

## EVIDENCE OF MY SALVATION?

Everywhere in this world we find heartache, strife, sickness, poverty, injustice and a host of other ills. Why can't men live in peace and enjoy the good things in this earth? The Bible gives us the answer to these questions and tells us how to be born again and what that means. He tells us in His Book that all the troubles in the world are due to either my sin or someone else's. All of mankind is sinful, thus separated from the holiness of God. The Bible says that men and women can only find salvation in Christ Jesus.

**"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).**

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

What exactly is sin? If you asked ten different people, you might get ten different answers. Some might say that sin is "doing something wrong or breaking the law", while others might say that sin is "hurting another person or taking an innocent life." Still others might deny the very existence of sin, saying that there is no such thing as right or wrong-- in short, that there are no real absolutes in this world. However, most people agree that there are certain actions that are wrong, and should be punishable by fines, imprisonment or even death.

Even the person who "doesn't believe in right or wrong" would have a hard time observing a maniac rape and murder a small child, and say that what happened to them was not a crime.

Sin is a terminal disease that eats away at the very heart of this planet. It destroys individual people, families, cultures, even the earth itself. Our world is defiled by it, yet most people cannot even give a definition of the word, or grasp the true gravity of the situation. What is sin? Surely sin is more than ten different opinions from ten different people. Is there any final authority on this subject?

The Bible says that sin is a *heart condition*. It is a condition of rebellion against God, which stems from pride. The Bible even refers to pride as "original sin." The Hebrew definition of the word sin means "to miss the mark." God created us to be like Him, but our pride and rebellion make us fall far short of that purpose. Our actions, though they may be "sinful" are really only the *fruit* of our rebellion against God. Our outward actions merely mirror our true inner condition. It is our true inner condition that God is concerned with. He knows the "real you" better than you yourself do, because he sees "the inner man" and all your secret thoughts and motives.

**"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13**

**"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8**

Though one may lead a "good life" on the outside, God looks on the heart. It is the nature of man to look on the outward, but outward appearances can be deceiving.

**"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed *appear* beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Matt. 23:27-28**

We cannot deal with our sin by "cleaning ourselves up" the outside, when our problem is a heart condition. **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." John 8:34** We are all slaves to our sinful nature, and we can only be cleansed from within.

Since sin is the root cause of all our troubles, we must deal with our sin first if we want less troubles in our lives. How do we get rid of sin? God tells us in His Word that by nature we are **"...dead in trespasses and sin;" (Ephesians 2:1)** and that we are **"...alienated from the life of God..." (Ephesians 4:18)**. Just as a body without physical life is declared physically dead, so anyone who is separated from God is described in the Bible as spiritually dead. As long as we remain spiritually dead, we cannot know God.

We all need a new life. We need to be cleansed from sin and its penalty (which is death) and restored to fellowship with God who made us all. That is what Jesus Christ (God's Son) meant when He said we **"must be born again" (John 3:7)**. **"...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3)**. Without the experience of the "new birth" we have no hope of enjoying the glories of heaven or escaping the terrors of hell. Have you been born again?

The "new birth" is **not a religion, not living up to a creed, not a set of rituals, or joining a church or denomination**. It's a transformation. Our old nature is changed and we receive a new one. Old things pass away and all things become new in Christ. We receive a new heart, new desires, new ideas, and a new direction because of this new nature. A birth is the coming into being of a new life which has the nature of its parents. When you were born the first time, you were made a partaker of the nature of natural man. When you are born again, you become a partaker of the divine nature (**2 Peter 1:4**). God can become your heavenly Father.

The greatest attribute of God is that He is a God of love. He loves you and me. He loves all sinners and wants to save every one of us from hell and the terrible results of our sin. His Word tells us, **"But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)**. **"For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21)**. God hates sin because of what it produces-- war, sickness, poverty, etc., but God loves the sinner.

God sent Jesus Christ, His only Son, so that we might have new, everlasting life. The Bible tells us, **"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)**. By His death and resurrection, Jesus paid for our salvation. He broke the power of sin and death, making it possible for us to have everlasting life. The life of God raised Jesus from the dead and He was the first born Son into the kingdom of God.

**"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:12-18).**

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was nailed to a cross by ungodly men for no sin of His own. He was an innocent man-- the only man who was ever perfect and sinless. He never sinned, yet He took your sins and mine by taking an unjust death. Because He did this willingly, He was raised from the dead by His

Father and given life and authority over the powers of darkness. God now imparts that same life and authority to all those who come receiving His provision for their sin. **"...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7)**

We must accept God's Word that says we all are sinners and know that it is sin that separates us from God and repent or "turn away" from that sin. Until we each acknowledge, and ask forgiveness for our own guilt, we will never be free from it. It will eventually lead us right into hell.

**"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9)**

God wants to give us His power over sin. We cannot conquer sin without that power. God wants to give us life for death, beauty for ashes, health for sickness, joy for grief, peace for strife, and love for hate. God's Word says, **"...I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)**. Do you want abundant life? This abundant life comes only as we are born again and as we follow on and receives all that God promises us.

It isn't always easy following God, but nothing worthwhile ever was. You may be ridiculed and persecuted. You will face many temptations to fall back into your old nature. But you can be assured that God is with you, and He will give you power to overcome every one of them.

