

## ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED IS A FALSE DOCTRINE

There is no topic of greater importance to Man than the topic of Salvation, yet this is a topic about which there is much confusion, and misunderstanding in those who confess to be Saved through Faith in Jesus Christ. Since God is not the author of confusion, it should be possible for us to understand what it means to be Saved, and why do we need to be Saved, and when actually do we get Saved? This will be a lengthy study, so it may be shared in more than one part, but all readers should use this as a guide to study for themselves, so that they can be approved of God.

**JOHN 15:1** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

**2 Every branch in me** that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

**3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

**4 Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, **except ye abide in me.**

**5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.**

A person can become part of the Vine that is Jesus, only by believing in Him, by having Faith in His Resurrection. The warning to **ABIDE** in Him was given to His disciples, to those who believed in Him, not to unbelievers. So, it is clear that The Lord Jesus Himself taught His disciples that they had to keep abiding in Him, or else they would be in danger of being broken off from the Vine, and be thrown into the fire in the end. Therefore, it is possible to have once believed, which means that a person that had obtained the **PROMISE** of Salvation, had become born again but later fell away into unbelief, and stopped abiding in Jesus. A person can voluntarily stop abiding in Jesus, and although our Merciful God will send numerous warnings to the person to return to Him, there is not guarantee that everyone will return. If people just turned back to God when apostles or prophets of God brought them warning, the nation of Israel would have never fallen away from God. But we learn from the history of the nation of Israel, and Judah, in the Old Testament that these nations turned away from God much more than they remained faithful to God. They did not abide in God, which is exactly what our Lord Jesus warned happens to people in the New Testament as well; it is likely that far more believers turn away from God than those who remain abiding in Him, remain faithful to Him. Now, it is obvious, that like the Prodigal son, many of these people do return to God at some later time in their lives but not EVERYONE! Therefore, there will be some that will never return, and although they had truly believed in Jesus at an earlier time in their lives, at some later date, their faith became shipwrecked, they did not obtain the **PROMISE** of Salvation; Salvation that was promised to them but a **PROMISE**, which they themselves rejected by not continuing to **Abide in Jesus**, to Abide in the Vine. If it is not possible for a person to stop Abiding in Jesus, why would Jesus repeatedly tell them to continue to Abide in Him? I believe that the problem

with the Once Saved, Always Saved false teaching is that these teachers do not understand that when a person comes to believe in Jesus, and in His Resurrection, the person is given the **PROMISE of Salvation**, a **PROMISE** that will be fulfilled in the future, not instantaneously.

So, being Born Again is only the beginning of the Process of Salvation, which will be completed at the Time of the Second Coming of Christ, when our bodies will be redeemed, and mortality will be swallowed up of immortality. There is a journey we all must undertake once we are Born Again, which takes us through the wilderness of this world, where we will face many trials and temptations as did the Israelites under Moses. Like the Israelites, believers too will fail many times in these tests but God will always be there to support them and to help them, **IF** they continue to have Faith in God. So, the real test that all believers must pass to obtain the Promise of Salvation, which is Eternal Life in Jesus Christ, is the **test of FAITH**. **If** Faith turns into Unbelief before the believer's Journey is over, and if that believer remains in unbelief till the end of his days in this body, there is no guarantee that that believer will be Saved; in other words, the Believer may lose the Promise of Salvation. I have never really heard this taught but it is my strong belief, based on dozens, if not hundreds of Scriptures, that **when a person is Born Again, that person will have received the Promise of Salvation, that is yet in the future**; as a matter of fact, all PROMISES are fulfilled in the future, not at the time the Promise is made.

