)

Biblical salvation refers to being saved from sin and its consequences by the power of God—saved *from* eternal death; saved *to* eternal life with God.

Sin infects the lives of all mankind. Through Adam “sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom. 5:12). Living according to sin makes man an enemy of God and results in death (Rom. 5:8-11). “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). This death refers to destruction in the lake of fire at the final judgment of those whose names are not in the Book of Life (Rev. 20:13-15). This is the second death, an eternal destruction. “The wrath of God is [and will be] revealed . . . against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (Rom. 1:18).

There is need for a righteousness beyond man’s ability to restore relationship with God (reconciliation). Since without shedding blood there is no forgiveness, God instituted a system of sacrificing animals under Moses (the Law). “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement” (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22). Although these sacrifices allowed fellowship with God, “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Heb. 10:4). Death still reigned over mankind since man cannot live without sinning and the blood of animals could not remove sin and its effects (Heb. 9:9-10, 13).

God, in His love for mankind, did not leave the situation there. To provide the blood necessary for forgiveness, a Lamb without blemish “who takes away the sin of the world” was needed (John 1:29). God “made him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf” (2 Cor. 5:21). “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). On the cross, Jesus became the blood sacrifice for all sinful mankind (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:8; Heb. 7:27).

Jesus was “sacrificed for . . . sins once for all when he offered himself” to torture and crucifixion in obedience to God (Heb. 7:27; 9:26, NIV). “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Rom. 4:25, NASB). Justification means to be declared righteous (right with God), which is necessary to escape the second death. (All mankind experiences the first death since we are mortal.) Righteousness through Christ makes possible eternal life. “Just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 5:21). This is the only escape from the second death at judgment (See Bible Guide: Judgment).

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"God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith" (Rom. 3:25, NIV). This righteousness through Jesus is only accessed by faith (Rom. 1:17; 3:22, 25). And only those righteous through faith in Jesus as Messiah will have life in God's eternal kingdom.

When the Jews asked Peter how to be saved, based on their faith he instructed them to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Our identification with Jesus through faith signified by baptism imputes Jesus' righteousness to us. This righteousness grants us salvation from eternal death.

According to the Bible  
**HOW CAN I BE SAVED?**

**Through belief demonstrated by obedience**

**BELIEVE the message of the Kingdom of God** - "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (good news)'" (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43, NASB).

The good news is that God's promises found in the Old Testament of a kingdom with His chosen Messiah (Anointed One, Christ), Jesus, as king are true and will be fulfilled. Believing God's plan for mankind as found in the Bible is the first step toward salvation. (Ro. 1:16; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Is. 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 65:17-25; Luke 1:26-35; Acts 2:22-39).

**REPENT** - "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matt. 4:17).

Sin leads to death; "the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9-10; Ro. 6:23). Repent means to turn away from (reject) disbelief and sin, including acknowledging one's sin through confession, and turning toward God's righteousness, through confession of faith in Messiah Jesus and offering one's self to righteous living (Mark 1:5; Eph. 19:18; Ro. 3:22; 6:13; 10:9-10).

**BAPTISM (immersion in water)** - "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'" (Acts 2:37-38).

Baptism is an act of obedience demonstrating our faith and repentance. It symbolizes dying and being buried with Jesus, being cleansed of sin and raising to new life united with Jesus (Romans 6). The holy Spirit is granted as a seal guaranteeing our future inheritance of eternal life in God's kingdom (Eph. 1:13-14).

**LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH** - "Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires . . . the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace" (Ro. 8:5b, 6b, NIV).

The believer learns, grows, and matures, learning the word of God (Bible), living according to faith, becoming more like Jesus, exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Col. 2:6-8; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:22-25; James 2:14-26).

**FUTURE ETERNAL LIFE** - When Jesus returns, those in him will be resurrected to life with him in his kingdom on earth and in God's eternal kingdom in the age to come (1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; Rev 20-22).

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