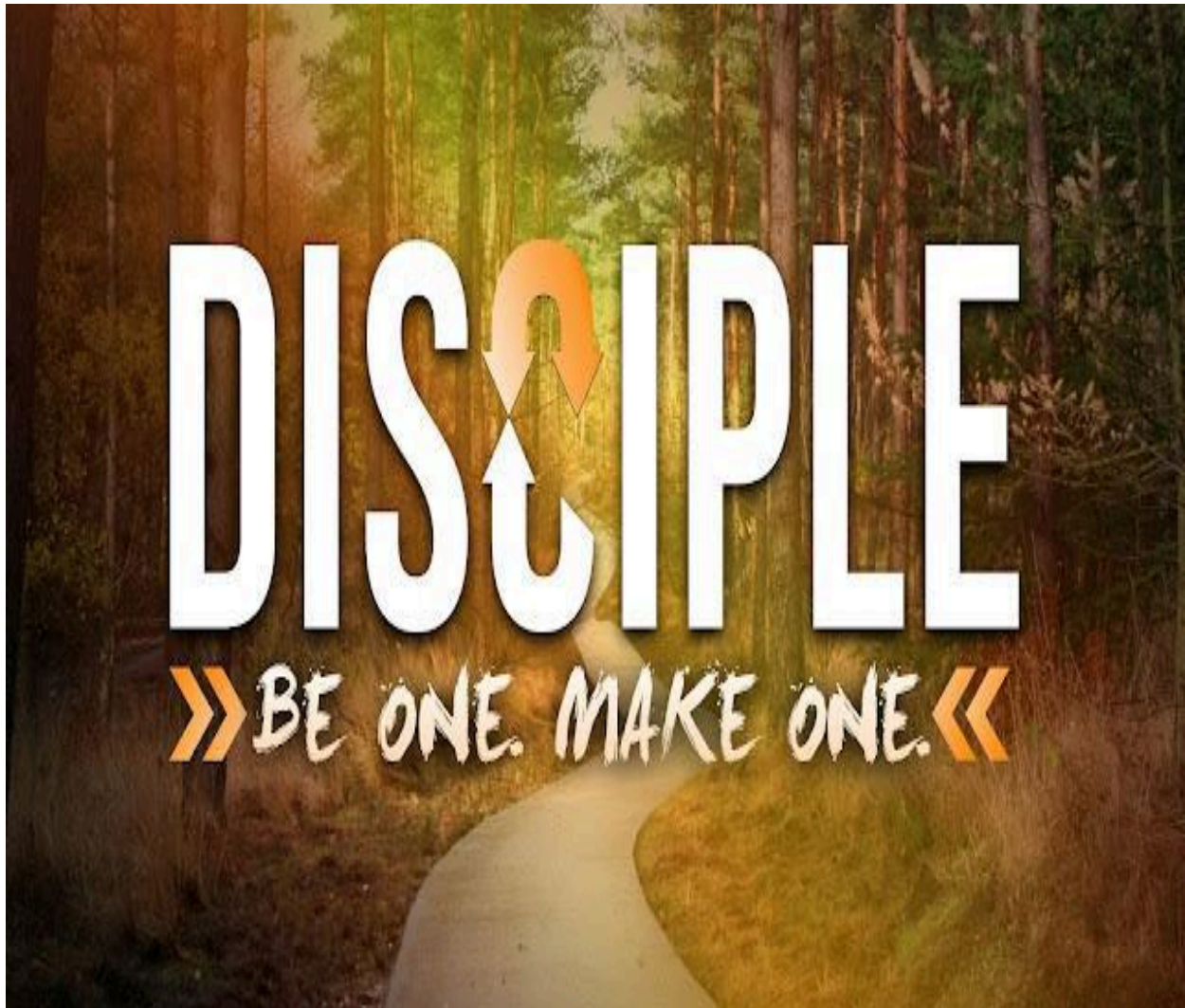




Study #2: Salvation and Eternal Security

Fundamental Doctrinal Bible Studies for new Believers

A Discipleship Strategy

Study #2: Salvation and Eternal Security

Believers in Christ have reason to be sure of our salvation because we are saved not by our merit but because our salvation comes from the Lord as a gift of His grace and love for us. He chose to die for our sins. He resurrected because He is a God of life and life is one of His greatest gifts to those who have faith in God. Man does not go to heaven because of his sin but God has given us forgiveness *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, (Colossians 2:13).* Thus, whatever happens in life (*Romans 8:28–38*), the person who trusts Christ for salvation will go to heaven when they die because God Himself assures the believer that they now possess *“an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” (1Peter 1:4).* The salvation that God offers is secure precisely because it is an act of God’s grace, and there is no way it can depend on human merit or good works for its fulfillment. It is simply a gift that is impossible to earn. *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (Romans 3:24).”*

Do you think man can guarantee or win his salvation into eternity with God?