So, let us study both the OT, and the NT, to understand from Scriptures that the Promises of God always have the condition of Faith attached to them. Furthermore, it is required that the believer prove that Faith by obeying God's commands. The word **IF**, which signifies Conditionality is used hundreds of times in The Bible in relation to God's Promises. Going back to John 15, Jesus taught His disciples in verse 10 that in order to Abide in Him, they would need to Obey His Commandments. **JOHN 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.** So, what happens when a person stubbornly refuses to obey Jesus' commandments? Will that person still be abiding in Jesus? Will that person still have the Promised Gift of Salvation, when the person no longer believes the Promise of Salvation? Have not we been warned that Satan comes immediately to steal The Word sown in our hearts, that Satan walketh about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? Those that Satan seeks to devour are believers, not unbelievers, because unbelievers are already in his grasp. This is why these warnings, which are found from Genesis to Revelation, are repeated again and again and again throughout The Bible, and these warnings are for believers, not for unbelievers. Why are we constantly warned throughout the Scripture to guard our Faith if Faith can never fail? Why are we told time and again that **IF** we do not follow the commandments of God, we will not receive the Promises of God, including the Promise of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ? If a branch in the Vine of Jesus can never break away from the Vine, why would Jesus say that those who chose to not abide in Him would be cast away as dead branches, and no longer be a member of the Body of Christ? **Many Scriptures, in both the OT and the NT, prove that the Promises of God, including the Promise of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ, are Conditional upon our Faith, which is tested, and proven by our works.**

There is much confusion that has been spread by the author of confusion, namely Satan, about the topic of **WORKS**, there is a difference between **Working for Salvation, and Works that follow Salvation**. Man cannot obtain Salvation through works, only through Faith in Jesus

Christ. However, once a person believes in Jesus, and is Born Again, that person must pass the test of Faith through works. A person is not Saved through works but a person obtains the future Promise of Redemption that follows Salvation through works just as Abraham had to prove his Faith in God by offering Isaac his son, when his Faith was tested by God, which is how he obtained the Promises of God. The purpose of the Promises of God is the future redemption of our mortal body because it is obvious that we do not enter into immortality the moment we believe the Promise of Salvation, the moment we are Born Again. **The question that then needs to be asked is what is the meaning of Salvation, what does it mean to be Saved, why do we need to be Saved, and when exactly is our Salvation complete?**

### **THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF SALVATION**

#### **OT DEFINITION / SALVATION:** [yeshû`âh H344](#)

A feminine noun meaning salvation, **deliverance**, help, victory, prosperity. **The primary meaning is to rescue from distress or danger.** salvation by God, with reference to being rescued by Him from physical harm ([Exo 14:13](#); [2Ch 20:17](#)); **being rescued from the punishment due for sin.**

#### **NT DEFINITION / SALVATION** [G4991](#) ([Thayer](#)) / [Σωτηρία](#) / [sōtēria](#)

1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation 1a) deliverance from the molestation of enemies 1b) in an ethical sense, that which **concludes** to the soul's safety or salvation 1b1) of Messianic salvation 2) salvation as the present possession of all true Christians 3) **future salvation**, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, **will enjoy after the visible return of Christ** from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.

**SALVATION MEANS DELIVERANCE,** deliverance from enemies, circumstances, sickness, disease, and ultimately from death, not just the death of the body but of **the Soul, which is the real person that dwells in the body.**

#### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BODY AND THE SOUL**

The Meaning of **SOUL** is a very important and related topic that should be studied in order to understand what our Lord Jesus came to Save, in order to understand the real meaning of **SALVATION**. When Adam, the first man of the present Race of humans on Earth was created, God first made His Body, but until the Body was animated by the spirit of Life, it was not a person, just dust of the ground. So, even though the Body of Adam existed, Adam was not that body. **Genesis 2:7** And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7 has three clauses** from which we can clearly understand the difference between the Body and the Soul.

**Clause 1: And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground...** This clause can be read as: and the Lord God formed (**THE BODY OF**) man of the dust of the ground. So, even though the Body of Adam was first made, the Person that would live inside that Body did not come into existence till later.

**Clause 2: ...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...** the breath of life is the spirit of Life, or the Energy of Life, and comes from The LORD God Almighty, and animates all bodies, whether human or animal. The breath of life too is not the Soul, it is the Spirit or Energy that animates, or keeps the body alive until the breath is removed from the body, which is when the body dies. **James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead,** so faith without works is dead also.

