

## The Gospel and Your Salvation

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Has anyone ever taken a Bible and explained how you can KNOW for sure that you are going to Heaven? If you will give me a few moments of your time, I would like to show you from the Bible the message of God's wonderful plan of salvation, and how you can be sure that you are going to Heaven when you die. Your life may soon change. This may be the greatest day of your life because when you understand and express faith in the Gospel (the good news) of Jesus Christ, you can know that you are saved from hell and going to Heaven when you die.

1 John 5:13 gives this reassuring promise:

*"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God (those who express personal faith in Christ); that ye may know that ye have eternal life (presently and in the future), and that ye may believe (continue to believe - possess ongoing faith) on the name of the Son of God" (resulting in assurance that you are always and eternally saved through Christ).*



Yes, if you express belief or faith in Christ, you can KNOW that you possess eternal life because God says you have it based upon the promise of His Word and the saving work of His Son Jesus Christ. Is this something that you would like to know? Think how wonderful it would be to actually know that you are going to Heaven when you die and not hell. Perhaps this is something that you have been struggling with and are deeply concerned about. Maybe you have never really reflected upon your need to be saved and prepared to meet God. Let's discover from the Bible how you can know that you are saved.

1 Timothy 2:4 reveals God's desire for you:

*"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*

God wants you to be saved, but you cannot be saved until your eyes and heart are opened to some important spiritual truths. The fact that God wants you to be "saved" means that Jesus came in to the world to be your Savior. This means that

Jesus came to save you from something which is the expression of God's righteous wrath and judgment in hell. Jesus is called "the Saviour" many times in the Bible (Luke 2:11; 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 3:4; 1 John 4:14). Because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He can become your Savior from hell today! This is good news!

The Bible declares that you must come to the place where you understand how to be saved by responding to the message of the Gospel through *repentance* (changing your distorted views and replacing them with God's views) and *believing* (expressing faith) in Jesus Christ to be your own personal Savior. You will learn all about this as you consider the importance of "The Gospel and Your Salvation."

## I. Understanding the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1 reveals this: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand."



1 Corinthians 15:3-4 goes on to explain the Gospel: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

The Bible speaks of the "gospel of your salvation" (Ephesians 1:13) which simply means that it's only through the Gospel that you can be saved. It is the "gospel of Christ" which "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16). In other words, you can only be saved from hell and go to Heaven by believing or expressing faith in the message of the Gospel.

The word "gospel" means GOOD NEWS! The Gospel speaks of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection from the grave. This is the greatest news you can know!

- In DYING for you, Jesus made the *payment* that God required for sin, which was the judgment in hell that you deserved for all the sins you committed against God. In taking your place, Jesus died *for you, as you, because of you, and in your place* (1 Peter 3:18).
- In His BURIAL, Jesus *proved* that He had died and paid the necessary judgment that God required for your sins (“It is finished” - John 19:30).
- In RISING from the dead, Jesus *promises* that He can give you acceptance before God and eternal life in Heaven (Romans 4:25).

## II. Answering the QUESTIONS about the Gospel and Salvation.

### A. Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross?

1. *Christ died on the cross because you have sinned along with everyone else in the human race.*



Romans 3:23 says: “For all have sinned (*missed the mark of God’s perfection*) and come short of the glory of God” (*God’s moral purity*). We have all lost our moral purity and cannot get it back without Jesus Christ. Like a red stain on a white shirt, sin has left a permanent mark on our lives. We cannot get

back to perfection (God’s standard for entrance into Heaven). Ecclesiastes 7:20 says: “For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” 1 Timothy 1:15 adds: “This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance (*acceptance or approval*), that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

Sin separates you from a holy and righteous God. God cannot accept you in His presence as a sinner. This is because God cannot look upon sin and sinners with His favor and acceptance.