Listen what the Holy Spirit is telling the Church: *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal 2:16)*

No one can be justified, made right with God by obeying the Law, it is impossible.

1. Salvation

God, by His grace, justifies us (not counting our sins for condemnation) because of our belief in what He promises. Our faith in Him is what justifies us. We are justified in Christ Jesus who, though we are sinners, died for us, taking our place for forgiveness and freeing us from the eternal consequences of sin. We are saved because Jesus gave us His righteousness without the need to fulfill the law (perfect obedience to God). Salvation means:

- being delivered from the condemnation we deserve for our sins. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1*
- being delivered from a state of death to life in God. *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Ephesians 2:1*
- being freed from the power of evil and of Satan and, by Gods favor, we are placed under the grace and lordship of Christ. *“...who has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” Colossians 1:12–13*

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- being taken out of darkness and placed in spiritual light. *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” Ephesians 5:8*
- entering the eternal kingdom of heaven. *“...He has given us new birth... to an incorruptible inheritance... reserved in heaven.” 1 Peter 1:4, John 3:36*
- becoming part of God’s family. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12*
- Obtaining forgiveness of sins through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. *“...in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:14*
- Having peace with God. *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God.” Romans 5:1*
- Believing in the power of Jesus for eternal life. *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life.” John 3:36*
- There is no doubt that salvation has a cost, sacrifice, and suffering Our salvation cost Jesus much. ²⁴ *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*
- We are justified by faith on to salvation, it is not an to be ashamed of but to glorify God power and grace. ¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*
From the study of God’s Word, we learn that God saves us from ourselves, from our lust, from our continual thoughts of evil, greed, and selfishness.

Explain in your own words what salvation means to you:

2. Grace

Grace is Gods favor, undeserved toward those who believe in Him and those who believe His Word. It is unearned, unending, kindness freely given even though we are all unworthy of it. Grace is an essential part of God’s character. Grace is closely related to God’s benevolence, love, and mercy. Because of His grace God is willing to forgive us and bless us abundantly, although we don’t deserve to be treated so well or dealt with so generously.

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Salvation is a gift obtained by the favor and benevolent action of God, which moves a person to repentance and grants the gift of faith so that they believe in Jesus Christ (“...and that believing you may have life in His name.” *John 20:31*). Salvation is absolutely a work of God’s grace (“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast.” *Ephesians 2:8–9*).

We cannot reach God’s grace by ourselves—it comes from Him. To have grace is a divine quality or condition of God Himself (God is grace. *from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*). As man lives in God, based on the grace that comes from Him, he grows in the hope of salvation founded on the love we receive from Him. By the grace and faith God’s us, we are NOT subject to the Law.

The grace of God toward us is manifested in many ways (*1 Peter 4:10*): mercy, spiritual gifts that help us serve and fulfill the desires of our God, and divine protection, guidance and power to share the gospel boldly. The Word speaks to us of a throne of grace. ¹⁶ *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4).*

Grace gives us victory over sin (*James 4:6*). Grace gives us “eternal encouragement and good hope” (*2 Thessalonians 2:16*). Paul repeatedly identified grace as the basis of his calling as an apostle (*Romans 15:15; 1 Corinthians 3:10; Ephesians 3:2, 7*). Jesus Christ is the embodiment of grace, coupled with truth (*John 1:14*).

What other things do we receive from God by grace?

Why are we saved by faith and the grace of God? Does it not matter if we keep sinning? Carefully read *Romans 6:1–4* and *2 Timothy 1:9–10* and prepare to discuss your perspective on what the apostle says.

- How should we respond to God’s grace?
- What is the ultimate gift of God’s grace toward us?

3. Faith (in relation to our salvation)

The grace of God comes through faith when we accept the lordship of Jesus as our substitute—who gave His life, taking our place, and paying for the sins we have committed. By grace our Savior redeems us from eternal death. Faith is a gift of God (*Ephesians 2:8*). Saving faith is the response to the God of grace, who gives eternal life to man, who is unable to please God by his own efforts. Faith justifies us, not the good works we do. It is living faith that moves

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the believer to respond in love to God and to others, whoever they may be—brothers, fellowmen, or enemies. Justification by faith is described as an act initiated by God, as referenced in *Genesis 15:6; Romans 3:28; 5:1, 9; and Galatians 3:24. (Please review these verses)* Faith is essential to believe the impossible and the unexplainable; without faith no one can please God (*Hebrews 11:6*). Faith must spring from a thankful, humble heart that leads us to confession and repentance.

