

# THE SALVATION PATHWAY

*Eph 2:8 - for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

Grace is God's empowering presence enabling you to do all that you have been created do and to be what He has called you to be. By the empowering presence of God, you are saved through faith.

Have you ever asked this all important question, "Do I need to be saved?" Friend, before you answer, stop and think for a moment. So often we think we have things all figured out so we do not pay any attention to a lot that we say - or say we believe. We call ourselves Christians but we do not even understand salvation.

Even those of you who are sure you have been saved need to go back and look at what you think you know. For the most part we do not really know what the Bible, the Word of God actually teaches.

Let's talk about salvation, for it is far more than the 'born-again' experience. Salvation is not only an experience that we need to have; salvation is a relationship with God to be lived out every day.

Salvation is the means by which I can see the grace of God bring all that the gospel promises into specific areas of my life in a daily ongoing basis. Therefore, salvation is the means by which I see grace enabling me to be all that God purposes me to be.

*Romans 5:10 - for if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! (NIV)*

Did you read that verse? It makes two very important statements. First, it says that the death of Jesus reconciled us. Second, it says that the life of Jesus saves us. In other words, salvation is not just

'being born again'. Reconciliation is being born again. Salvation is something that happens after reconciliation — for by grace you are saved.

*Eph 2:8 - for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

God gives you the gift of His empowering presence, not only to help you become what He wants you to be, but to set you free from everything that would hinder that process.

Salvation is not something that happened one time way back when, rather it is a daily ongoing process of becoming what God wants you and me to be. For by grace you are saved.

*Eph 2:10 - for we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)*

Salvation is not something that happened one time way back when, rather it is a daily ongoing process of becoming what God wants you and me to be.

Before you were even born, God had a plan for your life. God worked His craftsmanship in you and He prepared in advance good works for you to do.

But you cannot get into those good works until you are reconciled to God. Why? **'for two cannot walk together unless they are agreed'**. (Amos 3:3) God has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Jesus. The knowledge of the death of Jesus brought to you salvation as an experience that happened back there and you were born again.

That act birthed you into a new life, and it put the life of Jesus into you so that you can be saved by His life. Now, having been saved, you can come into everything He has purposed for you.

You begin to live out the secret that was in His heart when He made you. You begin to do the good works that He had already laid out for you to do.

The Amplified Bible says it this way: taking good paths which He prearranged and made ready for us to walk — doing those things that He prepared us to do.

You begin to live out the secret that was in His heart when He made you.

How do we do it? We do it through the life of Jesus — in us.

Again, the definition of salvation is experiencing the grace of God on a daily basis, bringing me into everything that He said I would be and doing everything He said I would do. Salvation lets me experience everything that the gospel promises.

In what area of your life are you not experiencing everything the Bible promises?

Are you experiencing everything that God has for you? Are you walking in His fullness or are you only walking in a small amount of what He has provided for you?

*Rom 15:29 - I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. (NIV)*

In this verse, Paul says he shall come in the fullness of the blessing of Jesus.

In what ways are you not yet becoming what God has purposed for you to be? Ask yourself, “Am I the kind of pastor, leader, father, wife, boss, Christian God planned me to be? I am becoming, in every area of my life, the kind of person that God has called me to be? Or, by my own choice, am I hindering the process?”

To the degree that you say, I am not all that He has called me to be, then to that degree, you need to be saved. Now, before you get down on yourself, or all discouraged, remember this. Salvation happens in stages: I was saved, I am being saved, I am going to be saved.

Let's look at what this means in real terms. I was saved from two things. First, I was saved from the pleasure of sin. Removing the pleasure is the first thing God does when He starts drawing a person to Himself. He starts to set them free from the pleasure of sin; they don't enjoy it anymore. They start to understand that sin or their sinful way of life is not really fulfilling.

Salvation happens in stages: I was saved, I am being saved, I am going to be saved.