Isaiah 59:2 illustrates this truth:

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.” Habakkuk 1:13 also states this about God: “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...” (*with His favor or acceptance*). Your sin is something that is absolutely horrible and repulsive to God. It is a detestable act in the sight of God’s absolute holiness and purity.

This means that God does not see you as a “good person” who possesses “good deeds” which can allow you to somehow earn or gain God’s favor, salvation, and entrance into Heaven. The Bible teaches the very opposite.

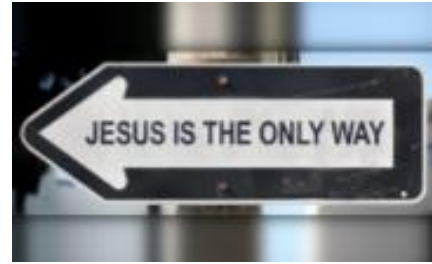
Ephesians 2:8-9 says: “For by grace (*God’s undeserved and unearned kindness which is displayed in Christ’s death*) are ye saved (*saved from hell*) through faith (*faith in Christ alone*); and that not of yourselves (*anything that you do*): *it is the gift of God (salvation is a free gift offered to you)*: Not of works (*no good deeds or works that you do*), lest any man should boast.”

The Bible teaches you cannot do anything that is *good* in God’s sight. This means your good deeds cannot gain God’s favor and save you. In order to be delivered from God’s wrath, you must transfer your trust away from yourself and place it fully in Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:10 says: “As it is written, There is none righteous (*perfect and sinless like God and accepted in His presence*), no, not one.” Romans 3:12 concludes: “there is none that doeth good (*not a single righteous person like God - perfect in every thought, word, or act*), no, not one.” This means that God sees you only as a sinner that deserves His judgment. He does not see any goodness in you at all. In fact, all of your good deeds or “righteousnesses are as “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6) in God’s sight because you are unclean and everything you do is tainted and stained with sin.

God’s perspective about good deeds is different than yours. As a sinner, you are separated from a perfect, righteous, and holy God and cannot produce any good works in His sight. You have sinned and are totally corrupt and defiled. Therefore,

you cannot do any good deeds that would allow you to merit entrance into Heaven. The bad news is that you lack the righteousness necessary to live with God in Heaven. Your only hope is Jesus! Jesus said in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, (*to live with the Father in Heaven*) but by me.”



This means that your denomination, your church, your baptism, your sacraments, none of your religious and good deeds can save you and take you to Heaven. Only Christ (without good works and religious deeds) can save you for He is the only “mediator between God and man” (1 Timothy 2:5). Only Christ can “bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). Many people express faith in their religious observances and rituals instead of placing faith *alone* in Jesus Christ to take them to Heaven.

There are many artificial barriers that *take away* and *get in the way* of placing faith in Christ alone for one’s salvation. They are enemies of the teaching of grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9). Religious observances and ceremonies (communion, mass, baptism, almsgiving, etc.) will often cause people to *bypass* faith in Christ and *hinder* them from placing their faith directly in Christ alone to be their Savior.



In order to receive God’s grace, many people are taught that they must pass through the church, their baptism, Mass, the Lord’s Supper, priests, and many more religious observances, so they can get to the cross and salvation. The Bible does not teach that you get to the cross and receive salvation and entrance into Heaven through religious observances or by any good works.

Jesus said, “I am the way” (John 14:6) - not baptism, church attendance, following the Golden Rule, or trying to do your best. Nothing you do can get you to Heaven.

It's only what Christ has done for you (the Gospel of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection) that can save you from hell forever.

Application: Do you believe and accept the above facts as being true? Do you understand from God's holy and righteous perspective that you are a bad person? Do you realize that you are a sinner, you are not righteous in God's eyes, and that your religious and good works cannot save you? Do you understand that only Jesus can save you?

*2. Christ died on the cross because God demands that you must pay a penalty for your sin (His judgment and wrath).*

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin (the *penalty we deserve for sin*) is death” (*eternal separation from God in hell*).

