

Basic Salvation Principles

Introduction

Where shall we begin? Where shall we start? What is the most effective verse(s) in the Bible for one's salvation? Well, a good starting point is knowing that God loved the world so much that he gave his only son for the sake of the world as a sacrifice for their sins.

We must believe in order to get saved that God sent his only Son to die on the cross so that we shall have faith in him and get saved from eternal destruction.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. - John 3:16

There is no other way to heaven to God other than through our Lord Jesus Christ. No amount of good work can sanctify us and no human or angels or another creature can save us from eternal condemnations and wrath of God.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." -Acts 4:12

Jesus said, unless we are born again from the Spirit by confessing our sins and believe in him to be the sacrificial lamb for the sin of the world that God prepared for our sanctification, we will not enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus answered,, "Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. - John 3:5

Bible tells us if we confess our sins and declare that Jesus is our Lord and believe with all our heart, we are saved. As simple as that. God is faithful and we will never regret the day we got saved from the kingdom of darkness and migrate to an extraordinary Kingdom of God.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." - Romans 10:9

Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. - 1 John 5:10

We also need to believe that the blood of Jesus has the power to cleanse us from any sin when we confess our sins to him.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9

As for the time to get saved, the Bible says, now is the best time to get saved. It is not later and never say tomorrow. You don't know tomorrow. You have today and use it wisely. The best decision of your life is the day you invited Jesus into your life.

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. - 2 Corinthians 6

The Issue of Grace

Grace is the most important concept of Salvation. It is very important to understand that our salvation is simply undeserved gift from Father God to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

The gift is fully paid off by Jesus when he died on the Cross. It is like somebody paid of your mortgage and the house you are enjoying now is free. Somebody sacrificed his life for you to enter the kingdom of God. That is Jesus and the only requirement to get saved today is knowing the truth and the truth shall set you free from the bondage of sin.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires

and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 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. - Ephesians 2:1

The Issue of Worship

Whom shall we worship? Who deserves to be adored and get all the glory?

When the three wise men encountered baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, they worshiped **only Jesus** and presented their precious gift to him. It doesn't indicate they worshiped Mary or Joseph or presented their gift to them. Jesus is the King of kings and we should only worship him.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. - Matthew 2:12

The Bible specifically instructs us to worship only God and should not have any other gods before Him.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; - Exodus 20:3

When Barnabas and Paul heard of the people are trying to worship them as gods, they humble themselves before God by reaping off their clothes and telling the truth to the people.

And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our heart with food and gladness. And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them. - Acts 14:11

When John fell in front of an Angel of God to worship him, the Angel told him not to do it as only the God head (Father God, the Son and Holy Spirit) deserve to be worshiped by their creations.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. - Revelation. 19 10

Jesus is worthy of our worship since he died for the sin of the world. He was slain like a sheep and he didn't complain.

And they sang a new song, saying:

*"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."*

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”*

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the
sea, and all that is in them, saying:*

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”*

*The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped. -
Revelation 5:9*

They holy men of God in the Bible disgraced themselves when it comes to the issue of Worship and they specifically said, “Worship only God”. The Angel of God said, “I don’t deserve any of the Worship. Worship only God.” Since they didn’t die for the world and took the shame and guild that was upon u.

Jesus took the image of a slave and disgraced himself just to save us. Although He sit in the image of God in the heaven as no one can see God, He didn’t even think for a second that he could stripped Himself of all privileges and rightful dignity when He took that flesh. What a powerful love we see in Jesus. It is unprecedented and never will there be the same kind of Love forever more.

“Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Only Jesus can show who God is really look like. Jesus is the closest we can get to God the father. Holy Spirit explains the Will and Purpose of God for our lives. God is a living fire, and no one can see him and shall live. We all will be consumed in a second if it were not by his Mercy and kindness.

The Issue of Intercession

Whom shall we go to when we are in big trouble, someone who can intercede for us to get back to normal with our heavenly father?

Well the Bible tells us Jesus intercede for us.

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ
Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. - 1 Timothy 2:5*

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” -Luke 22:31

When Peter was in big trouble in terms of his relationship with God, Jesus prayed for Peter and God listened to Jesus’s prayer about Peter and help Peter to get back to track. Interesting!

God himself made a promise when this priest was appointed. But he did not make a promise like this when the other priests were appointed. The promise he made is, “I, the Lord, promise that you will be a priest forever! And I will never change my mind!”

This means that Jesus guarantees us a better agreement with God. There have been a lot of other priests, and all of them have died. But Jesus will never die, and so he will be a priest forever! He is forever able to save the people he leads to God, because he always lives to speak to God for them.