**Clause 3: ...and man became a living soul.** Once the body was animated, then God placed a **CONSCIOUSNESS** inside that Body, and called that **Consciousness a SOUL**. Man, actually does not have a Soul, **MAN IS A SOUL**; Man is a **consciousness**, which can be defined as a **Mind with a Will and Emotions**. So, Man is a creature that has the faculty of being able to process Information through the use of the mind. In essence, man is the sum total of the Information that is written on his mind from the time he is born to the time he dies. So, the real person that dwells in the body is made up of bits and bytes of Information, it is not a flesh and blood body. However, a Soul can only exist in this world inside a living body; or it cannot be a member of the race of humans that are currently alive on the Earth. Why a Soul needs a house called the Body, both in this life and the next will be discussed a little bit later in this study.

So, it is important to understand the difference between the Soul, and the body that houses the soul. **The Soul is who we are, the real person** that has all the desires, and experiences emotions, such as love and fear, while the body is just the means that the Soul uses to carry out its desires. The body on its own can do nothing, has no wishes or desires, rather does all that the soul wants. Adam's body was first formed, and though it existed, it could do nothing on its own; it was very much like a dead body. It was not until the body was animated, and a Soul or Consciousness came to dwell in it that the body became capable of acting on the orders of the Soul, on the commands of the Consciousness that inhabited the body. When the body does good things, it's the Soul wanting to do those good things, and at the same time when the body does evil things, that too is on the account of the Soul. This is why the body never faces judgement; rather the Soul will face the judgement of our LORD God! Take for example, that one's car represents the body, and the owner of the car represents the Soul. The Soul is the Driver, whereas the Body is the vehicle that is controlled by the Soul. In this case, the car on its own will never start driving to a place, rather the owner drives the car from A to B; the car only performs the wishes of its owner. The food, or fuel of the car is completely different than the food of the owner, the same is the case of man's soul, and his body. The body needs to be fed regularly to remain operational, just as a car needs gas to function; so too, the Driver of the car, or the Soul also needs to be fed, needs to be fuelled, but with something completely different than that which fuels the body. Just as the body needs food, the Soul needs to be fed, but the diet that makes a Soul healthy is the Word of God not the food sold in grocery stores. Our Lord Jesus Himself made the difference between **Body Food and Soul Food, and therefore, the difference between Body and Soul**, quite clear when He was being tempted by the devil! We can read in **Matthew 4:3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.<sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** Jesus acknowledged that the Body of Man needs food that is grown in the ground but the Soul of Man also needs Food, that does not come from the ground but from the Mouth of God, which are words spoken by God, and written in His Holy Word, for Man to feed upon by

studying The Word of God. **The food of the Soul is INFORMATION**; the information of this world, which is controlled by the father of lies is corrupt and evil, and leads to the corruption of the Soul; it generates all manner of evil in man's heart and Soul, and then these evil desires born in the inner man, lead to the body being used for all kinds of evil purposes, even murder, such as the rage that arose in Cain when he killed his brother Abel.

The word **SOUL**, therefore, can be defined as a **CONSCIOUSNESS, which has three main components: 1. It has a MIND that processes Information through the faculty of Language 2. It has EMOTIONS and FEELINGS that generally are controlled by circumstances. 3. It has a WILL that compels the Body to take actions that are either Good or Evil.** The Mind is filled with Information, which can excite Emotions, which controls the Will of Man, which commands the body to take actions that can be categorized as Good, or Evil.

**Matthew 12:34** O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

**35** A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

### **SALVATION WAS NECESSARY TO SAVE MAN FROM DEATH**

Jesus came to save Man from Death; not the death of the body, but the death of the Soul. The ultimate purpose for which Jesus Christ came to Earth was to deliver mankind from the power of death, to save man's soul; Man was made a **LIVING SOUL** (Genesis 2:7), and it is the Soul that once created can never cease to exist. If the Soul exists in a state of **LIFE**, then the soul has all its desires fulfilled, but if it exists in a state of **DEATH**, none of its desires and needs are fulfilled, which is a state of torment, that is far worse than non-existence. Just as the pains of a body increase as it ages and grows old, tormenting pain in many cases, so too does a diseased soul, infected by the evil of this world, increase in its torments, in mental anguish, in regrets, in fears, in dreads; it continues to exist but in a tortured state of the mind and psyche. This is the real meaning of the death of the Soul; it is a prison in which the mind is tortured day and night without relief; and death of the Soul is a fate far worse than the death of the Body.