Hebrews 9:27 – “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (*judgment in the place called hell*)

Luke 16:23 says: “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...” Luke 16:24 adds: “And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”

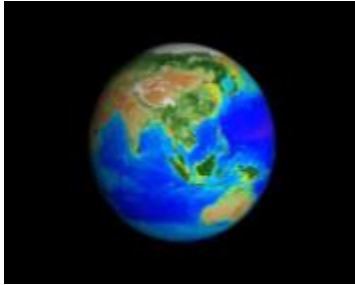


Revelation 20:15 – “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Many people no longer believe in hell but Jesus does. He spoke more about hell than He did about Heaven. God's righteous wrath against sin is part of His character.

Application: Do you believe and accept the fact that you deserve judgment in hell for your sins which separate you from God?

*3. Christ died on the cross because God loves you.*



John 3:16 says: “For God so loved the world (the *world of mankind*), that he gave his only begotten Son (to *die on the cross for you*), that whosoever believeth in him (*expresses personal faith in Christ*) should not perish (*die and go to hell*), but have everlasting life” (*eternal life in Heaven*).

Since there was no way for you to come to God, God decided to come to you! God’s love is the other side of His character. Because God loves you, He allowed His Son to die on the cross and wants to save you today.

Ephesians 2:4

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.”

When the Bible says that God loved the world (John 3:16), it is talking about loving people in the world. Yes, God loved you and He still loves you today!

Application: Are you aware that God the Father loves you? Do you believe that He loved you so much that He was willing to send His only Son (Jesus Christ) to die in your place? Do you know that He loves you today and wants you to be saved from hell?

*4. Christ died on the cross because He needed to take your place and become your substitute.*

1 Corinthians 15:3 - “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.” Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth (*displayed*) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Titus 2:14 says, “Who gave himself for us.”



This is very personal. Jesus died for you! Jesus had to die on the cross in your place to pay the necessary fine that God required for your sins. God is absolutely holy and righteous and demands that all sin must be punished. Jesus took your punishment and judgment.

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death (*spiritual separation from God in hell*); but the gift of God is eternal life (*unending spiritual life in Heaven*) through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

A righteous judge could never release a lawbreaker from the obligation to pay their debt to society. They would have to be punished for their wrongdoing. The same is true regarding God. He is righteous and must punish all sinners for their “wages of sin” (debt of judgment) they have acquired before God and are obligated to pay in the eternal fires of hell. However, instead of the sinner paying for his own debt of judgment, Christ died in the sinner’s place and paid the sinner’s debt (sin’s wages) before God, so that each sinner could be forgiven of his sins and set free from God’s wrath. On the cross, Christ paid the death sentence that was upon every sinner in the world.

Suppose you worked for someone and you earned fifty dollars. The *wages* that your employer is obligated to pay you would be fifty dollars. Fifty dollars would be your wages or what you earned. The Bible is saying because you have sinned (Rom. 3:23), you have earned the wages of spiritual death or separation from God in eternal judgment.



Here is the good news. Jesus Christ died to pay God’s necessary judgment or *fine* for your sins. In other words, He died to pay the *wages* you deserved which were God’s wrath and judgment in hell. The Bible teaches that Jesus DIED on the cross in your place (“the just for the unjust” - 1 Peter 3:18), so you don’t have to pay the penalty of sin’s judgment in hell. Jesus absorbed God’s wrath that was intended to land on you. Christ successfully paid for your “sins wages” when he “gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:6). If you by faith receive Christ’s payment plan for you, by personally believing on Christ and what He did for



you, then you do not have to experience sin's wages in hell or eternal separation from God.

If you were in the hospital dying of cancer and another person could come to you and say, "I want to do something wonderful for you. I want to take all the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body." What would happen to the person that took your cancer? That individual would die.



What would happen to you? You would live. Why? It's because another person took the cancer cells that were causing your death and placed them upon himself, and he died as your substitute.

