

Assurance of Salvation

Read Ephesians 2:8–9.

The popular notion is that God accepts good people and rejects bad people. Most people, whether in Christianized countries or those steeped in other religions, usually operate under the idea that God accepts or rejects people based on some level of goodness and/or religious performance. The whole book of Ephesians rejects this premise, and Ephesians 2:8–9 specifically refutes it: “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.”

1. How are we saved?
2. What does grace mean?
3. Can we save ourselves?
4. Faith is a gift from who? Salvation is a gift from who? How do we receive salvation?

Read Romans 10:9–10

These verses are not establishing public confession as a prerequisite for salvation. Rather, it is asserting that, when someone trusted Christ and subsequently confessed Him as Lord, knowing that persecution was sure to come, that individual gave evidence of genuine salvation. Those who are saved will confess Christ as Lord because He has already instilled faith in their hearts. As with baptism and all good works, public confession is not the means of salvation; it is the evidence of salvation.

5. What 2 things must we do to be saved?
6. With the heart we do what?
7. What does justified mean?
8. With the mouth we do what?
9. What does profess mean?

Read Titus 3.4-5

Sometimes Christians develop spiritual amnesia. Forgetting where they came from, they cease to show compassion to unbelieving family members, neighbors, and fellow citizens. For this reason, the apostle Paul urges believers to remember their lives before knowing Christ [Titus 3:3-6]. It's easy to get puffed up with pride and act self-righteously toward the lost when we forget our own shipwrecked condition before salvation. It was the goodness and kindness of God that reached down into our messed-up, sin-filled lives and rescued us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross (Romans 5:8; Romans 2:1). Our good works did not save us (Ephesians 2:8). It was God's mercy "by the washing of regeneration [being born again] and renewal of the Holy Spirit," generously poured out on us "through Jesus Christ our Savior," explains Paul.

10. What 2 qualities does God demo in v4?
11. Why did God save us?
12. What part did we play?
13. What part did the Holy Spirit play?

Read Acts 4.12

Peter is explaining to the Sanhedrin whose authority he used to heal a lame man (Acts 3:1–10). Specifically, the council asks, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" (Acts 4:7). Peter claims that he did it through the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 4:10). One's "name" includes the sense of one's identity, power, authority, and reputation. Jesus' name is the only name that saves. "Salvation" is from a word that means "deliverance and preservation" and can imply rescue in a worldly, physical context, such as from enemies, or it can suggest eternal spiritual rescue. The salvation that Christ offers delivers us from sin and hell and preserves us, or keeps us safe, for heaven (John 10:28).

14. What does this verse teach us about salvation?

Read John 3.16-18

15. What did God do because he loved us?
16. When we believe what do we receive?
17. Why did God send Jesus into the world?
18. We are saved by who?
19. What happens to those that do not believe?
20. Why are people condemned?

INVITING JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE IS AS SIMPLE AS ABC

A = Admit

- Admit that you have sinned. *Romans 3:23 ... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
- Admit that all the good things you do will not get you to heaven. *Titus 3:4-5 ... God showed us his kindness and love by saving us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy.*

B = Believe

- Believe that God loves you. *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.*
- Believe that Jesus died for your sins. *Romans 5:8 ... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- Believe that God wants you to go to heaven. *2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

C = Call

- Call on God. *Romans 10:13 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*
- Call for God's mercy (repentance). *Luke 18:8-14 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*
- Call for God's salvation (faith). *Acts 16:29-34 , what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--*

Salvation is a free gift from God. He gives us salvation based on what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross.

The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for us, bearing in His own body the punishment of God for our sin. God's justice was paid in full with the Lord's sacrifice.

Those who accept, receive, and believe are saved from the wrath of God our heavenly Father.

If you are ready, to receive this free gift, pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me right now. Amen!