

Benefits of Salvation

Justification- a legal declaration that the believer is not guilty of sin before God because Christ has paid His penalty for him/her, and the judicial imputation of the righteousness of Christ to the believer, thus reversing the effect of Adam's sin. Romans 3:21-26; Romans 5:1,9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:8-9

Forgiveness of sins- to be forgiven means that God no longer hold our sins against us and had pardoned us. Believers have been saved or delivered from their sins and no longer face God's wrath or stand under condemnation for sin. Acts 10:43; Ephesians 1:7; John 3:36; Romans 8:1.

Regeneration- to be regenerated means to be given a new life- to be born spiritually from above or born again. At salvation believers receive a new life from God and are new creations in Christ. The believer is now alive to God instead of being dead in sin. John 1:12-13; John 3:3-8; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:8-11; 1 John 5:1; 1 Peter 1:3.

Sanctification- The believer's *positional* holiness in Christ is complete at salvation since he/she has received the very righteousness of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27; Ephesians 5:3); his/her *practical* holiness is a process of becoming more holy by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedience to the Word of God. Romans 8:12-14; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Hebrews 12:10-14; 2 Corinthians 7:1

Sanctification is the *practical* process of being conformed to the image of Christ in daily living- both in character and conduct- by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sanctification- to be sanctified means:

1. To be cleansed completely from sin. 2 Peter 1:9; Hebrews 9:14
2. To be made holy and righteous. 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21
3. To be set apart unto God and to His service. Romans 1:1; Romans 15:16

Freedom from:

1. Slavery to sin- believers are now bound as slaves to righteousness, not to sin. Romans 6:17-18
2. Condemnation of sin- believers no longer stand under the condemnation and guilt of sin. Romans 8:1
3. Power of sin and sin nature. Believers are dead to sin and free from the power of the old sin nature. When a believer sins, it is because he/she chooses to not because he/she has to. Romans 6:6-12
4. Penalty of sin. No longer face the wrath of God with its eternal punishment. Romans 6:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:9
5. Bondage to law. Believers are free from the restrictions of the law which bound them and reveal their sinfulness. Romans 7:5-6; Galatians 5:1, 18
6. Fear of death. Christ conquered death so that believers in Him would have no fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57.

Believers are now free to be all God intended them to be.

Receive eternal life in Christ. The believer now has the eternal life of the Son of God and will live forever. John 17:3; 1 John 5:10-12. Eternal life is the life of Christ which the believer possesses, and which should be expressed now and forever.

Enumerating the Benefits of Salvation

1. **Transferred to God's kingdom.** Believers are now members of God's kingdom instead of Satan's and are citizens of heaven and foreigners in the world. Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Colossians 1:13; Acts 26:18. Believers have a new King and are part of God's kingdom on earth.
2. **Adopted as a child of God.** Instead of having Satan as the father, the believer has God as his/her Father, with all of the privileges granted to a child including access. Galatians 4:1-7; John 1:12; Romans 8:14-16; Romans 5:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-16.
3. **Declared to be a co-heir with Christ.** Believers are destined to share with Christ in all the promises of blessing to the Son by the Father. Romans 8:17; Colossians 1:12; Revelation 20:4-5
4. **Made friend of God.** Instead of being an enemy of God, the believer is now a friend of God with all that relationship implies. John 15:14-15; James 2:23; James 4:4
5. **Blessed with every spiritual blessing.** In Christ every believer has been given everything necessary to live a godly life that is pleasing to God. Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:2-4
6. **Placed in Christ and indwelt by Him.** Believers are indwelt by Christ so that the believer's life is the Life of Christ. Colossians 3:3-4; Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:9-11; Believers are members of Christ's Body, the Church. Romans 6:3; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27.
7. **Eternal security (Perseverance of the Saints).** The question of the certainty of believers' final salvation depends on whether salvation is wholly God's or if human beings also contribute to it. Security is not sustained solely on a person's behavior. Just as a person cannot earn his/her salvation with good behavior, he/she cannot eternally secure it based on his/her behavior. The salvation of believers is secure because of Who God is. A believer is kept for redemption by the very power of God through the Holy Spirit. [Romans 8:23] John 10:25-30; Romans 8:29-30 & 31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30. In any number of Scripture's teachings, it is the action of God, not people (historically or present-tense) who sustains salvation. However, a person can hear, entertain, and ultimately reject God's gift of salvation and fall away from the truth [Hebrews 6:6; 1 Cor. 5:7-13; 1 Cor. 10; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; Titus 1:10 & 3:9; 2 Tim. 2:18]. In these cases, the person may not have genuinely held the faith. Only the one who believes in Christ can know assurance of final salvation; perseverance is not automatic based on affinity or proximity to churchgoers [2 Tim 2:19-21; Romans 9:19-26; Matthew 25:31-46]. It is a divine intervention on behalf of the faithful, for "God knows those who are his."
8. **Destined to be glorified and conformed to Christ.** Philippians 3:20-21. 1 Corinthians 15:48-49. Corinthians 3:18. Romans 8:28-30. 1 John 3:2. Revelation 22:1-6

God's ultimate goal is for believers to be like Christ.

INDEED IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF WE IGNORE OR NEGLECT SUCH A GREAT SALVATION. Hebrews 2:1-4

Assurance of Salvation

How do you know you are saved? The truth is.... that God's Word says so.

The believer is secure in Christ whether or not he/she knows it, believes it or feels it. However, by faith the believer can feel assured because of the truth of the Word of God by the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:16; 1 John 5:11-12.

There's a difference between:

1. Eternal security (a fact, as described above) John 10:27-30. Romans 8:28-39. 1 John 5:10-13
2. Assurance (a *feeling*) Romans 8:14-16. 2 Timothy 1:12

You are saved whether you feel like it or not.

Assurance is a matter of faith (believing the truth of God's Word). A person who still does not *feel* saved must read Romans 8. Paul spoke confidently, assuredly, of his salvation and would encourage us to do the same.

Reinforcing our assurance of salvation and empowerment for sharing the gospel are the benefits of the Holy Spirit of promise. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God by whom the believer is:

1. Baptized into the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13
2. Identified with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Romans 6:3-5
3. Indwelt permanently. 1 Corinthians 3:16
4. Sealed as a promise of his/her redemption. Ephesians 1:13-24
5. Gifted for service and edification in the Church. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Corinthians 14:12.
6. Empowered to witness for Christ, work for God and walk in holiness. Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:28-29; Galatians 5:16-18,22-25
7. Filled for praise, service, worship and giving thanks. Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:15-17. The gift of the Holy Spirit assures believers of the benefits of salvation and enables them to experience those benefits fully.