



Final Answer

“Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation.”

Psalm 35:9

What is salvation?

Salvation is defined as deliverance by God from God and His wrath (Rom. 5:9–10). God is holy and righteous and our sins against Him cause His wrath to burn against us, which can continue forever (Ex. 34:6–8; Deut. 29:24–29, 32:21–22; Ps. 11:4–7; John 3:36; Rom. 1:18–32, 5:5–8; 2 Cor. 5:18–20; Eph. 5:6; Col. 1:21–22, 3:6; Rev. 14:9–11, 14:18–20, 19:11–15).

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

Salvation is made possible through Jesus Christ alone and **there is no possibility of salvation apart from Him** (John 1:29, 3:17–18, 4:42, 5:19–23; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:15; 1 John 2:2; Rev. 5:9). This is because Jesus our Priest laid down His life as the substitute **sacrifice** for the sins of His people (Isa. 53:6–12; John 11:50, 15:13; Rom. 5:17–19; 2 Cor. 5:14–15, 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 10:10, 10:12; 1 Peter 3:18). Jesus’ death and resurrection were a **propitiation** (appeasing God’s wrath, cleansing us from sin, and granting us mercy from God) for His people (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:14; 1 John 2:2, 4:10).

Scripture also uses the concept of **redemption** in explaining salvation, which means we were enslaved to sin (John 8:34; Rom. 6:6) and consequently Satan (Col. 2:15) and death. But then we are redeemed, or purchased, by Jesus’ death and resurrection to belong to God, righteousness, and life (Ex. 6:6; Deut. 7:8, 15:15; 2 Sam. 7:23; 1 Chron. 17:21).

As a result of Jesus, God’s people are now **reconciled** to God and each other (Rom. 5:10–11; 2 Cor. 5:18–21; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20–21). God’s people are also given Jesus’ triumph over the world, sin, death, and Satan/demons (Ps. 110:1; 1 Cor. 15:21–28; Eph. 1:20–23, 2:16; Col. 1:20–21, 2:13–15).

TERMS TO KNOW

Justified means to be legally acquitted from wrongdoing (salvation done in past time) (Rom. 1:17, 3:21–5:21; Gal. 3:11, Eph. 2:8–9).

Sanctification (salvation in present time), is the process of maturity as God conforms us to His Son’s image (Rom. 8:13, 29; 12:1–2; 1 Cor. 6:11, 19, 20; 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 1:28; Heb. 13:20–21). Sanctification fuses man’s responsibility, God’s work, and the church’s equipping in the process of a believer’s growth in Christ (Eph. 4:11–16; Phil. 2:12–13).

Glorification is the final completion of God’s purpose in salvation, which includes our death and resurrection (Rom. 8:17, 8:29; 1 Cor. 15; Col. 1:27, 3:4).

Will everyone be saved?

Simply, no. Hell does exist and sin against an eternal God is an eternal offense requiring an eternal payment to be made by God's enemies (Dan. 12:1–2; Isa.66:22–24; Matt. 5:22–30; 10:28; 25:46; John 3:36; Rom. 1:18–32; 2 Peter 2:4–22). When the Bible says that God wills that all would be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9) and that Jesus Christ died for all (1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2) and that all are invited to salvation (Matt. 28:18–20; John 3:16; Acts 16:31) it does not mean that all will be saved, but rather that all have opportunity to come to God through faith. The Scriptures are clear regarding the eternal state of punishment for unbelievers.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.”

Romans 1:16

Some will accuse God of being unfair, but if God were completely fair and just rather than merciful then all would go to hell and none would go to heaven. Also, God has the right to create people for His purposes (Rom. 9:22–25).

Is salvation possible after death?

No! **Hebrews 9:27** clearly states, **“It is appointed for a man to die once, and then comes the judgment.”** According to Jesus, those that reject Him go into eternal punishment (Matt. 25:46). There is simply no second chance for salvation or reincarnation in the Scriptures.

What is Repentance?

Repentance comes as a result of conviction from the Holy Spirit and results in a deep desire to change one's heart and ensuing life by God's grace. This includes repenting of sin and turning to Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation (Acts 3:19, 11:21, 14:15, 20:21, 26:18, 26:20; 1 Thess. 1:9; James 5:20).

What is Faith?

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen” Hebrews 11:1
Hebrews 11:6 states that **“Without faith, it is impossible to please God.”** The word faith is used 232 times in the Bible, and is **the primary way that man enters into a relationship with God**. God is not found through human reason (1 Cor. 1:21). Subsequently, faith is the medium by which God is known. This is primarily because man's reason is flawed and incapable of knowing God in this way. It is not a matter of the quantity of faith, but the object of faith, which is always God (Eph. 2:8–10). **Proverbs 3:5**, therefore, admonishes us to **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”**

Faith takes us beyond our reason and empirical abilities and allows us to see the spiritual world that God has revealed.

What is Grace?

Grace literally means a gift from God (Acts 15:11; Rom. 4:5, 11:5–6; Gal. 2–3, Gal. 5:1, 5:13; Eph. 2:1–10; Phil. 1:6) and reminds us that **we were saved by God's gift to us, and that our salvation had nothing to do with human works, religious or otherwise** (John 1:13; Rom. 9:16; Eph. 2:8–10; Titus 3:5–6). God's grace is His continuing gift to His people. It is a completely undeserved act of mercy that He bestows on His people. We are not only saved by grace, but we are established and empowered by God's grace in our lives (Acts 4:33, 6:8; 13:43; Rom. 3:24, 5:15, 12:16, 15:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 9:8, 12:9). In addition, we are given life and cleansing from sin by God's grace (Rom. 6:1, 6:14–17; 2 Cor. 6:1; Eph. 1:7, 2:5–8). God's grace also comes to His people by means of spiritual gifts that are unique abilities that enable Christians to serve God fruitfully (Rom. 12:6; 1 Peter 4:10). Therefore, Christians know that whatever good comes from their works is ultimately the fruit of God's grace working in and through them (1 Cor. 15:10).

Can Salvation Be Lost?

Some people wonder if a Christian can lose his/her salvation. The Bible, however, states that salvation does not belong to Christians but instead belongs to God (Jonah 2:9). Therefore, the question is not whether or not a Christian can lose their salvation, but rather whether Jesus can lose a Christian. According to Scripture, Jesus does not lose any people that God has given Him (John 6:39, 10:28, 17:12).

Paul is clear that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom. 8:35–39) and that even if or when we are unfaithful to God we are secure because He remains faithful to us (2 Tim. 2:13).