Jesus is the high priest we need. He is holy and innocent and faultless, and not at all like us sinners. Jesus is honored above all beings in heaven, and he is better than any other high priest. Jesus doesn’t need to offer sacrifices each day for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. He offered a sacrifice once for all, when he gave himself. The Law appoints priests who have weaknesses. But God’s promise, which came later than the Law, appoints his Son. And he is the perfect high priest forever. - Hebrews 7: 21

There were so many candidates for the position of eternal intercession between man and God. But none qualified for the job because none raised from the dead to continue the job they have started on earth in heaven.

Only Jesus qualifies since death cannot hold him in the grave. Therefore, he continues what he was doing on earth in heaven. He used to intercede for our faith when he lived on earth and now, he intercedes for the entire world by sitting on the right hand of his father. If anyone comes to him by faith, believing that Jesus died the death of a sinner, he can save them from eternal death through the blood he shed on that cross.

The other qualification for the job of intercession is purity before God. No one is pure since all have sinned against God. Only Jesus is holy and innocent before God. He is the only one on earth and heaven who can come between the sinner and the wrath of God, which is like fire predestined to do justice for

God is holy. Jesus's blood is an eternal atonement and a beautiful fragrance that cools off the wrath of God when God smells it ever day for eternity.

Others cannot even save themselves let alone become an eternal atonement for whoever believe in Jesus. They too need the blood of Jesus to get right with God.

*There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,[i] through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.*

We praise God for sending his son to die on the cross for the sake of the sinner and design a way to establish eternal friendship with him through Christ Jesus who is our high priest. He always intercedes for us when we got in trouble and prepares a way out.

*What I mean is that we have a high priest who sits at the right side of God's great throne in heaven. He also serves as the priest in the most holy place inside the real tent there in heaven. This tent of worship was set up by the Lord, not by humans.
- Hebrew 8: 1*

The priesthood of Jesus Christ is eternal. Jesus Christ is the same today, tomorrow and forever. He doesn't change. The only thing that is needed from us is to believe in him who is faithful to bring peace to our lost soul.

That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. - 2 Corinthians 5:19

God reconciliation is from him, by him and to him. Salvation is designed, prepared and executed by God.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. - 1 John 5:12

There is no other option to be saved and escape from the eternal death. There is no alternative other than Jesus that God has prepared for humans to be saved. No Jesus, No life. Period.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. - Matthew 16

The best thing you can do to save your life from the danger of eternal fire is lay it on the hand of Jesus Christ. Any other option we take to save it is a guarantee for death. Jesus will never let you down. Once you put your trust on him, he is faithful to keep it safe and be able to present it to the father.

For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." - Romans 10:13

Just calling his name when you are in great trouble will bring safety and salvation for your soul. God listens to us when we truthfully cry out to him by faith.

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. - Ephesians 2:8-9

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. - John 3:17

Therefore, there is no one below or above the earth except Jesus that is given to human beings to carry their sin and burn on the cross. There is no one for us except Jesus to care for us and bring our case before the most fearsome God and be able to win the case.

There is no one except Jesus who can face God for the sins of human beings since the wrath of God on the sinner is great. Jesus Christ intercedes for us when we are short of the glory of God due to our rebellious nature.

Others may feel pity for us but nothing more. But he can give us grace that will help us triumph over our enemies. He set a practical example for us to learn how we can defeat the devil by obeying God till death. He has already sent us his Spirit to live in us who always intercedes for us even when we don't know how to pray.

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. **Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.** Who shall*

*separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or
famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

Holy Spirit also intercedes for us. The Spirit of God which is living in us always intercedes for us according to the will of God.

Since it is God's Spirit, he knows (in 100% match) the will of God for our lives. Since he is also God, he knows exactly what is in our heart. Therefore, he prays for us even if we don't know what to pray and what exactly Holy Spirit is praying for us. Interesting! Jesus is praying for us in Heaven sitting on the right-hand side of his father. Holy Spirit is also praying for us on earth living inside of us if we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. - Romans 8:26

John put in a very understandable language also. He said we should keep all the commandments of God but as a human being, if we messed up now and then, he said, we have an advocate with our father.

What it means is that Jesus is asking the father for forgiveness as don't know nothing – not even the right from the left. We saw that Jesus intercedes for Peter. We also read in the Bible Jesus Interceding for the men who crucified while he was still in pain (He said, "Father, please forgive them as they don't know what they are doing").

Now, as you read this article, Jesus is praying for you and me to make it to heaven. Interesting!

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. - 1 John 2:1

Can We Lose Our Salvation?

The answer is simply "YES!"

I don't want to trick you by saying empty words. I am not here to keep your spirit up in the air by telling a lie. Yes, we will lose our salvation if we consider it worthless. If we don't guard it as something that is the most precious thing, we ever received from someone, even better than life itself, we will end up selling it to the devil with the cheap price. That is what Esau did with his birth right, the right to be the first born. He sold it for a bowl of soup. That is how much his birth right worth to him.

The Bible teaches us, there is a sin that deserves eternal death.

