

God's Promise of Salvation

March 17, 2026

God promises eternal salvation for all who believe in his Son, Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Why do we need salvation?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

What is sin?

Sin is the transgression of God's law. "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." 1 John 3:4

Death?

- When we sin and become separated from God, we become separated from true life. This death refers to spiritual death.
- "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2
- God's holiness is such that he cannot tolerate evil. "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing." Habakkuk 1:13

When we return to God, we are also restored to spiritual life – communion with God, a sense of purpose, righteousness, freedom, etc. The rejoicing father in the parable of the prodigal son said it best: "This son of mine was dead and is alive again," Luke 15:24.

Eternal life is a gift of God. We can be redeemed through Jesus.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty...whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me...For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.'" John 6:35-40

We cannot redeem ourselves through being "perfect" or through our own works.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of

atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.” Romans 3:20-25

- We cannot be righteous in God’s eyes under the law through our own earthly works and efforts. In contrast, righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
- Righteousness is available to all, through Jesus’ redemption.
- *Redeem* means to regain possession of something in exchange for payment.
 - God redeemed the Israelites from the yoke of slavery. Exodus 6:6
 - If an Israelite became poor and needed to sell themselves to a foreigner, they retained the right of redemption after they sold themselves. One of their relatives could redeem them or if they prospered, they could redeem themselves. Leviticus 25:47-49
- *Atonement*: The Hebrew word for atonement, *kippur*, means two things – to repay a debt and to purify. <https://bibleproject.com/podcasts/what-atonement/>. Jesus’ death on the cross is the ultimate sacrifice of atonement, repaying our debt and purifying us.
- *Forbearance*: The intentional action of abstaining from doing something. In law, it refers to the act of delaying the enforcement of a right, obligation, or debt. www.law.cornell.edu. God chooses to not punish us for our sins.

God is generous and forgiving.

Although humans have sinned horribly throughout history, God wants to clear us of our sins. “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.’” Isaiah 1:18

God’s plan for our salvation is consistent with his characteristics

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| ● Takes initiative | ● Generous | ● Provider |
| ● Loving | ● Relational | ● Eternal |

God acts first, with love and grace.

- “...your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:8
- “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5
- “God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5 NLT

We are chosen and adopted as His children.

- “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1
- “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in

accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us,” Ephesians 1:4-8 NIV.

How can I be saved?

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:9-13

- If you
 - Declare with your mouth and
 - Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead
- Then you will be saved

Once we are saved, we are secure in our salvation.

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10:28-30

God’s Promise of Salvation:

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John 3:16***

Discussion:

1. Before today, did you think of “sin” as only egregious things like murder, lying, cheating, stealing, etc.? Has that changed? Discuss.
2. Do you tend to try to earn your salvation by being “good”, and following rules and laws? What does the bible say about salvation?
3. Have you been saved?
 - a. If so, and if you feel led, share your salvation story.
 - b. If you have not yet asked God for salvation, and want to do so, feel free to do so now! Do you believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God, that God raised him from the dead, and are you willing to profess your faith? If so, this is a safe and supportive space to do so!