



### What Do We Need to Be Saved From?

1. We need to be saved from the penalty of sin.  
This is a state of “justification.” (John 3:16–17)  
— **Justification** means to be declared righteous; to be vindicated or acquitted.  
— **Justification** is “just as if” I’d never sinned—a completed action.
2. We need to be saved from the power of sin.  
This is a state of “sanctification.” (Philippians 2:12–13)  
— **Sanctification** means being set apart by God to live with a new way of behaving and to become more and more like Christ.  
— **Sanctification** means to not be in bondage to anything—a present process.
3. We need to be saved from the presence of sin.  
This is a state of “glorification.” (Romans 8:23–24)  
— **Glorification** is the final state of all believers who, with transformed, imperishable bodies, will live forever in the presence of God—a future condition.  
— **Glorification** means there will be no more death, crying, pain, thirst, or sin. (Read Revelation chapter 21.)

*“God did not appoint us to suffer wrath  
but to receive salvation  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:9)

### Common Attitudes and Actions of Many Unbelievers

#### Attitudes

- Feeling unfulfilled
- Feeling lonely
- Feeling restless
- Feeling disillusioned
- Feeling empty
- Feeling a lack of peace

#### Actions

- Performance-based acceptance
- Self-reliant, living by one’s own resources
- Attention-getting behavior
- People-pleasing behavior
- Compulsive behavior
- Dependency on drugs, alcohol, food, people
- Ego-oriented, self-centered

*“He died for all, that those who live  
should no longer live for themselves  
but for him who died for them  
and was raised again.”*  
(2 Corinthians 5:15)

### The Root Cause of Unbelief

- **Wrong Belief:** “I have my own way of determining how to live, and total dependence on Jesus Christ is not necessary.” (Proverbs 14:12)
- **Right Belief:** “I accept the Bible’s teaching that total dependence on Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life is the only way to eternal life. I can find lasting fulfillment, not in popularity, possessions, position, or power, but in experiencing the very life of Jesus Christ in me.” (John 14:6)

### Key Verses to Memorize

*“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.  
For God did not send his Son into the world  
to condemn the world, but to save the world  
through him. Whoever believes in him  
is not condemned, but whoever does not believe  
stands condemned already because they have not believed  
in the name of God’s one and only Son.”*  
(John 3:16–18)

## Key Passage to Read

John 3:1–21

## Common Mistakes in Counseling Nonbelievers

- Offering counsel for a superficial problem without getting to the root problem
- Assuming a person is saved (Matthew 7:21–23)
- Assuming a person understands biblical salvation
- Getting sidetracked
- Answering questions not asked
- Trying to push a person into salvation
- Offering only “fire insurance”
- Offering only a “ticket to heaven”
- Not presenting the cost of an obedient walk with Christ (Luke 14:28)
- Feeling personally responsible for another person’s salvation (John 6:65)

*“I write these things to you who believe  
in the name of the Son of God  
so that you may know  
that you have eternal life.”  
(1 John 5:13)*

## Common Concerns of Nonbelievers

- **Wrong Belief:** “God would never accept me. ... You don’t know what I’ve done.”  
**Right Belief:** The issue is not what you’ve done, but what Christ has done for you. (1 Timothy 1:15; Isaiah 1:18)
- **Wrong Belief:** “God could never forgive all my sins.”  
**Right Belief:** God not only forgives your sins, but He “remembers them no more.” (Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12)
- **Wrong Belief:** “I can’t give up my sins.”  
**Right Belief:** If you become a Christian, the power of Christ *in* you will be greater than the power of sin *over* you. (John 8:36; Philippians 4:13)
- **Wrong Belief:** “There are many ways to God.”  
**Right Belief:** The Bible repeatedly affirms that Jesus is the only way to God. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

- **Wrong Belief:** “I want to become a Christian, but I don’t want to make a decision now.”  
**Right Belief:** Not making a decision is still a decision—it’s a decision against Christ. (Matthew 12:30)
- **Wrong Belief:** “I might be harassed or hated.”  
**Right Belief:** True, every authentic Christian will be opposed and oppressed (John 15:18, 20). But you will not be overcome by trouble. (John 16:33; Proverbs 29:25)
- **Wrong Belief:** “It’s too late for me.”  
**Right Belief:** It’s never too late for a heart to be changed by God. (2 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Peter 3:9)

## God’s Plan for Freedom

### 1. God’s Purpose for You ... is *Salvation*.

- What was God’s motivation in sending Jesus Christ to earth?  
To express His love for you by saving you! (John 3:16–17)
- What was Jesus’ purpose in coming to earth?  
To forgive your sins, to empower you to have victory over sin, and to enable you to live a fulfilled life! (John 10:10)

### 2. Your Problem ... is *Sin*.

- What exactly is sin?  
Sin is living independently of God’s standard—knowing what is right, but choosing what is wrong. (James 4:17)
- What is the major consequence of sin?  
Spiritual death, eternal separation from God. (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23)

### 3. God’s Provision for You ... is the *Savior*.

- Can anything remove the penalty for sin?  
Yes! Jesus died on the cross to personally pay the penalty for your sins. (Romans 5:8)
- What is the solution to being separated from God?  
Belief in (entrusting your life to) Jesus Christ as the only way to God the Father. (John 14:6; Acts 16:31)

### 4. Your Part ... is *Surrender*.

- Give Christ control of your life, entrusting yourself to Him. (Matthew 16:24–26)
- Place your faith in (rely on) Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and reject your “good works” as a means of earning God’s approval. (Ephesians 2:8–9)

## Prayer of Salvation

“God, I want a real relationship with You. I admit that many times I’ve chosen to go my own way instead of Your way. Please forgive me for my sins. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. Come into my life to be my Lord and my Savior. Change me from the inside out and make me the person You created me to be. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.”

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

(John 5:24)

## Questions and Answers

**“How do I know for sure if I am saved—what assurance do I have?”**

God does not want you to doubt your salvation, but to be assured of it. The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus, you are given the Holy Spirit as a “seal,” which secures your salvation and guarantees that you have eternal life.

*“You were also included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.”*

(Ephesians 1:13–14)

**“If we are not saved by our works, but by our faith, why does the book of James say that ‘faith without works is dead’?”**

The primary purpose of the book of James is to communicate not how to be saved, but rather what your life will be like after you are saved. James lets us know that true faith in Christ transforms your character and your conduct.

*“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

(James 2:17)

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