

## *Arbor Foundations*

### 8 – The Gospel Part 2: What’s involved in being saved?

Nov 4, 2018 – John Raquet

#### **Key Ideas / Biblical Basis**

In the last lesson, we looked at various aspects of salvation, with emphasis on what the gospel is. This week, we are going to look at salvation from more of a practical point of view. Along these lines, we will address two questions:

1. What must I do to be saved?
2. What happens when I am truly saved?

#### **A. What must I do to be saved?**

When this question comes up in Scripture, the consistent answer is to repent and believe. The overall picture is that repentance and belief go hand in hand, which is evidenced in part by the fact that many scriptures will just list one or the other when talking about what one must do to be saved, as shown in the table on the next page.

What is true belief? True belief/faith involves three things:

1. Understanding of the gospel (we know the basic facts)
2. Approval of the gospel (we say those basic facts are true)
3. Personal trust in Christ (we actually trust Jesus to save us)

Just understanding the gospel is not enough. Even the demons know the facts (James 2:19). Additionally, just approving the gospel (saying it’s true) is not enough. Nicodemus agreed that Jesus was a teacher sent from God (John 3:2), but did not yet have saving faith, because he did not yet “believe in him”. The Bible speaks of a personal response, not an intellectual assent:

- John 1:12: But to all who did *receive* him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
- John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever *believes in him* should not perish but have eternal life. (Note: doesn’t say “believes him”, which would be basic approval of the gospel.)
- John 6:37: All that the Father gives me will *come to me*, and whoever *comes to me* I will never cast out.
- John 7:37: If anyone thirsts, let him *come to me* and drink.
- Matt 11:28-29: *Come to me*, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Take my yoke upon you*, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Heb 7:25: Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who *draw near to God* through him

***Repentance and Faith/Belief are Both Necessary for Salvation***

Reference	Text	Repentance	Faith/Belief
Acts 20:21	testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of <i>repentance</i> toward God and of <i>faith</i> in our Lord Jesus Christ.	X	X
Heb 6:1	Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of <i>repentance</i> from dead works and of <i>faith</i> toward God	X	X
Mark 1:15	The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; <i>repent</i> and <i>believe</i> in the gospel.	X	X
2 Cor 7:10	For godly grief produces a <i>repentance</i> that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.	X	
Acts 2:37-38	Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, " <i>Repent</i> and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.	X	
Acts 3:19	<i>Repent</i> therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out	X	
Acts 5:31	God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give <i>repentance</i> to Israel and forgiveness of sins.	X	
Rom 2:4b	... not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?	X	
John 3:16	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever <i>believes</i> in him should not perish but have eternal life.		X
Acts 16:31	And they said, " <i>Believe</i> in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."		X
Rom 10:9,11	because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and <i>believe</i> in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved....For the Scripture says, "Everyone who <i>believes in him</i> will not be put to shame."		X
Eph 2:8-9	For by grace you have been saved <i>through faith</i> . And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.		X
1 Tim 1:16	But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.		X
1 Cor 1:21	For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who <i>believe</i> .		X

In a very similar way, true repentance involves three things:

1. Understanding that sin is wrong
2. Approval of the teachings of scripture regarding sin (sorrow for sin and hatred of it)
3. Personal decision to turn from it (decision to forsake sin and lead a life of obedience to Christ instead)

Paul speaks of a godly grief that leads to repentance, indicating that grief for sin by itself is not the same thing as repentance: *As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.* (2 Cor 7:9-10)

## **B. What happens when I am truly saved?**

1. The Holy Spirit lives within us.
  - John 14:16-17: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
  - 1 Cor 6:19-20: Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

His indwelling is the cause of all of the other things that are listed in this section.
2. We grow in our Christ-likeness and obedience to God. This is a process referred to as “sanctification”, which is a lifelong process of becoming more and more like Jesus.
  - 1 John 2:3-6: And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
  - Rom 6:19: For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. [Note: This verse strongly implies that sanctification is growing in righteousness, just as previously lawlessness led to more lawlessness.]
  - 1 John 3:6,9: No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him...No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. [Note: These verses are talking about making a practice of sinning, not saying that we will

live perfect lives. Earlier in the book, John says that we lie if we say we have no sin (1 John 3:18)]

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

Sanctification is a result of our salvation, NOT the cause of it. It is important for us not to confuse justification with sanctification—these are two different things, as shown by the following table (Grudem):

<b><u>Justification</u></b>	<b><u>Sanctification</u></b>
Legal Standing	Internal condition
Once for all time	Continuous throughout life
Entirely God’s work	We cooperate
Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

Also, it is important to recognize that sanctification is a process, not something that is completed this side of heaven. A true believer should normally expect to grow in godliness over time, albeit with ups and downs along the way. There are many scriptural commands to “put our shoulder to the wheel”, so to speak, in terms of putting in effort to grow in our sanctification, at the same time recognizing that it is God working in us. Both our need to exert effort and God’s role are shown in Phil 2:12-13: *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

3. We have a love of God’s word and recognize it as God’s very words. Psalm 119 does a good job of describing this:
  - v. 16: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
  - v. 24: Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.
  - v. 40: Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!
  - v. 47: for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.
4. We have a true and deep love for other believers, who we see as brothers and sisters in Christ.
  - 1 John 3:14: We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
  - John 13:35: By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

5. We have a sonship relationship with God the Father, and recognize him as our loving heavenly father.
  - Rom 8:15-16: For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

### **So What?**

1. The gospel call is to repent AND believe. What does it look like if we only call people to repent without speaking of the need to believe in Christ? What does it look like if we only call people to believe without speaking of the need to repent?
2. When we observe other people, we cannot see their inner thoughts perfectly, and only God can know with certainty whether someone is his child or not. Think of some situations in which it would be helpful/necessary for us to make some level of judgment call about whether someone is a believer or not. How can the characteristics of true believers given above help us in this respect? What cautions should we have when using these characteristics to ascertain whether someone is a true believer?
3. Can someone be saved by “walking the aisle” and making a profession of faith and repentance? Is it possible for someone to “walk the aisle” and make a profession of faith and repentance and still not be a believer? How do the evidences in part B above come into play?

### **For Further Study**

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/faith>

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/repentance>

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/sanctification>