

Once Saved, Always Saved

Your Salvation is Forever

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What did you *do* to be saved? Nothing.

You *believed* the gospel.

What can you do to *lose* that salvation?

Nothing. Ever.

We need to start at the beginning. How is a person saved? The apostle Paul explains the process: (1) you hear the gospel of your salvation; (2) you believe the gospel; (3) the Holy Ghost enters your heart and seals you as a member of the Church, the Body of Christ; (4) and finally, you are met in the clouds by the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes for His Church.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In whom ye also trusted, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

We'll break down these 4 steps.

Step 1. Hear the gospel of our salvation. The

gospel of our salvation is that the Lord Jesus Christ took everyone's sins upon Himself, died in our place, was buried, and rose again from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how **that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

Step 2. Believe the gospel. Belief is crucial to salvation. Jesus saved all men.

Romans 5:18

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one **the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

Jesus saved all men, but only those who *believe* the gospel of salvation, *receive* the salvation.

1 Timothy 4:10

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.**

Step 3. As soon as we believe, we are sealed by the Holy Ghost entering our hearts, much like when we put earnest money down to secure a purchase. God's earnest is not money—it is so much more secure—it is literally the Holy Ghost in our hearts. We were purchased by Christ's blood. Christ has literally paid for—redeemed—us, and the Holy Ghost is His earnest payment. We belong to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Ephesians 4:29-30

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the **holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

The earnest of the Spirit means that we will always belong to Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now **he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

2 Corinthians 5:5

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is **God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**

Our salvation is secure. He has put down earnest on us. God never takes back, repents, His gifts or His calling to us.

Romans 11:29

For **the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**

God always does what He says He will do.

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**

God never changes.

Malachi 3:6

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Step 4. Last comes the redemption of the purchased possession, us. The redemption is known as the Adoption. Many churches call it the Rapture.

Romans 8:22-23

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And

not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.**

Paul explains that believers (those who believe that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again) who die before the Adoption takes place, will already be with Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:5-8

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is **God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.** Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, **whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

The believers who are already with Christ will come back with Him, and the believers who are still alive on earth when Christ descends, will be caught up together in Christ, so all believers will be forever with our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

After we believe, we are sealed so that nothing and no one, not even ourselves, can take us away from Christ. Our salvation is permanent. We can never lose it. Anyone who has ever believed in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection can look forward to the redemption of their bodies at the Adoption.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, **nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

We are already forgiven for all of our trespasses, past, present, and future. Notice the past tense in the verses below.

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

And, because we are forgiven, we should forgive others.

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Salvation is so easy. You hear the gospel of salvation, you believe it, and the Holy Ghost seals you. There is not more that you have to do to be saved! Once you become a believer, you belong to Christ. You will be with Him instantly upon your death, or you will be caught up to meet Him in the clouds of heaven when He comes to gather His Church, His body, to Himself.