When the Soul departs from the body due to death of the body, the Soul no longer has the means to carry out its desires, which it continues to possess. The problem then becomes that the Soul's needs and desires can never end, but neither can they be fulfilled. This leads to the Soul being tormented, much as a starving man is tormented when he cannot find any food. These are souls that depart from this world, having lived only for worldly things, and not for the LORD God! The work of the devil is to trap as many souls of men as possible, by tempting them to follow the lies of the world; to focus merely on the journey through this life, and not to focus on what lies beyond, when their journey comes to an end. We learn from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-26** about what awaits the souls that spent all their time in the body on worldly lusts and desires; and never gave thought to what lies beyond the veil of this flesh. **LUKE 16:19** "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass,

that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in **torments**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence". In this parable, our Lord Jesus explained very clearly that the person or Soul that ends up in hell, continues to exist, but in a state of **torment**. The Torment in hell is both mental anguish, as well as unbearable physical pain. Death, then is a State of existence, but an existence that is constant unbearable pain and mental torment.

So, the work of The Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross, was for the purpose of Saving Man, rather of saving the Soul, which is the real creature called Man, from this state of Death, which is a condition far worse than non-existence. Jesus defeated death by dying on the Cross for man because Man needed to be released from the Prison of Death, where the Soul was held upon the death of the Body. Jesus did not come to save this body of clay, He came to save Man, who is a Living Soul housed in a body of clay. Having saved the Soul, **the Promise of God** is that He will build a new house for the Soul, a house that is incorruptible, and indestructible, and immortal. The real meaning of **IMMORTALITY** is a Soul free of Corruption, free of Evil, a Redeemed, Regenerated, Restored Soul (Psalm 23:3) dwelling in an immortal, incorruptible, indestructible body that can never die. Since Jesus now has the power over death (Revelation 1:18), He is able to give Life to any person that believes in Him, that is to any person that **believes in His Resurrection from the dead, which is how He proved that death has no power over Him**. So, **the purpose of Salvation is to Save the Soul**, which purpose has been fulfilled by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. However, has Salvation been given to believers already, or is it a Promise that will be fulfilled in the future? When exactly will the Salvation of Believers be Complete? When exactly will Believers no longer need to be Saved because the **Process of Salvation** will have been completed in their lives?

### **THE PROCESS OF SALVATION**

Something that is hardly ever taught in the church but needs to be understood by all believers is that **Salvation is a process** that begins with a person being Born Again through Faith in Jesus Christ, and will only be completed in the future upon the return of Jesus Christ, at His Second Coming. The process will only be complete once believers receive their immortal, incorruptible bodies at Christ's Second Coming when they will be changed or transformed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye as written in **1 Cor. 15: 51**: Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. **53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality**. It is obvious that this transformation process from mortal to immortal is yet in the future for believers, it is not fulfilled at the time a person becomes Born Again, which is when

they receive the **PROMISE OF SALVATION** that will be revealed in the future. If this Promise was fulfilled immediately upon a person Confessing The Lord Jesus, and Believing that God raised Him from the dead, resulting in the person being Born Again, then that person should immediately become immortal, have their mortal bodies transformed into immortal, incorruptible bodies right there and then. However, it is apparent that this is not what happens; when we are Born Again, we receive the Promise of the Hope of Salvation; the apostle Paul taught us that **HOPE always lies in the future, otherwise it would not be Hope**. A person may be hoping for a raise, or for a promotion, or any number of things but if that person already had that which they were hoping for, then it would not be something that they would be hoping for any longer, they would already be in possession of whatever it was that they were hoping for.

**ROMANS 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **23** 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**. **24** For **we are saved by hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? **25** But **if we hope for that we see not**, then do we **with patience wait** for it.