The Bible says there is pleasure in sin 'for a season'. If satan told you to eat out of a dumpster, you wouldn't do it till he got you drunk or drugged so you couldn't think straight anymore. Satan will lure you anyway he can. As we have said before, he will bait the hook with something attractive to get you hooked. Once you are hooked, he will have you doing all kinds of things you would not normally do.

Since there is pleasure in sin for a season, God first saves you from the pleasure of sin. You become miserable every time you go down that road where God has saved you from the pleasure of sin. There comes a point where this process brings you to the cross of Jesus and you fall on your knees. Then He does the second thing; He saves you from the penalty of sin.

*Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

First, God saves you from the pleasure of sin and next He saves you from the penalty of sin. You are reconciled to God because your sins no longer separate you from Him. At that moment, the moment of reconciliation, you receive eternal life. You become a child of God.

So the steps are: first, you are saved from the pleasure of sin; second, you are saved from the penalty of sin. Your first post-cross experience is you begin to be saved from the power of sin. Every step forward that you take is a victory that God has intended for you to live.

You will make mistakes and you will falter. So what? Get right back up and keep going. Tell God you blew it and He will wash you off and encourage you to get going again.

Every step forward that you take is a victory that God has intended for you to live.

Christian, we are all learning to walk in what God has for us. That is the present tense salvation that we are all living.

You are saved from the pleasure of sin; you are saved from the penalty of sin; you are being saved from the power of sin and one day you will be saved from the presence of sin. Friend, did you know that in heaven

God will wipe away all our tears and there will no longer be any sin?

Let's back up to our original question: Do I need to be saved? Yes! I do. You do. We all do.

No matter where you are, you can take the next steps. If you need to be saved from sin, ask God to take away the pleasure, for we only sin because we enjoy it. Even as Christians, we only sin because we think we get something out of it.

So whether you are at the step that says, "God, save me from the pleasure", or "God, save me from the penalty" or "Please save me from the power of sin", we all need to continue on in our journey. Satan has no power over you if he can't get you to like what he is offering. The only thing that will get temptation to work is a pre-deposit of imagination, pleasure or fantasy. In other words, the enemy plants in you desires that will lead to your destruction. Then he activates them when you are susceptible to those desires.

That's what Jesus meant when He said the prince of darkness has nothing in Me.

He was saying, satan can't get me to do what he wants for I have no pleasure in anything he has to offer.

Let's put it this way. If you were a bank manager and satan came along and gave you all kinds of fantasies or wrong desires, in other words he gave you all kinds of wrong information, you would make decisions based on the information you had been given. I wonder, even today, how many of us make decisions based on wrong information. It is sad to say but many Christians will judge or condemn someone without even checking to see if the information they have received is accurate.

We must stop allowing satan to deposit his trash in our minds! It is our choice whether we accept it or not.

We asked the question "Do I need to be saved?" and answered "Yes". So now we must ask, "How?"

The Scripture we read answers the question for us. *Eph 2:8 - for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

Here is another one.

*Titus 2:11 - for the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.*

Let's review the definition of grace again. Now, what does this grace bring? It brings salvation.

What does salvation do? Salvation teaches us to say no to all ungodliness and worldly passion.

*Titus 2:12 - Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

You just need to say "No". But how do you really do it? By grace.

Friends, we are on a journey. Our journey has taken us out of the country of self. In this country called self there is no way to be truly fulfilled. Some, in the country of self, may find a type of fulfilment, but it is fulfilment that tries to hide the truth that without God there is no true fulfilment. In the country of self, many are consumed by hate, anger, self-promotion, the verbal slicing and dicing of others, wrong attitudes, rebellion, all forms of witchcraft and every evil there is.

Even as believers, as we journey out of self country, we often find that even without realizing it, we have brought out with us many of the thought patterns or bad habits from that old country of self.

The good news is that as we keep our eyes on God, His empowering presence will lead us into the promised land. And along the way we will dispose of those wrong habits that we brought out of the land of self.

Grace is God's empowering presence enabling you to do all that you have been created do and to be what He has called you to be.



If this brief message has helped you, or if you have questions or concerns, email us and we will be glad to help you as you walk down the Salvation Pathway.