The Bible says that Jesus took the spiritual cancer of your sin, which was the cause of your spiritual death and condemnation before God (John 3:36), and placed it upon Himself on the cross. Jesus actually died in your place, taking your own punishment for sin, which you deserved. In doing this, Jesus became your substitute.

Application: Do you understand that you must be judged for your sins? Do you understand about your sin debt before God, the penalty of judgment that you must receive for your many sins that you have committed against God? Do you realize that Christ was your substitute and that He paid the full penalty that God required for your sins?

*5. Christ died on the cross to provide you with forgiveness of sins.*

Jesus is the remedy for your sin problem. Christ suffered and died upon the cross, becoming the Father's perfect substitute and satisfaction for your sins (1 John 2:2; 4:10), so you can through faith in His sacrifice be forgiven of all your sins forever. Hebrews 9:26 says that "He hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." You can have every sin "put away" (forgiven) through the sacrificial death of Christ.

This includes your PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE sins. Christ died on the cross to provide you with complete and total forgiveness. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." When you believe in Jesus Christ, God credits forgiveness to your legal record in Heaven and He sees you cleansed of all your sins forever! "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven..." (Romans 4:7).

Application: Do you understand that only Christ can provide you with forgiveness? Are you ready to receive Christ's eternal forgiveness?

*6. Christ died on the cross to give you a righteous standing before God.*

The Bible declares again that "There is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10). Since you are a sinner who is unrighteous (*spiritually flawed and imperfect*) and therefore unaccepted before God's holy presence, you need to be given a righteous, perfect, and justified standing within the presence of God in Heaven. Romans 4:5 says: "But to him that worketh not (*who does no good works*), but believeth on him (*who today expresses faith in God through Jesus Christ*) that justifieth the ungodly (*God declaring those who deserve judgment legally righteous in His presence*), his faith is counted for righteousness (*your faith in Christ results in God giving you a righteous standing in His presence forever*).

Philippians 3:9 also concludes: "... not having mine own righteousness (*a perfect standing before God*), which is of the law (*the result of doing good works, trying your best, doing better than others*), but that which is through the faith of Christ (*Christ being the object of your faith*), the righteousness which is of God by faith" (*expressing simple faith in Christ results in God giving you a perfect and righteous standing in Heaven*).

All of these verses teach the same thing. They mean that when you express your simple trust or faith in Christ, God's perfect righteousness is credited to your legal record in Heaven. As a result, God accepts you in His presence forever. This is amazing grace! When you place your faith in Christ, you can say, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me."

Application: Do you recognize that God can only accept you in His presence through faith in Christ? Do you want a righteous standing before God?

## **B. Why was Christ buried and why did He rise from the dead?**

“And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:4). Jesus Christ was BURIED in order to PROVE that He had died on the cross and paid the necessary penalty for your judgment.



Jesus ROSE from the dead on the third day to confirm that God the Father (a holy and righteous God) had accepted His Son’s sacrifice as the necessary payment (fine) that He required for your sins, and to give you the PROMISE of acceptance before God in Heaven. The Bible says He was “raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25) which speaks of your legal declaration of righteousness and acceptance before God. In short, Christ arose to give you the promise of salvation from hell, legal acceptance before God, and eternal life in Heaven.

In John 11:25-26, Jesus taught:

“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (*a reference to physical life in the resurrection*): And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die (*a reference to spiritual and eternal life*). Believest thou this?

Jesus taught that because of His own resurrection and life, you can have the assurance that you will “never die” from a spiritual perspective. You will never be separated from God’s presence in hell. Instead, you are given the promise of eternal life because Jesus is alive! Think about it. Only a living Christ can give you the promise of eternal life (John 3:15-16).

Upon receiving Christ’s promise of spiritual and eternal life, you are “born again” as Jesus taught (John 3:3, 7). This means that you receive new spiritual life which

comes from God. It's a life of *quantity* (it's everlasting life in Heaven) but it is also a life *quality* (new transforming life). Jesus said in John 10:10 that "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly." Yes, you receive this new life when the resurrected Christ comes to live within you!