1. **8:22** For we know that the whole creation **groaneth and travaileth in pain** together until now. In this time, all creation is yet groaning and travailing in **PAIN** because we are yet trapped in the bonds of mortality.
2. **8:23** 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**. Even though we have the firstfruits of the Spirit of God, which helps us understand why we need to be Saved, and how, but we yet have to **WAIT** for the Promised adoption into the Family of God to be completed. This adoption process will be completed upon the **REDEMPTION of our Body**, which is the Process by which our mortal body is transformed into the Promised Immortal, Incorruptible Body. So, if we are **WAITING for this Redemption**, then it is obvious that the Process is not yet complete.
3. **8:24** For **we are saved by hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? This verse is self-explanatory that we have been give the **HOPE OF SALVATION** in the present, and we can be confident that God's Promises are True, and therefore this Hope can never fail us; nonetheless, as explained in this verse, Hope always signifies something that will be fulfilled in the future.
4. **8:25** But **if we hope for that we see not**, then do we **with patience wait** for it. Again, the apostle teaches that although we have been given the Hope of Salvation, while we are yet alive in this body, we have to patiently wait, as did the prophets of old, for the Hope promised by God to be fulfilled at a later date.

From this passage in the book of Romans we learn that we must patiently wait for our Adoption into the Body of Christ to be completed upon the Redemption of our Body, which will not happen until Christ's Second Coming. This same teaching was repeated by the apostle in **2 Corinthians, chapter 5**.

- **5:1** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2 For in this we groan**, earnestly **desiring** to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: **3** If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. **4** For **we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

Again, in this passage, the apostle uses the same terminology as in Romans 8: We **GROAN**, We **DESIRE (HOPE)**, We are **BURDENED**, we **WAIT** for mortality to be swallowed up of Life. It is again quite clear that the Promise of Salvation, which is Eternal Life in Jesus Christ is only a **PROMISE**, which will not be fulfilled until a future time. The apostle Peter taught the same in **1 Peter, chapter 1.**

- **1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto **a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you**, **5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**. **6** Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold temptations**: **7 That the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory **at the appearing of Jesus Christ**: **8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

1. Verse 3. Lively Hope
2. Verse 4. Inheritance Reserved in Heaven
3. Verse 5. Salvation ready to be **revealed in the LAST TIME.**
4. Verse 6. Manifold Temptations
5. Verse 7. Trial of your Faith
6. Verse 9. though now ye see him not, yet believing,...
7. Verse 9. **Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

This passage from 1 Peter, chapter 1:3-9 details the entire **PROCESS OF SALVATION**, and what a Believer will face from the **Beginning** of the Process, when the Believer is Born Again to the **End** of the Process, which is the **SALVATION** of the Believer, meaning the Salvation of the Soul. We will study this passage in detail to understand that while we wait for God's Promise of Salvation to be fulfilled, we will be tested, we will be buffeted, we will be required to endure many trials of Faith before we will finally receive that which God has Promised us, the Redemption of our Body.

**Verse 3 / 1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto **a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In this verse the apostle Peter makes clear that we have been **BEGOTTEN**



(Born Again) to a **LIVELY HOPE**; let's study meaning of the word Hope to ascertain that that which has been Promised to us by God who cannot lie, will have a future fulfillment.

**HOPE** / [G1680](#) (**Thayer**) / [ἐλπίς](#) / [elpis](#)

**Thayer Definition:** 1) expectation of evil, fear 2) expectation of good, hope  
2a) in the Christian sense 2a1) **joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation**

This definition explains that what believers have been given by God in the present time through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is an **EXPECTATION of Salvation**, which has not yet been revealed. This is exactly the same as explained earlier in the definition of the word SALVATION: NT **DEFINITION** / SALVATION [G4991](#) (**Thayer**) / [Σωτηρία](#) / [sōtēria](#)

1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation 1a) deliverance from the molestation of enemies 1b) in an ethical sense, that which **concludes** to the soul's safety or salvation 1b1) of Messianic salvation 2) salvation as the present possession of all true Christians 3) **future salvation**, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, **will enjoy after the visible return of Christ** from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.

This definition makes very clear that Salvation, though Promised, is yet in the future for believers, and will not be given to them until **the visible return** of Christ at His Second Coming.

**Verse 4 / 1 Peter 1:4** To an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you**,...the apostle repeats what he taught in verse 3 that we have been begotten (Born Again) to a lively hope but our inheritance of an incorruptible body, though reserved for us in Heaven, has not yet been given to us. So, if the Promise has not yet been fulfilled, and will not be fulfilled until The Second Coming of Christ, then what is expected of believers while they are waiting for the fulfillment of the Promise, while they are waiting for the Return of their King, our Lord Jesus Christ?

