

THE GIFT OF SALVATION

Do you feel separated from God? Do you desire to have a relationship with Him? The truth is, God made you, He loves you, and He desires to have a relationship with you.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Romans 3:20-24 "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 3:16 "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."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "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."

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

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- God in His love and mercy has created us for a relationship with Him through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ.
 - This *relationship* with Christ is different than *religion*.
 - When God convicts us with the truth about Who He is and why we need Him, we can choose to receive His salvation. This is a humble turning from self-trust to trust in God.
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Read the following salvation stories. Consider where you see evidence of God's work to turn the heart of each one receiving salvation:

Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10

Lydia: Acts 16:11-15

The Thief: Luke 23:39-43

The Jailor: Acts 16:25-34

The Samaritan Woman: John 4:1-30

Paul: Acts 9:1-22

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- What were some of the similarities between these stories?*
 - What were some of the differences?*
 - What impacted you?*
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Read and discuss these additional scriptures about salvation:

John 3:3 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Romans 5:6-8 "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Mark 1:14-15 "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Luke 13:5 "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

2 Timothy 2:25 "Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth."

John 5:24 "Truly truly I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life. "

Luke 15:10 "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Romans 10:9-13 "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. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Acts 11:18 “When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”

1 John 5:12-13 “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Matthew 3:8 “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”

John 14:15-17 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

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- What are your take-aways from these passages?*
 - Are you ready for a heart change?*

PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for Your grace, by which I can be saved. I humbly recognize that my salvation is not achieved by works; there is nothing I can do to make myself right in Your eyes. I acknowledge that Your Only Son, Jesus Christ, came as a man to earth to die for me, and that through His death and resurrection, You have given me Your gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. I turn to You and accept You as my Lord and Savior.

Thank you for making me spiritually alive. Amen.”

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17



Ministry of Reconciliation
HEALING THROUGH PRAYER