



Copyright

The Saving and Transforming Work of God

A Quick Reference Guide Series

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This guide is intended for personal Bible study, discipleship, teaching, and spiritual encouragement. It is designed as a biblical quick reference resource to help readers better understand God's Word and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not intended to replace personal Bible study, prayer, or active involvement in a Christ-centered local church.

Every effort has been made to present Scripture faithfully and accurately according to its historical and biblical context. Readers are encouraged to examine the Scriptures for themselves and allow the Holy Spirit to guide their understanding as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

“Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ.”

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

— **2 Peter 3:18**



The Saving and Transforming Work of God

About This Series

The Saving and Transforming Work of God is a collection of quick reference guides designed to help believers understand the major works God accomplishes in the life of every follower of Jesus Christ. While each guide focuses on one essential biblical doctrine, together they present a unified picture of God's gracious work to save, justify, redeem, and continually transform His people into the likeness of His Son.

Although each guide may be read independently, they are designed to complement one another. Reading them in order—Salvation, Justification, Redemption, and Spiritual Formation—provides a clear progression through God's work of bringing sinners into a relationship with Himself and faithfully completing the work He begins in every believer.

This Series Includes

1. **What God Says About Salvation**
2. **What God Says About Justification**
3. **What God Says About Redemption**
4. **What God Says About Spiritual Formation**

Theme Scripture

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Romans 8:29

My prayer is that these guides will encourage you to open God's Word, deepen your understanding of biblical truth, strengthen your faith, and inspire you to walk more closely with Jesus Christ each day.



The Saving and Transforming Work of God

A Quick Reference Guide Series

What God Says About Salvation

Understanding God's Gracious Work of Rescuing Sinners Through Jesus Christ

Theme Scripture

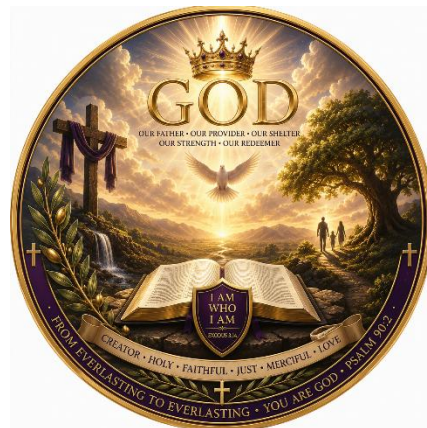
"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece, He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:8–10

What You Will Discover

This quick reference guide is designed to help you understand what the Bible teaches about salvation. Through carefully selected Scriptures and concise biblical explanations, you will discover God's gracious plan to rescue sinners through Jesus Christ, the gift of eternal life received by faith, and the new life that begins when a person places their trust in Him.

Whether you are studying God's Word for personal growth, leading a Bible study, discipling others, or looking for a trusted biblical reference, this guide is intended to help you better understand the foundation of the Christian faith and encourage you to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.



Introduction

The message of salvation is the heart of the gospel and the foundation of the Christian faith. From the opening pages of Scripture to the final invitation in Revelation, God reveals His loving plan to rescue sinners from the power and penalty of sin through His Son, Jesus Christ. Salvation is not something we can earn through good works or religious effort. It is the gracious gift of God, made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and received by faith alone.

Understanding salvation is essential because it answers life's most important questions: Who is Jesus? Why do we need a Savior? How can we be forgiven? How can we have eternal life? God's Word provides clear answers to these questions and reveals His desire for every person to know Him personally through Jesus Christ.

This quick reference guide has been designed to help you discover what the Bible teaches about salvation by bringing together key Scriptures and foundational truths in one place. Whether you are exploring the Christian faith for the first time, strengthening your own understanding of God's Word, or helping others grow in their walk with Christ, my prayer is that this guide will deepen your appreciation for God's amazing grace and encourage you to place your complete trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

As you study these passages, take time to read each Scripture in its context, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding, and reflect on how God's gift of salvation has transformed your life. The more you understand the greatness of God's saving grace, the more your heart will respond in worship, gratitude, and faithful obedience to the One who gave Himself for you.

Why Study Salvation?

Salvation is the greatest gift God has ever given to humanity. It is the foundation upon which every other aspect of the Christian life is built. Before we can grow spiritually, understand our identity in Christ, or faithfully serve God, we must first understand how He graciously saves sinners through Jesus Christ.



The Bible teaches that every person has sinned and is separated from God. Left to ourselves, we are unable to remove our sin or restore our relationship with Him. Because of His great love, God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to live a sinless life, die on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and rise again so that everyone who places their faith in Him may receive forgiveness and eternal life.

Studying salvation helps us understand the depth of God's love, the seriousness of sin, the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice, and the certainty of God's promises. It reminds us that salvation is entirely the work of God's grace—not something we could ever earn through our own efforts. This truth gives believers assurance, peace, and confidence in their relationship with God.