**Verse 5 / 1 Peter 1:5** Who are **kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**.

This one verse of Scripture can forever disprove the Once Saved, Always Saved false teaching. The apostle Peter, like The Lord Jesus Himself, and the other apostles, taught that our Salvation has not yet been revealed, and will not be revealed until the last time; which last time is the Time of the Second Coming of The Lord Jesus Christ. How can a person have something that has not even been revealed as of yet? The question then that needs to be asked is, do we already have Salvation, **are we already Saved in this life, or do we just have the Promise and Hope of Salvation in the future?** Are we Saved right now, or will we actually we Saved in the Future? Is Salvation a Gift that already been given to us or do we have a Promise that we will receive the Gift in the Future, like children being promised a gift on their birthday? This important question will be answered later as we continue to study this passage from 1 Peter 1:3-9.

**Verse 6 / 1 Peter 1:6** Wherein **ye greatly rejoice**, though **now for a season**, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold temptations**:...in this verse, the apostle is addressing our present situation. First of all, the apostle Peter tells us that we greatly rejoice because we have been given a **LIVELY HOPE**, whereas before Christ came, and died, and was resurrected from the dead, we had no hope except misery in this life, and Judgment in the next. However, even though God has Promised us Eternal Life, and has sent His own Holy Spirit into our hearts to bring us the assurance that what God has Promised, He will also fulfill: it is clear that the Promise, which is the Gift of Eternal Life, will not be given to us immediately! What has been Promised to us has given us great Hope but while we look for the Return of our Lord Jesus to actually receive the Gift of Eternal Life, we are faced with many trials and temptations in this life, which will test our Faith, without which we cannot be Saved! We have not been Promised a bed of roses in this life, but we have been warned that it is not just possible, but very probable that we will be required to carry heavy weights, and the burdens of trials and temptations in this life.

**Verse 7 / 1 Peter 1:7** **That the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory **at the appearing of Jesus Christ**:...we receive the Promise and Hope of Salvation through Faith. However, receiving the Promise of Salvation is not the same as actually being Saved. We will not actually be Saved until the Return of Christ, when we will receive the Gift of Immortality, which will not happen until our weak, corrupt, mortal bodies will be transformed into immortal, incorruptible, and indestructible bodies. So, it is quite accurate, and provable from The Word of God that no one gets Saved in this life, even after they believe, and are Born Again. All that we have in this life is the Promise of being Saved at a future date! While we are sure that God's Promise is True, God also requires that we prove that our Faith is True. The word **TRIAL** in this verse, as in many other Scriptures, but especially so in this verse of Scripture means not just a Test, but rather a Test to prove something as being **GENUINE**. The apostle compared the Trial of our Faith to the Test by Fire to prove the purity of Gold, that it is genuinely Gold, and not a base metal like gold plated copper!

#### **TRIAL / G1383 (Word Study) δοκίμιον**

**dokímion**; gen. **dokimíou**, neut. noun from **dókimos**([G1384](#)), **approved, tried**. The means of proving, a criterion or test by which anything is proved or tried, as **faith by afflictions** ([Jas 1:3](#)). In [1Pe 1:7](#) the meaning is slightly different. Here it reflects an adjectival sense which means **genuine or approved**. In NT times it was used of metals that were without alloy. **Peter uses the word as a subst. referring to the genuineness of faith**. Despite centuries of false teaching that a moment a person first believes in Jesus Christ, the person is Saved forever; this teaching is false! A person will be Saved forever **IF that person passes the TRIALS of Faith** to prove that their **FAITH is Genuine**. This is why Faith requires Works, for Faith without Works is dead! A person that continually fails the Trials of Faith will in the end not receive the Promise of Salvation. While it is absolutely True that no man can Save himself through Works, Salvation is the Gift of God through Faith in Jesus Christ; so, Salvation can never come through Works; it is also True that unless Faith is Proven by works, such as by not denying Christ when faced with persecutions,

the person will not receive the Gift of Eternal Life. Working for Salvation, and Working to Prove our Faith are two different subjects, and one should not be mixed with the other. There are no Works that we can do to save ourselves, if we could, God would not have needed to send Jesus Christ to die for us. But works to Prove our Faith are required by God; this is why The Promise of Salvation is Conditional; no one is Saved the moment they get Born Again: that moment is just the Beginning of their Journey through the wilderness of this life! A Believer's Journey can be compared to the Journey undertaken by the Israelites under Moses; they left the slavery of Egypt but did not end up in the Promised Land immediately; they had to pass through a very dangerous wilderness, where they were faced with many tests, which all of them except a handful failed, and therefore the vast majority did not even enter the Promised Land. Only through Faith at the end of one's Journey through this life will it be proven whether that person's Faith was found to be **unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ**