Application: Do you understand and accept these resurrection facts as being true? Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead to prove He paid the necessary judgment that God required for your sins and that He is alive today to give you eternal life?

### **C. How can you be saved by the Gospel – Christ's death, burial, and resurrection?**

*1. The Bible says you must REPENT in order to be saved by the Gospel.*

Jesus taught in Luke 13:3: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (go to hell when you die). Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 17:30 states that God "commandeth all men every where to repent."



When you REPENT, you simply change your mind and attitude about sin, Jesus Christ, and your need to be saved. This means you admit that you are a sinner who deserves hell, that Jesus is the only way to Heaven, that your works (good deeds) cannot save you, and you desire to be released from your sins and be forgiven forever. In short, you must repent of anything that keeps you from coming to faith in Christ. 2 Peter 3:9 reveals that God is "not willing that any should perish (*die and go to hell*), but that all should come to repentance."

Application: What spiritual barriers are keeping you from trusting in Christ to be your Savior? Is anything keeping you from being saved today? Do you long to be freed from your sins and receive God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ alone? If so, you are ready to believe on Christ.

2. *The Bible says you must BELIEVE on Christ in order to be saved by the Gospel.*



Acts 16:31 declares: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” John 3:16 adds that “whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Many people believe ABOUT Jesus Christ but this does not save anyone. Even the demons believe about God and Jesus Christ (James 2:19) but they are not saved. A person must believe ON Jesus Christ to be their Savior.

When an individual believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, they are actually committing their personal faith and eternal destiny to Christ alone (2 Timothy 1:12) for their salvation from hell. They are committing their faith to the fact that Christ died for them, that Christ took their judgment upon Himself, and that He was buried and rose from the dead to give them salvation from hell and everlasting life.

When you believe in Christ, you are fully trusting or relying on Christ to save you from hell, grant you forgiveness of sins and eternal life forever, and give you legal acceptance before God in Heaven through His death, burial, and resurrection (the Gospel). It’s faith in what Christ has done for you that takes you to Heaven.

This means you must express personal belief in Jesus’ DEATH on the cross (His *payment* of judgment for your own sins) so you can be delivered from the wrath of God. You must also express faith in Jesus’ BURIAL (the *proof* that Jesus died) and RESURRECTION (the *promise* that Jesus lives). Jesus was buried and rose from the dead to give you eternal life and a new way of life. Think about this. You could never live forever in Heaven unless Jesus rose from the dead, conquered death, and went to Heaven Himself.

Jesus promised in John 6:47, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” Believing on Jesus Christ means you are willing to *take a step of faith, or make a personal decision* to trust



Jesus Christ to be your Savior and give you eternal life, which is based on what Christ did for you on the cross and in His resurrection. In other words, you must CHOOSE to express personal faith in Jesus Christ, believing that His death and resurrection will save you from hell and give you the free gift of eternal life in Heaven.

Romans 6:23 gives another promise of eternal life: “For the wages of sin *is* death (*spiritual separation from God in hell forever*); but the gift of God *is* eternal life (*spiritual life with Christ in Heaven forever*) through Jesus Christ our Lord” (because *of what Christ has done to save you*). John 3:36 also says, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.” The Bible promises that you will possess “eternal life” immediately and forever when you transfer your faith to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (the Gospel message).

Understanding the nature of faith is very important. Faith is not passive or indecisive. True belief occurs when you are willing to *transfer* your faith to Christ by a definite act of your will. The Bible states that “whosoever will” may come to Christ and express simple faith in Him (Revelation 22:17). Our will is involved when expressing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Faith or belief in Christ can be illustrated in several ways. Here is a chair. If I were to ask you to believe it would hold you, you may conclude that you believe it would support you. At this point, you have *agreed* to this fact. If I then ask you to sit in the chair and you do, you are now *acting* upon what you know and believe to be true and are fully trusting in the chair to support you. If the chair remains empty, you have not yet expressed faith in it.