A clear understanding of salvation also equips us to share the gospel with others. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to proclaim the good news that forgiveness, hope, and eternal life are found in Him alone. The better we understand God's plan of salvation, the more faithfully we can live for Christ and lovingly point others to the Savior.

As you work through this guide, allow God's Word to strengthen your faith, deepen your gratitude for His amazing grace, and renew your confidence in the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ alone.

What God Says About Salvation

Definition

Salvation is God's gracious work of rescuing sinners from the power, penalty, and ultimately the presence of sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is received by grace through faith and results in forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, new life in Christ, and the gift of eternal life.

Teaching	Primary Scripture	What God Is Teaching
Salvation Is by Grace	Ephesians 2:8–9	Salvation is God's free gift. It cannot be earned through good works or human effort but is received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
Believe in Jesus Christ	John 3:16–18	Eternal life is promised to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and places their trust in Him.

Teaching	Primary Scripture	What God Is Teaching
Repent and Turn to God	Mark 1:14–15; Acts 3:19	God calls every person to turn away from sin and turn toward Him in faith and obedience.
Confess Jesus as Lord	Romans 10:9–10	Salvation includes believing in Christ with the heart and openly confessing Him as Lord.
Be Born Again	John 3:3–8	Spiritual rebirth is necessary to enter the kingdom of God and is accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit.
Receive Jesus Christ	John 1:12–13	Everyone who receives Christ by faith becomes a child of God.
Jesus Is the Only Way	John 14:6; Acts 4:12	Jesus Christ is the only Savior and the only way to the Father. Salvation is found in no one else.
Saved Through Faith	Romans 5:1–2	Through faith in Christ, believers are justified before God and enjoy peace with Him.
Called by God	Romans 8:28–30	God graciously calls people to Himself and faithfully accomplishes His saving purpose in their lives.
Become a New Creation	2 Corinthians 5:17	Everyone who belongs to Christ receives a new identity and begins a new life through Him.

Understanding God's Gift of Salvation

The Bible presents salvation as God's gracious work from beginning to end. It is His loving plan to rescue sinful humanity, restore our broken relationship with Him, and give us eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ. Salvation is not based on our goodness, religious efforts, or ability to earn God's favor. It is entirely the result of God's grace made available through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.



Because every person has sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard, we all stand in need of a Savior. Out of His great love, God sent Jesus Christ to live a sinless life, die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and rise again from the dead so that everyone who believes in Him may receive forgiveness and eternal life. Through faith in Christ, God forgives our sins, reconciles us to Himself, and gives us a new life as His children.

Salvation is both an immediate reality and the beginning of a lifelong relationship with God. The moment a person places their faith in Jesus Christ, they are forgiven, receive eternal life, and become part of God's family. From that point forward, God continues His work in the believer, leading them to grow in faith, obedience, and Christlike character through the Holy Spirit.

The teachings in this guide reveal several foundational truths about salvation:

- Salvation is God's gift of grace, never something we can earn.
- Jesus Christ is the only Savior, and faith in Him is the only way to receive eternal life.
- Repentance and faith are the proper response to God's invitation.
- Salvation brings forgiveness, new life, and a new identity as children of God.
- God faithfully completes the work He begins, assuring believers of His continual presence and saving power.

The more we understand God's gift of salvation, the more we grow in gratitude for His grace, confidence in His promises, and love for the Savior who gave His life so that we might live. Salvation is not simply the beginning of the Christian life—it is the foundation upon which every aspect of our relationship with God is built.

What Salvation Reveals About God

Salvation reveals the heart and character of God. From beginning to end, it demonstrates that our salvation is His gracious work, accomplished through His love, mercy, justice, and faithfulness. As we study God's plan of salvation, we gain a deeper understanding of who He is and how He relates to His people.



Through salvation, we discover that God is:

- **Loving** – God loved the world enough to send His only Son to save sinners (John 3:16).
- **Gracious** – Salvation is a free gift that cannot be earned through human effort (Ephesians 2:8–9).
- **Merciful** – God withholds the judgment we deserve and offers forgiveness through Christ (Titus 3:5).
- **Holy** – God cannot overlook sin but provided the perfect sacrifice through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:15–16).
- **Just** – God's justice was fully satisfied through the death of His Son (Romans 3:26).
- **Faithful** – God always keeps His promises and faithfully completes His saving work (Philippians 1:6).
- **Patient** – God desires that people come to repentance rather than perish (2 Peter 3:9).
- **Sovereign** – God's plan of salvation was established according to His perfect wisdom and purpose (Romans 8:28–30).

The message of salvation reminds us that God is both perfectly just and perfectly loving. In Jesus Christ, we see the fullness of God's character displayed as He provides the only way for sinners to be reconciled to Himself.

What Salvation Means for the Believer

Salvation is far more than the forgiveness of sins—it is the beginning of a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ. When a person places their faith in Christ, God not only saves them from the penalty of sin but also gives them a new identity, a new purpose, and the promise of eternal life. These truths provide confidence, hope, and assurance as believers walk with Christ each day.