**"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Phil 3:7-9**

#### Question:

**"What does the Bible say about knowing that I have salvation through Christ?"**

**Answer:** Confirmation is defined as a sacrament, a ritual or a service often performed by **MAN**. In some traditions, generally Catholic and Anglican, the sacrament of confirmation is the ritual by which a young person becomes an official member of the Church. This sometimes includes the bestowal of a "confirmation name," generally the name of a saint, which is often used as a second middle name. Those who practice confirmation believe it signals the initiation of the baptized into full church membership and a personal, mature acceptance of the faith. Catholics and Anglicans recognize confirmation as one of seven sacraments.

Each individual must determine the state of his/her soul based on several criteria's. First, we are confirmed by the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts. **"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:16)**. **When we accept Christ as Lord and Savior**, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts and gives us assurance that He is present and that we belong to Him, and He also teaches and explains spiritual things to us (**1 Corinthians 2:13-14**), thereby confirming that we are new creations in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

We are also confirmed in the faith by the evidence of our salvation. **1 John 1:5-10** tells us that the evidence of our salvation is manifested in our lives: *we walk in the Light, we do not lie, and we confess our sin*. **James 2** makes it clear that the evidence of faith is the works we do. *We are not saved by our works, but our works are the evidence of the saving faith in us*. Jesus said, **"By their fruits you will know**

them” (Matthew 7:20). The spiritual fruit produced in us by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) is the confirmation that He lives within us. Therefore, we are told to “examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5). In addition, Peter tells us to “make your calling and election sure” so that we will “receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11).

The final “confirmation” of our salvation is, of course, in the future. Those who are true Christians, the Bible tells us, will persevere to the end, “eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end” (1 Corinthians 1:7-8). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, “Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14). This, then, is the true meaning of confirmation—salvation was purchased by the blood of Christ in whom we have faith, it is evidenced by our walk with Him, and it is confirmed to us by the Holy Spirit within.

### Are speaking in tongues a necessary sign of salvation

Many people teach that speaking in tongues is a necessary manifestation of the Holy Spirit and without it a person is not truly saved. It is so important to them that churches have altar calls for people to come up and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit so they could speak in tongues, but there is never any altar call for people to come up and receive Jesus as their savior.

We see in Acts that many people who became Christians immediately spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6). But is it a necessary sign of salvation? No. It isn’t. Consider the following verses in 1 Cor. 12.

- **1 Cor. 12:7-11**, *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup>To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; <sup>10</sup>To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."*
- **1 Cor. 12:29-30**, *"Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? <sup>30</sup>Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?"*

We can see that the Holy Spirit gives gifts as He desires. He distributes them upon His people in the church as He wills (1 Cor. 12:11). It states in 1 Cor. 12:7-11 that different people have different gifts and we see in verses 29-31 that not all speak in tongues. Now, many will state that all are supposed to speak in tongues, but that not all do. They maintain that speaking in tongues are a necessary sign gift of true salvation and that a true believer **will** speak in tongues. But, that is not what the text says.

Paul asks the questions: Are all apostles? No. Are all prophets? No. Are all teachers? No. In other words, within the body of Christ, different people are called by God to have different gifts. If someone states that all are supposed to speak in tongues, but that not all do, then are all supposed to be apostles as well but not all are? Are all called to be prophets? Are all called to be teachers? No. Likewise, not all are called by God to speak in tongues.

It is simple. Not all speak in tongues because God doesn't use tongues for a certain season or time in that individual. Speaking in tongues is not **the** sign of salvation, but **a** sign and yes an outward evidence of baptism of the Holy Ghost. The most important thing that we must remember is that there are 9 distinct operations of the Holy Ghost mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. Not just tongues! God uses all 9 for HIS

purpose and we should never overlook that one of the 9 mentioned is faith. If anything, the fruit of the indwelling Spirit of God is listed in **Gal. 5:22-23** is **the** sign of salvation.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).*

What is **the** biblical sign of salvation, tongues or the fruit of the Spirit?

You can pray right now and ask God to come into your heart and receive the new birth. Simply talk to Him as you would talk to another person. You might pray a prayer similar to this:

*Dear Lord Jesus, come into my heart. Forgive me of my sin.  
Wash me and cleanse me. Set me free.  
Jesus, thank You that You died for me.  
I believe that You are risen from the dead and that You're coming back again for me.  
Fill me with the Holy Spirit.  
Give me a passion for the lost, a hunger for the things of God  
and a holy boldness to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
I'm saved; I'm born again, I'm forgiven  
and I'm on my way to Heaven because I have Jesus in my life.  
-Amen-*

If you said that prayer and meant it from your heart, you are now a child of God. You will need to do four things faithfully every day so you will grow in God.

### **1. Read God's Word daily.**

You need to read and study God's Word (the Bible) every day. This is how you will learn about God's ways and how to overcome your problems and troubles. His Word brings strength to your spiritual nature. If you do not have a Bible, make your first prayer request to God to supply you with one.

**"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15).**

**"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:10-17).**

### **2. Pray to God daily.**

We must fellowship and talk to God if we are to hear His guidance and learn of His nature. We are promised that all of our needs shall be met if we will only ask the Father in the name of Jesus.

**"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14: 13-15)**

**"Seek ye first the kingdom of God , and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).**

### **3. Fellowship with like believers daily.**

Ask the Lord to show you the people you are to pray and fellowship with. He does not want you to be alone in your Christian walk. We need one another's prayers, encouragement, and love to grow in God.

**"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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 10:24-25).**

### **4. Keep your heart pure before the Lord daily.**

Ask God to cleanse you of all sin and impure thoughts and motives. Satan, our enemy, will try to break our fellowship with God by getting us back into sin or trying to get us angry at God. Guard against this by resisting the devil daily.

**"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).**

**"Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).**