



FIRMLY
ROOTED

LESSON 2 - SALVATION
WWW.DISCOVERVCC.ORG

Lesson 2 - Salvation

THE NATURE OF YOUR SALVATION

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12

This passage tells us that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, the way to possess eternal life is to possess God's Son. The question is how can a person have the Son of God?

Trusting Jesus as your personal savior is the most important decision you will ever make. In this lesson we are going to examine salvation: what it is and what it means to you and how you can be assured of your salvation. We will also look at the next steps after salvation and answer the question "what I do now?"

Where do we get the term "born again Christian"? Jesus states in *John 3:3* that *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* There must be a second birth, a spiritual birth to enter heaven.

...let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:10-12

The Bible definition for the word "salvation" carries a greater meaning than just the thought of escaping the fires of hell.

"Salvation" denotes the whole process by which man is delivered from all that would prevent his attaining to the highest good that God has prepared for him. (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

It refers to saving your whole being; it means to rescue, to bring into safety, to deliver; it means health, deliverance from all that would interfere with the enjoyment of God's blessings; to deliver from physical evil or harm. It carries the thoughts of provisions and prosperity, abundant life and eternal life.

Lesson 2 - Salvation

FACTS ABOUT SALVATION: WHAT IT IS AND IS NOT!

Salvation is NOT related to physical birth. You are not born a Christian, you can't become a Christian simply by being born in a Christian home. You must be RE-BORN to be a Christian. *John 3:3*

Salvation does NOT come by reforming your life. You can't decide one day to start acting like a Christian and become saved because of it. Turning from a sinful life is a good thing but these efforts do NOT make you a Christian.

Salvation does NOT come by way of any external religious action.... such as baptism, communion, or church membership. Church membership is important. All Christians should join and get involved in a local church, but church membership is NOT salvation. Baptism and Communion are also important, but they are observances God gave us to teach us. They are not actions that save us. Becoming a Christian is never the result of anything we do. It is our simple act of believing in what God has done through Jesus Christ.

Salvation and being a Christian is NOT a list of do's & do not's. It's not a type of clothing, church membership, acting like a certain type of person, or being good and doing good deeds.

Salvation IS a personal experience. YOU decide...you respond to God. *John 3:3 says "YOU must be born again!"* Your parents, pastor, friends, spouse can't do this for you, nor can you do this for anyone else. It is a **personal** response to God.

Salvation IS a transforming experience. Upon salvation you are transformed, you become a new person, your goals are changed, and Jesus becomes first in your life. *2Corinthians 5:17 says "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* You do not change, but you ARE changed through the power of God.

Salvation IS an act of God's grace. Grace is getting something we do NOT deserve; mercy is NOT getting what we do deserve. The gift of salvation comes from the grace and mercy of God. We can do NOTHING to earn it. It is God given, God driven, God empowered. The gift is not from man to God through our efforts. It is from God to man.

Salvation and being a Christian IS having a personal relationship with God. It is receiving God's redemptive work instead of trying to stand on our own works and righteousness. *But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Isa 64:6*

Lesson 2 - Salvation

4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SALVATION

1. Salvation is from God, not from works or being good.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:8-10

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." 1 Cor 1:27-31

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3:6

2. Salvation is from Christ alone.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:12

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:7-9

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins: And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. Col 1:14, 20

3. Our part is to accept salvation.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

(It is a gift from God to be accepted.)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing

Lesson 2 - Salvation

of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:3-7

4. Salvation is not to be neglected.

Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? Heb 2:1-4

WHAT WILL SALVATION DO FOR ME?

The Word of God indicates that there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. For the believer, God promises eternal life in heaven with Him where there is joy unspeakable.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

Hell was not created for people; it was designed for the devil and the fallen angels; a place of darkness and despair, separate from the life of God.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 2 Peter 2:4

When you receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you can have the assurance that you will spend eternity with God in heaven.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

We must be careful to live our lives in a manner that is pleasing to God and be mindful of the fact that this world is not our destination. The things of this life are temporary.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor 4:17-5:1

Lesson 2 - Salvation

WHAT IS GOD'S RELATIONSHIP TO ME NOW?