You need to sit on a chair so it can support you. Standing beside the chair will not support you but when sitting down on the chair you are trusting in the chair to support you. It is one thing to believe that the chair will hold you up. It is another thing to sit down on the chair and trust the chair to hold you up. Biblical faith is compared to sitting on the chair. It involves personal reliance and transferring your trust in Jesus Christ to save you. Expressing



faith in Jesus Christ means not only *agreeing* and being *persuaded* that He can save you, it involves making a *choice* to commit your faith to Him, fully trusting in what He has done to save you.



Think of faith in this way. You must get into a lifeboat to be saved! Unless you make a choice to get on board, you won't be saved. In a similar way, you might agree that Christ can save you but you must make the choice to commit your faith to Christ in order to be saved. It is one thing to believe

that the lifeboat will save you from drowning but it is an altogether different thing to step into the lifeboat and rely upon the boat to save you. When you sit in the lifeboat you are trusting in the lifeboat to save you. Biblical faith is stepping into the lifeboat. It involves personal reliance and trust in Jesus Christ to save you. Have you ever placed this kind of belief in Jesus Christ?

You must get into an airplane to arrive at your destination. Of course, without making a personal choice to get on the airplane, you would be left behind. Jesus is the way to Heaven (Acts 4:12) but you must allow Him to save you by choosing Him to be your Savior.



Jesus is your lifeboat that saves you from hell and the airplane that takes you to Heaven, but you must commit your faith to Jesus alone in order for Him to become your Savior. Jesus died to be "the saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14) but you must allow Him to become your personal Savior by expressing personal faith in His death, burial, and resurrection (the Gospel) to save you.



Placing personal faith in Christ is explained as **CALLING** on Christ to be your personal Savior. This is a *choice*. Romans 10:13 says: "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (*from hell and be given eternal life*). When I call upon Christ, I am praying to Him and depending upon

Christ alone to become my personal Savior. I am making a personal decision or choice to trust in Christ alone for my salvation.

Placing personal faith in Christ is also explained as RECEIVING Christ as your personal Savior. This is a *choice*. John 1:12, "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." You cannot receive something without choosing to receive it. If your doorbell rings and someone is waiting to give you a package, you must choose to accept the package. In a similar way, when you receive Jesus Christ, it means you *choose* to express personal faith in Christ for your salvation.



Placing personal faith in Christ is also compared to COMING and TAKING a refreshing drink of water from Jesus. This too is a choice. Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."



The Bible compares eternal life to "the water of life" which is an eternal and refreshing drink from Christ that we must take and drink if we are going to receive the benefits of it. Elsewhere the Bible states that "the gift of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23) is something we must receive, similar to a present or gift. A true gift has no strings attached to it. It is free to receive.

Suppose a friend telephoned you and said, "I have a gift for you. I'd like to give it to you today but you must come to my house and pick it up." Is your friend offering you a free gift? Yes! Did you earn this gift? No! Will going to your friend's house mean that you have earned this gift? No! It is still a gift. But if you want it, you must take it. A gift can only be received. It cannot be earned. This is what it means when God's Word says "take the water of life free" (Rev. 22:17). When we believe on Christ we choose to come and receive what He is offering us – the free gift of eternal life.



This means that expressing faith in Christ is a personal decision. You must CHOOSE to be saved. You do not go to Heaven by default. You cannot be saved from hell until you express personal faith in Christ which is explained as *calling* upon Christ to save you, *receiving* Christ as your Savior, *coming* to Christ for His salvation, and *taking* His offer of eternal life. The old hymns says:

“Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come.”

When you believe on Christ, you come to Him and receive what He wants to give you, which is salvation and eternal life. These simple expressions (calling, receiving, coming, taking) explain what it means when you express faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (the Gospel) to save you. Faith is not dead. You must *transfer your faith to Christ* and place all of your confidence and reliance upon Christ to save you from hell.