Because of God's gift of salvation, every believer can know that:

- Your sins are forgiven through the finished work of Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:7**).
- You have peace with God because you have been reconciled to Him through Christ (**Romans 5:1**).
- You are a child of God and have been welcomed into His family (**John 1:12**).
- You have received eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ (**John 3:16**).
- You are a new creation with a new identity in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- You are no longer condemned because you belong to Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:1**).
- The Holy Spirit lives within you, guiding, strengthening, and helping you grow in your walk with God (**1 Corinthians 6:19**).
- God will never leave you or forsake you, and He will faithfully complete the work He has begun in your life (**Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 1:6**).
- You are called to live for Christ, sharing the hope of the gospel with others through your words and your life (**Matthew 28:19–20**).

These promises are not based on human achievement but on God's unchanging grace and the finished work of Jesus Christ. As you continue to trust Him, you can live each day with the assurance that your salvation is secure in Christ and that God is faithfully working in your life for His glory.

Living This Truth

God never intended for salvation to be merely understood—it is meant to be received, embraced, and lived. The truths found in this guide are not simply biblical facts to learn; they are life-changing realities that shape how we think, live, and relate to God each day.

Take a few moments to reflect on what you have learned and allow God's Word to examine your heart.



Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Have I personally trusted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior?
2. Am I relying on God's grace, or am I trying to earn His acceptance through my own efforts?
3. Do I truly believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation?
4. How has God's gift of salvation changed my life?
5. Is there an area of my life where I need to surrender more fully to Christ?
6. Who has God placed in my life that needs to hear the good news of Jesus Christ?
7. What step of faith is God calling me to take as I continue to follow Him?

Living Out Your Salvation

As you continue your walk with Christ this week:

- Thank God each day for His gift of salvation.
- Spend time reading the Scriptures listed in this guide, asking God to deepen your understanding of His grace.
- Share your testimony with someone who needs encouragement or hope.
- Pray for opportunities to tell others about the salvation found in Jesus Christ.
- Live each day with gratitude, knowing that your salvation rests securely in the finished work of Christ and not in your own efforts.

Salvation is the beginning of a lifelong relationship with God. As you continue to trust Him, may your life reflect the joy, peace, hope, and assurance that come from belonging to Jesus Christ.





A Prayer of Gratitude

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the incredible gift of salvation that You have freely given through Your Son, Jesus Christ. I am humbled by Your amazing grace and overwhelmed by the depth of Your love. While I could never earn Your forgiveness or deserve Your mercy, You made a way for me to be reconciled to You through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Thank You for forgiving my sins, giving me a new life, and adopting me into Your family. Thank You that my hope rests not in my own strength or goodness but in the finished work of Christ alone. Help me never to take this precious gift for granted, but to live each day with a heart full of gratitude, worship, and faithful obedience.

May my life reflect the joy of being saved by Your grace, and may You use me to share the hope of the gospel with those who have not yet come to know You. Continue to shape my heart, strengthen my faith, and draw me closer to You each day.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, I pray.

Amen.





A Prayer for the Reader

Heavenly Father,

I lift up every person who reads this guide and ask that You would reveal the beauty and truth of Your salvation through Your Word. Open their hearts to understand the depth of Your love, the greatness of Your grace, and the gift of eternal life that is found only in Jesus Christ.

If there is anyone reading these pages who has not yet placed their faith in Jesus, I pray that You would draw them to Yourself, convict them of their need for a Savior, and lead them to trust in Christ alone for their salvation. Fill them with the hope, peace, and assurance that come from knowing You.

For those who already belong to You, strengthen their faith, and deepen their understanding of the gospel. Remind them daily that they are saved by Your grace, secure in Your promises, and loved with an everlasting love. Help them to live with gratitude, walk in obedience, and boldly share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

May Your Holy Spirit continue to guide, teach, and transform every reader as they grow in their relationship with You. May their lives bring honor and glory to Your name, and may they faithfully follow Jesus until the day they see Him face to face.

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray.

Amen.



Continue Your Journey

Understanding salvation is the beginning of a lifelong journey with God. Through Jesus Christ, God not only forgives our sins but also begins His transforming work within us. As you continue studying His Word, you will discover the depth of His grace, the certainty of His promises, and His faithful work of making every believer more like His Son.

To continue your study of The Saving and Transforming Work of God series, explore these companion guides:

- **What God Says About Justification** — Discover how God declares believers righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **What God Says About Redemption** — Learn how Christ purchased our freedom from sin through His sacrifice on the cross.
- **What God Says About Spiritual Formation** — Explore God's lifelong work of transforming believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

May your study of God's Word deepen your love for Jesus Christ, strengthen your faith in His promises, and encourage you to walk faithfully with Him each day. As you continue to seek Him, remember that the God who saved you by His grace is also faithful to lead, sustain, and complete the work He has begun in your life.

"He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

— **Philippians 1:6**

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