If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. - 1 John 5:16

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.” Hebrew 6:4

The above scripture shows one can possibly lose his/her salvation. Salvation comes through believing Jesus, but it is not a one-time act. It governs and defines how we should behave and act the rest of our lives. One can argue it is possible that a person might not be saved in the first place instead of saying he lost his salvation. In other words, it is easier to conclude that one salvation cannot be lost. It is easy to put the issue at the beginning of the foundation of one's Christianity that is one's salvation rather than the type of lifestyle one leads.

I do believe that the day of our salvation has nothing to do with what kind of life we may lead after that. I think the lifestyle we follow every day is based on our choice to love or to hate. To listen to the word of God or not. Just like the day of our salvation we choose to obey God and give our lives to him.

There is always a time we will be tempted to revolt against God and to disobey his commandments. Even if Holy Spirit is always with us to comfort us in times of failures and moment of disbelief, the choice is still ours to follow the path of righteousness or not.

As Paul mentioned in this place, it is always difficult to correct someone who knows all these facts but chooses to deny Christ. I don't know why someone would want to do that, but the end is worse than the person didn't know the truth in the first place.

In addition to this passage, we have several similar warnings and advices about such issues in the Bible.

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. As has just been said:

*"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." -
Hebrew 7-12*

Here it shows that, we should fight sin and the deceitfulness of sin every day to be confident and blameless. Jesus Christ has finished all the work that needs to be done for you and me to be saved. There is nothing left that we must do to finish the work. This means if we believe in him and die right away, we will inherit the kingdom of God.

But as long as we live in this flesh, we need to keep the good work that our Lord has started in us and be faithful to him all the time. In times of trouble and sin, we should always come to him by faith with true repentance.

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?

*Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" -
Matthew 7:19-23*

Here Jesus warns anyone who thinks he can get into the kingdom of God without first experiencing the kind of relationship God wants through his Son, Jesus Christ.

It is possible that one can prophesize or cast out demons but not know Jesus Christ personally or do it with the wrong motive. Now a days, this is not far from the truth. We see many do all manner of bad things in the name of Jesus, but it is far from what Jesus would want or do if He were in their place. It is seriously advised here that anyone who thinks is standing should watch his steps since falling can happen any time.

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. - 1 Corinthians 10:11

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." - Matthew 24:9-13

“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ and again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” - Hebrews 10:26-31

Here it touches the main point of abusing the grace of God by living sinful life repeatedly and not willing to surrender the sinfulness of the heart to the Lord.

It is understandable that one can go through an addictive way of life that is sinful and brings disgrace to the Lord. This behavior is like a bird in cage or a fish inside a fishing net which always enslaves one to the same sinful behavior again and again.

One may also ask that there is no way a believer can be addicted to sin. I would say that this is not true. As long as we are living in this flesh, we are tempted and often time defeated by the will of the flesh.

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do— this I keep on doing.

Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is in living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. -Romans 7:14

Paul mentioned in this place that the spirit and the flesh are always at war. The flesh wants to do what it pleases without thinking about the consequences since it is pleasing to it. The Spirit wants to please God and to do what is good and honorable and stay away from all forms of immorality.

There is always this battle between the spirit and the flesh and occasionally one defeats the other and this is all because we are human beings. Moreover, there is nothing we can do to overcome this issue except throw ourselves under the mercy of God with humility and broken heart.

One may ask if we are always under the umbrella of sin and grace, how can one lose his salvation?

I will leave the answer to this question to God as He knows the hearts of men. I don't even know about me. Only he knows the beginning and the end. I just want to present the truth about the characteristics of our salvation according to the Bible. It is not my intention to judge anyone here. We all are going under different circumstances and it is very clear to me that flesh always wants contrary to what the Lord wants for our lives

Moreover, I want to emphasize that our salvation doesn't come freely so we shouldn't take it for granted. Jesus Christ paid his life for us so we should never abuse the blood that redeemed us the wrath of God.

In conclusion, the concept of losing one's salvation is directly related to the nature of relationship with our father in heaven through the fellowship of Holy Spirit. This relationship must be worked out the way we establish and maintain a good relationship with our family and friends. It must be taken very seriously. It must be nourished.

It is also important to rely on the grace of God without abusing it. Those who intentionally abuse the blood of Jesus and displease the Spirit of God in whom we are destined for eternity, there is no forgiveness of sin! It is all lost! Salvation is Lost!

For such a person, it is much better that s/he were never born if s/he intentionally abused the grace of God repeatedly since the grace of God doesn't give any license to sin.

*See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.** - Hebrews 3:12*

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: **No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them.*
- Ephesians 5:3

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God** - Galatians 5:19-21*

Paul's warning to Timothy make it evident that unless we watch our steps closely, we may slip and fall away from grace.

*Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because **if you do**, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:15*