CALLING upon Christ, RECEIVING Him as your personal Savior, COMING to Christ, and TAKING His offer of eternal life all convey the same truth. They mean that you must *make a choice* to personally believe on Christ to be your Savior, transferring all of your faith to Christ alone, and allowing Him to give you salvation and everlasting life in Heaven.



Think of it like this. There was a time when you were born and there must be a time when you place your faith in Christ to save you and are “born again” spiritually as Jesus taught (John 3:7).

The saving provisions of Christ's sacrifice (forgiveness before God, freedom from sin's penalty, free gift of eternal life and a righteous standing before God) are applied to your life when you place your faith alone in Jesus Christ. Christ did

everything to save you, now you must simply believe on Him, which means you are willing and ready to commit your faith to the Gospel facts about Jesus Christ, that He DIED, was BURIED, and ROSE again to give you salvation and eternal life.

Let's bring everything to a conclusion.

- Are you ready to repent of the spiritual barriers that might be keeping you from placing faith in Jesus Christ to be your Savior?
- Do you want to be released from sin's penalty (judgment) and power (slavery) over your life?
- You have believed ABOUT Jesus Christ - are you now ready to believe ON Jesus Christ to be your Savior?
- Are you ready to come to Christ for salvation and receive Him as your own personal Savior?
- Do you want to express personal faith in Christ right now, transferring your faith to Christ alone for salvation?
- Would you like to pray (calling upon Christ) and tell Jesus Christ that you are trusting in Him to be your Savior?

If so, you can pray, expressing your OWN repentance and faith in Christ to be your Savior. I'd like to share a prayer with you. It's a prayer that you can pray that might help you express your own repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

If you are ready to believe on Christ and receive Him as your Savior, experience the forgiveness of all your sins, receive a righteous standing before God, and be given the free gift of eternal life, then express faith in Christ right now. Remember that tomorrow may be too late! You may enter eternity without salvation. "To day if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 4:7). Allow Christ to save you today by believing in the Gospel - the GOOD NEWS of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

It's time to pray and believe on Christ. Make the following prayer your own expression of faith in Christ. Always remember that it is Christ alone that saves you.



**Your personal prayer of faith:**

“Dear God, I do repent of my sins and want to get rid of all the barriers that would keep me from expressing faith in You. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and have done many wrong things. I understand that I cannot save myself. I want to be forgiven and released from my sins. I believe that Jesus died on the cross, taking my judgment and hell in my place, that He were buried and rose again the third day to give me the promise of eternal life. Right now, I am expressing my personal faith in Jesus Christ to be my Savior from hell and to give me the FREE GIFT of eternal life, so I can go to Heaven when I die. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you have prayed this prayer with sincerity of heart (Romans 10:10), expressing faith in Christ, you can claim this wonderful promise of Christ: **“Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:47)**. This means God has accepted you as His child forever and you are now going to Heaven!



Yes, you can now KNOW that you are saved and possess eternal life when you have transferred all of your faith to Christ to be Your Savior.

Claim the promise of 1 John 5:13: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God (*those who transfer their personal faith to Christ*); that ye may know that ye have eternal life (*possess everlasting life right now and forever*), and that ye may believe (*continue to believe*) on the name of the Son of

God” (resulting in assurance that you are always and eternally saved through Christ).

If you have come to personal faith and salvation in Christ, let us know about it. Below is our contact information. We would like to pray for you personally in your new Christian faith and journey.

- Berean Bible Church: 675 Lincoln Gardens Road, Ephrata, Pa. 17522
- Phone: 717-733-6114
- Internet: [www.bereaninternetministry.org](http://www.bereaninternetministry.org) (click on “contacts” button).

Record the DATE and TIME when you were saved and keep rejoicing in God’s salvation.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_