**Verse 8 / 1 Peter 1:8** Whom **having not seen, ye love**; in whom, **though now ye see him not, yet believing**, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:...This verse again emphasizes the **FUTURE REVEALING**, not only of Christ Jesus, but also of The Promise of Salvation of our Soul through Faith in Him. It is obvious that we do not yet see Jesus Christ in this world, and likewise, we do not yet see the Promised Salvation, which will only become visible once Believers have their immortal bodies. So, both the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fulfillment of The Promise of Salvation, the Saving of our Soul are yet in the future. We will only be sure that our Soul has been Saved, once the Soul is housed in the Promised New Immortal Body; until then all we have is the Promise and Hope of Salvation. So, it is not incorrect to state that in this Life, no one gets Saved, what are given is The Promise, and Hope of future Salvation. Those who will die before Christ's Second Coming, holding on to their Faith in Him, will receive the Promise of Eternal Life at His Return, and will no longer have to face any more trials and temptations. Like Joshua and Caleb, they will have passed the Test of Faith, and Proven it to be Genuine. However, those who confess Jesus Christ in this life, not even having seen Him, will be tried and tested, and if their Faith turns to Unbelief before they die, there is no guarantee that they will be Saved. Unbelief means that a person no longer believes the Promise of God, even though they may have believed it in the past, and therefore, God is not obligated to Save them in the future as He Promised He would, IF they continued in Faith till the End. Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. Matthew 24:13 But he that shall **endure** unto the end, the same shall be saved. Testing and Endurance are required of all Believers; there are many that may Believe only late in life but will hold on to their Faith, and thus be Saved; but sadly, there are also many that may Believe early in Life but will not hold on to their Faith unto the End, and thus will NOT be Saved! Can a person who once was Righteous through Faith, in the end become subject to Judgment? Study The Word of God, and decide for yourself:

**EZEKIEL 18: 21** But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. **22** All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. **23** Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

**24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.**

**Verse 9 / 1 Peter 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

**SALVATION lies at the End, not at the Beginning of one's Life in Christ Jesus.** The Bible clearly warns that many branches from the Vine of Jesus will be broken off, and many others will be grafted in place of these broken branches. When once first comes to have Faith in Jesus, and become Born Again, that is merely the Beginning of one's Journey, which will bring many Trials, Challenges, and Tests to prove one's Faith. Only when the Journey of this Life Ends, if the person passes the Test of Faith, keeps on Believing in Jesus, does not fall into Unbelief, then that person will be given the Gift that has been Promised by God: The Gift of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ. The apostle Peter made it clear that **the End of our Faith (not the Beginning) is the Salvation of our Souls!** This is exactly what the apostle Paul taught that in the present life, all we have is Hope of Salvation, not the Gift of Salvation, that lies in the future. So, in this Life we are not Saved, but we can be sure that we will be Saved if we remain Faithful, and do not stop believing in the Promise of God. God will definitely allow us to be tested, to prove that we are worthy of Eternal Life, which we can never earn, but we can show Him that we Genuinely Believe Him through the Sufferings of this life, sufferings that cannot even be compared to the Glory that shall be revealed in us. What God tries us for is to test where our vision is focused, where we lay our treasures. If Jesus Christ is truly our Treasure, then the temptations of this life, the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches etc. will not be sufficient to make us fail in our Belief; our Faith will not turn to Unbelief, and we will show ourselves worthy of Eternal Life. Then on that Glorious Day in the future, when our Lord Jesus Christ, The King of kings, and Lord of lords returns to claim His Kingdom, we will Rejoice with Him, and we will be Saved forever! However, before that Day comes, or before we depart from this world, He has to have greater value for us than any other relationship, than any other treasure in this world like gold or silver; if not, then we ourselves will reject the Salvation of God, and go into perdition, even though we may have once truly believed in Him.