Based on the information given: What brings salvation to man?

Faith should also produce good works in us, for faith without works is worthy death (*James 2:17*). When faith ends our spiritual growth stops. Without this manifestation of loving deeds, we do not please God—or we have not understood what He wants from us. What does the apostle say in *James 2:14–26* about the requirements of faith for salvation?

Although salvation is not by works, faith must result in obedience and love to our Lords favor, for it is through obedience to God that we show we truly believe Him and trust in the Lord. It is the discipline of obedience that leads to faith and without faith we will not see the Lord, without obedience we cannot believe. D. Bonhoeffer says: *Only those who obey believe, you must not be surprised that you have not received the Holy Spirit. Honest communication with the Lord is based on obedience.* We must learn to obey as Jesus did. ⁸ *Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered (Heb 5).* Our faith should grow through our obedience, and thus we bear fruit. Study these verses and answer the following question: *Philippians 1:9-11, 2:12-13, Mathew 3:8,10.*

Could you explain in your own words how our faith grows?

4. New Birth

From Jesus (*John 3:1-15*), we learn that one must be born again when we receive salvation, as evidence the transformational experience of conversion. Salvation is the expression of a new birth—it means ceasing to live under the influence of our sinful nature and voluntarily submitting to a life led by God's nature (*"...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* *John 3:3, Rom 8:1, 2Cor 5:17*).

Study *John 3:1–13* and answer the following questions:

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How can you enter the kingdom of heaven?

What kind of birth is Jesus referring to?

Continue reading *John 3:16–21* and answer the following.
How did salvation come into the world?

What should a person do to avoid being eternally condemned?

5. Eternal Security

We believe that salvation is a gift from God; therefore, if we truly believe, if we have been born again, and our life bears fruits of repentance, salvation is ours. The Word teaches us that our spirit bears witness to this salvation (*Rom 8:16*). Salvation is secure primarily because it is a gift of God to those who believe through our Lord Jesus (*Ephesians 2:8*). God does not change His mind every time we sin, because He is perfect in everything and faithful to His Word. If salvation were not secure, it would depend on our works, and if it depended on works, the perfect work of Jesus would have no validity. Paul exhorts us that it is by faith so that no one may boast (*Ephesians 2:9*). Consider these truths:

- *“Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love.” Ephesians 1:4*
- *“I have loved you with an eternal love Jeremiah 31:3*
- *“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne.” Psalm 89:14*
- *“And I give to them eternal life, and they shall by no means perish forever, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father...is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of My Father’s hand.” John 10:28-29*
- *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and him who comes to Me I shall by no means cast out.” John 6:37*

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What is your reaction to this truth?

Study the following verses:

Luke 19:10 – Whom did Jesus come to seek?

Hebrews 10:10, 12 – What does the offering of Jesus do for us?

John 1:12 – What authority (position/privilege) does God give to those who believe and receive Jesus as Savior?

Galatians 2:21- tells us that the law cannot give us righteousness, and Jesus died for our justification. If it were, otherwise, Jesus would have died for nothing. If salvation proceeds from God to man, then man can do nothing (no good work or law-keeping) to earn it or to lose it. What do you think?

John 6:37 – Those who come to Jesus, who can cast them out?

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John 10:27–29 – As sheep of Jesus’ flock, what security do we have?

Philippians 1:6 – What does God promise to perfect in us?

There is no doubt that many are called but few are chosen (*Matthew 20:16*). Many will say, “*In Your name we cast out demons,*” *but they have not known God because their works are not worthy of Him* (*Matthew 7:13–14, 21–23*). Therefore, many will be deceived by wolves in sheep’s clothing (*Matthew 7:15*), but that does not mean they are saved. Only God knows the heart of man, not us. If one day we behave well and He gives us salvation, and the next day we behave badly and He takes it away—does that make sense for a perfect God? That way of thinking brings God down to the level of man and strips Him of His omniscience (knowing and understanding all things). Moreover, it contradicts all we learn about salvation being the product of grace and faith. We are justified by faith and not by works so that no one may boast (*Ephesians 2:8–9*). God is faithful and true to His Word—He would not say, “*You are saved today, but not tomorrow*” HE does say He will remain faithful even if we cannot. (*2 Timothy 2:13*). He cannot deny Himself. Salvation is a gift of God—let us keep it with fear and trembling.

Discussion Questions

- From what are we saved?

- Why are we saved—what is the instrument of salvation?

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- What does a person need to do to be saved?

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- What does “new birth” mean to you?

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- What reasons can you give to someone who asks, “Why are you sure of your salvation?”