

Believe Series
“Salvation”

How do I have a relationship with God?

When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

“Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Genesis 3:8-13 (NLT)

So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.²⁴ After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:23-24 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

God wants a relationship with you.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:8 (NLT)

The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

We believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 (NLT)

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12 (NLT)

Salvation comes by grace.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

Salvation comes through faith.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:37-38 (NLT)

Salvation involves both an internal decision and an external expression.

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

Acts 3:19 (NLT)

What do you believe?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Read Believe Chapter 3: Salvation.

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word salvation?
2. Do you feel like you can adequately explain salvation to another person? Why or Why not?

What parts of the process are difficult for people to understand or accept?

3. Re-read Ephesians 2:8-9. Who in your life (without naming names) is someone that doesn't deserve your love and kindness but you offer it to them anyways?

Why is grace so powerful?

4. Re-read John 3:16. Salvation is based on belief or faith. What other things in our lives do we take on faith alone?
5. Re- Read Romans 10:9-10. Why is it important to both believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord?
6. Can you pinpoint a moment or chart a sequence of moments in time when you realized that Christ died for you? How would you describe that process for you?
7. Who in your life needs salvation? How can you take the next step to help them understand what that means?