

10. The Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment.

All human beings need to be saved. We are sinful by nature and need to admit and repent of our sins, and receive Christ as our sinless Substitute.

- We have all sinned and come short of God's glory. Romans 3:23 u Our sinfulness alienates us from God and alienation leads to further sin. Romans 8:5-8 u The Holy Spirit points out our need for repentance. John 16:7-8
- We need to recognize and admit our sinfulness. I John 1:8-10 u We need to repent. Acts 2:38
- We cannot save ourselves, we need a Saviour. Titus 3:3-7

Texts for further study: Galatians 3:13-14; 1 Peter 2:21-22

Through faith we receive our Saviour Who forgives us for our past, gives us assurance of eternal life, brings about our adoption as sons and daughters of God, and gives us power to live holy lives.

- Faith and salvation are God's gifts to us. Ephesians 2:5-10; Luke 17:5
- We receive faith through hearing the Word of God. Romans 10:17
- By faith we accept Jesus as our Saviour. John 3:16
- By faith we receive forgiveness and justification. Romans 3:21-26
- By faith we are adopted as God's children. John 1:12; Galatians 4:4-7
- By faith we are delivered from evil and given the assurance of eternal life. Galatians 1:4; 1 John 5:13
- By faith we are born again to a new life. John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23
- By faith we are changed to be more like God. Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 2 Peter 1:3-4
- By faith we receive power to live a holy life. Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 8:1-4
- God has promised to write His law of love on our hearts to help us obey "from the heart." Hebrews 8:7-12
- God also promises to forgive us as we confess our sins. I John 1:7-9

Texts for further study: Mark 9:23-24; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:6-10, 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26

Personal Application

-  Why is the Christian life called a new life?
-  Why is it impossible to live a holy life without God's power?

Commitment

- I recognize that by nature I am alienated from You, God. It is only because You have provided a Saviour that I can receive eternal life. By faith I accept Your forgiveness, cleansing, and deliverance from sin. I accept Your gracious offer of adopting me into Your family and Your power for living a holy life. Father, I look forward to spending eternity with You.