Let me end here by asserting that God does not take pleasure in the death and destruction of anyone, even the wicked! So, it is not possible that God will easily reject anyone, especially those who once believed in Jesus, but fell away because of temptations, trials and persecutions. God will give everyone especially those who have confessed the Name of Christ, many, many chances to repent, and return to Him. After all our God is a Merciful God; how can he easily cast into the fire that which his own hands have made? However, God will also not be mocked: in the End, whatsoever a man will sow, that shall he also reap! Even believers can, and often do sow to the flesh, and we would be lying if we say that we do not do so. By so doing, believers are sowing Corruption, as the Bible clearly warns them, and in the end, they may not be able to escape Eternal Corruption. All we do in this life is to Sow: either to the Flesh, or to the Spirit; the time for Reaping what we have Sown, lies in the future.

**Galatians 6:8** For he that **soweth to his flesh** shall of the flesh **reap corruption**; but he that **soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting**...

In conclusion, I believe it has been more than adequately proven that a person does not get Saved in this life, but Salvation lies ahead in the future. The Journey to Salvation begins by believing in Jesus, by being Born Again, but that which is Promised by God, if we Believe in Him, which is the Gift of Eternal Life, will not be given to us until the last trumpet sounds at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. So, in this time we sow for a harvest that we will only reap in the future. If we keep this in mind, we will never take the Promise of Salvation lightly, we will never take it for granted! As the apostle Paul warned we will WORK out our own Salvation through fear and trembling because we will have understood that we are weak, and easily fall into sin, and though our God is ever ready to forgive, we cannot allow ourselves to be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. We will WORK, not to Save ourselves, but to make our Election and Calling Sure; our works are not to prove God that we are righteous but to Prove that we understand, and believe that He alone is righteous. We work to study, we work to pray, we work to help others, and we work to set our affections on things above, where Christ sits at the Right Hand of God, not on things on the Earth. We keep our minds stayed on God, focused on Christ like a laser, so that the devil who walks about as a roaring lion has no chance whatsoever of devouring us; has no chance of stealing the Promised Gift, which we will surely receive if we endure all the trials, tests, temptations, and persecutions of this life unto the end. May God help us all as we study to show ourselves approved unto Him, so that we always rightly divide the Word of Truth, and neither deceive ourselves, or deceive others.

Like the passages quoted from Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 5, and 1 Peter 1, there are dozens of others passages in the Bible that prove beyond doubt that the ultimate benefit of the Gift of Salvation is yet in the future, passages that prove that in this life what we receive is the **PROMISE, or HOPE of Salvation**, but that Promise will not be fulfilled until Christ's Second Coming. Let us study a handful more of these Scriptures to understand that Salvation, or Deliverance from Eternal death has been promised to all believers, **IF** they continue to Believe all through their days in this mortal body, even when their Faith will be tried, as if by fire. They will surely receive that which has been promised them, which is the **REDEMPTION** of their bodies, **IF** their Faith passes the tests that it will face, **IF** their hearts do not become hardened through Unbelief, **IF** they continue to Abide in the Vine, and do not Fall Away through various lusts and temptations that assault us all in this life. **IF** is a very important word that is used time and again in regards to the Promises of God to signify to us that these Promises are conditional; conditional upon our Faith, conditional upon us continuing to Abide in Jesus, which we do by abiding in Faith, by continuing to Believe the Promises of God, even when we are faced by great

challenges and trials that come our way in this life. We will study many passages with the word **IF** that prove that the Promises of God are conditional upon Faith, and this Faith must be proven through Works. We cannot work to obtain **SALVATION**, which is the Gift of God, but we must work to prove our Faith, so that we can obtain the Redemption that is Promised to us through Salvation, through our Faith in Jesus Christ. **Works are required in the Bible, not to save ourselves but to prove that we truly Believe God, truly Believe His Word. Faith without Works is DEAD**, as the apostle James warned us very strongly. There is nothing we can do to Save ourselves, but we must work to prove our Faith, without which we will not be Saved.