God desires to be a loving part of your life. The Bible describes God as a loving father, someone who is faithful and trustworthy. When trying to understand spiritual things, it is important that you keep in mind the character of God. Come to understand who He is in your life. He is a loving father, a provider, a healer, one who gives guidance and wisdom. God is a giver and He wants to give to you!

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone. Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matt 7:7-12

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19

Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." Ps 35:27

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5

When you don't understand something, a good piece of advice is to stick to what you do know. Use what you know about God to determine what to do next. See things in light of the character of God.

FROM WHAT DO I NEED TO BE SAVED?

There are 2 kinds of people: children of God and children of the devil. When you received Jesus into your life you became a child of God. *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 1 John 3:9-10*

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12

When God created the heavens and the earth, He made man and gave him authority over this earth. *So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He*

Lesson 2 - Salvation

created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:27-28

God gave mankind all authority, dominion and power in this earthly realm. When Adam sinned in the garden, death came into the earth and sin separated man from God. Adam yielded his authority over to the devil (the serpent) so consequently the devil became the god of this world.

Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 2 Cor 4:4

God had a plan to rescue us from the power and dominion of darkness. He sent His Only Son to die on the cross to pay the price for the sin of mankind. Just as we were all identified in the sin of Adam, which brought death, we are all identified in the work of Christ and brought from death to life.

... for this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Cor 15:22

Sin no longer separates God and man. Jesus now stands between God and man as the perfect mediator. Mankind now has a choice - to live the God-kind of life or to remain in darkness under the influence of the devil. God's Word clearly indicates that there is coming a day when all things will be accounted for. Those who do not believe in Jesus the Son of God will be eternally lost in the fires of hell. Heaven awaits those who know the Lord. The choice is ours.

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Cor 6:2

HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I AM SAVED?

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:11-13

WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL SAVED?

Salvation is not based on feelings or emotions. It is based on faith. Some days you may not feel saved but, regardless of your feelings, you still are! *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Rev 3:20*

Lesson 2 - Salvation

The Word says that if you ask Him to come in He will. If you have asked, He came whether you feel like it or not. *And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life. 1 John 2:25*

6 THINGS THE WORD INSTRUCTS YOU TO DO NOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED

1. Let your mind be renewed with God's Word.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:1-2

2. Read, study and meditate on God's Word.

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
2 Tim 2:15*

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby: 1 Peter 2:2

3. Pray every day- prayer is simply talking to God.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess 5:16-18

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Philippians 4:6

4. Attend a good Bible believing Church on a regular basis.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

5. Be a doer of the Word and not a just a hearer.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who investigates the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-26

Lesson 2 - Salvation

6. Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Eph 5:18-20

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET SAVED?

Before Salvation you are under the curse of the Law

We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore, the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. Dan 9:10-11

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Deut 28:15

If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not take it to heart. Mal 2:2

After salvation we can experience God's love fully

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, Eph 2:4

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Rev 1:5

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. John 15:13-14

Lesson 2 - Salvation

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

We were doomed because of our sin

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 6:23

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, Eph 2:1

What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. Rom 6:21

"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die" Ezek 18:4

At salvation we were given God's grace & mercy

They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders what You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion. They appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them. Neh 9:17

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Eph 2:4-6

Before salvation we were separated from God

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. Rom 5:10

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Titus 3:3-4

After salvation we become God's children

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." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Rom 8:15-17

Lesson 2 - Salvation

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Gal 4:6-7

Before salvation we were enslaved by the devil

For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." Acts 8:23

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 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. Rom 6:16-17

Now we have freedom in Christ

Direct my steps by Your Word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Ps 119:133

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Rom 6:14

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Gal 5:1

We were slaves to death.

Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. Ps 13:3-4

Yet shall he be brought to the grave and shall remain in the tomb. Job 21:32

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Rom 5:17

We will be victorious over the grave.

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:55-57

He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. Isa 25:8

Lesson 2 - Salvation

*But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,
2 Tim 1:10*

COMMON OBJECTIONS TO SALVATION

I must give up everything, especially my life. Right now, the lost are like the walking dead. Jesus wants you to HAVE an abundant life.

Hey! I'm a good person. He doesn't work on a merit system – you can't earn your way to God. He works with FAITH!

If I get saved, I can't do anything that's fun anymore. Jesus RENEWS your mind, and in doing so your desires will change and you will WANT to do what's right.

I'll have to walk around with a Bible in my hands all the time. Most people don't walk around with a Bible all the time. It is not a sin if you don't.

If I get saved, I must be good ALL the time. This is impossible, even for a Christian. That's one of the reasons Christians pray and ask for forgiveness daily.

If I get saved, I must go to church EVERY Sunday. Your heart is the temple of God. The church is a place to go to learn what the Bible says and means. It is also a place of support where you can fellowship with other Christians.

If I get saved, I can't hang out with my friends anymore. Perhaps you could get your friends to hang out with you when they see the positive changes in your life.

If I get saved, it will be like being in prison. Getting saved is freedom from bondage. Don't fool yourself--if you aren't saved, you ARE in bondage to sin and Satan and that is like living in shackles and chains.

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SALVATION

- Water baptism is necessary for salvation.
- My salvation depends on which church I attend.
- Good works will save me.
- We are all God's children. He is a good God who will not send anyone to hell.

Lesson 2 - Salvation

- I have done too many bad things to be saved, God can't love me.
- I go to church on Sunday and have taken part in the sacraments so that makes me a Christian.



THE STEPS TO SALVATION

The ROMANS ROAD is a group of Bible verses from the book of Romans in the New Testament. If you walk down this road you will end up understanding how to be saved.

Are there any good people?

As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one. ~ Romans 3:10

Who has sinned?

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. ~ Romans 3:23

Where did sin come from?

Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ~ Romans 5:1

Since our sin must be paid for, what is God's price on sin?

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

Who paid the price for my sin?

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ~ Romans 5:8

There is only one way out. Ask God to forgive you and to save you!!

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ~ Rom 10:9-10

Lesson 2 - Salvation

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ~ Romans 10:13

Take God at His Word and claim His promise for your salvation.

THOUGHTS ABOUT SALVATION

The life of Christianity consists of possessive pronouns. It is one thing to say, "Christ is a Saviour"; it is quite another thing to say, "He is my Saviour and my Lord." The devil can say the first; the true Christian alone can say the second. *Martin Luther*

The thief had nails through both hands, so that he could not work; and a nail through each foot, so that he could not run errands for the Lord; he could not lift a hand or a foot toward his salvation, and yet Christ offered him the gift of God; and he took it. Christ threw him a passport and took him into Paradise. *D. L. Moody*

The Gospel tells rebellious men that God is reconciled, that justice is satisfied, that sin has been atoned for, that the judgment of the guilty may be revoked, the condemnation of the sinner cancelled, the curse of the Law blotted out, the gates of hell closed, the portals of heaven opened wide, the power of sin subdued, the guilty conscience healed, the broken heart comforted, the sorrow and misery of the Fall undone. *A.B. Simpson*

They've grown so accustomed to the dark, they don't even realize the lights are out. *Chuck Colson*

Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than being in a garage makes you a car. *Laurence J. Peter*

MEMORY VERSES

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Eph 2:8-9

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. John 6:37-38

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Romans 3:23-24

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

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Lesson 2 - Salvation

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:13

QUESTIONS FROM THIS LESSON

Please answer the following questions:

1) Am I saved even though I don't feel like it?

2) Can you list 2 misconceptions and common objections about salvation?

3) List 3 things that the Word of God instructs us to do after we are saved:
