



## Justification–Sanctification – Glorification

The “favorite” word or phrase used by Christians today is “saved, are you saved?” This comes from the Biblical concept of Salvation. But what is meant by the word “salvation”? Is it a one-time event? Does it happen over time? Is it past, present, or future? The answer to all these questions is, “Yes!” How can that be?

**Salvation, as it is presented in the Scriptures, must be considered in three tenses.** It is sometime said, “A person

has been saved, is being saved, and will be saved.” Let’s look at the three parts that comprise the whole of salvation.

A “believer” is, by definition, saved because of the person in whom they believe – that is the person, Jesus as Savior.

### Justification - the "past" tense of salvation

- **Happens in an instant**
- **Initiated by the Holy Spirit - requires the cooperation of the individual**
- **Our spirit is saved from the guilt and penalty for our sins.**

The starting point of salvation is called **JUSTIFICATION**. This event **happens “in an instant”** – the instant the person **chooses to place their trust for salvation in Jesus and His finished work** on the cross, rather than in themselves or something/someone else. Justification begins with the realization that we need a savior and culminates with the decision that Jesus is the only One Who can save us.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Just prior to His ascension, Jesus told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit – consider John 16:8-11 from the Amplified Version:

*And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin [and the need for a Savior], and about righteousness, and about judgment: **about sin** [and the true nature of it], **because they do not believe in Me** [and My message]; **about righteousness** [personal integrity and godly character], because I am going to My Father and you will no longer see Me; **about judgment** [the certainty of it], because the ruler of this world (Satan) **has been judged and condemned.***

Notice that it is **the Holy Spirit that convicts** (some versions say convince) the world **about the guilt of sin and the need for a Savior**. The Holy Spirit does this **in the heart and mind of an individual**. If they accept it as truth and appropriate it for themselves, at that instant, they are deemed justified before God. This is often referred to as being taken out of darkness (spiritually blinded by the evil one) and brought into the light (able to see the truth of Who Jesus is and what He did for you).

*Colossians 1:12-14 ... giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the **dominion of darkness** and brought us into **the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.***

From a Biblical perspective, **justification is the act of making someone right with God** – also known as righteousness. Jesus is now, has always been and always will be “right/acceptable” to God the Father. By coming to the earth, living a sinless life, dying a death He did not deserve on the cross, **His death could be used as a substitute for the death we deserve.** (Romans 6:23 “*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”) This is known as the doctrine of propitiation.

Propitiation means satisfaction. **God is a holy God. He hates sin and has sworn that it will be punished, ultimately by death.** But rather than kill all of mankind and sentence the entire human race to hell for all eternity, He provided a substitute to die in our place. **That substitute is His Son, the Lord Jesus. Our part is to accept that fact as truth – not only “in general” but specifically for us individually.** Remember this part is once and done. Once done, it cannot be undone. We are sealed as a child of God (adopted), never to be un-adopted.

Think of the Justification part of Salvation as: **Our spirit is saved from the guilt and penalty of our sins.** Although it releases us from the guilt and penalty, it does not prevent us from acts of sin afterward. **Sin continues to have power and influence in our daily lives, but it can no longer control us.** If/when we sin, we choose to do so. These sins are dealt with in an entirely different way. (Look for a future blog on this topic – 1 John 1:9.)

Just to be clear, by this we are not righteous, it is His (Jesus) righteousness that is imputed to us, we still have none of our own.

### **Sanctification - the "present" tense of salvation**

- **Progressively happens over the remaining lifetime of the individual (post justification)**
- **Requires cooperation of an individual with the work of the Holy Spirit**
- **Our soul (mind, will, emotions) is saved from the power and domination of sin in our lives**

Sanctification is the part of Salvation that is accomplished from the moment of Justification until “the end” (by death of the individual or Rapture of the Church) **in and for** the one who has believed. Based on the same principle of faith, the child of God is being **progressively saved from the power and domination of sin in their life.** As we progress through this phase, we ought to expect to sin less each day.

This part is often referred to as the “parenthesis” of salvation. It is in this part or phase we seek and grow in the Lord through prayer, Bible study, obedience, fellowship, and service.

*Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

This is the part most often ignored. Far too many believers have accepted Christ as Savior then fail to grow in their walk/life with Him. The result is that He is not viewed as their Lord. In my humble opinion **this should be a point of grave concern.**

I recall worrying about a verse found in Matthew for many years early in my sanctification process. I was genuinely concerned that the day would come and He would say He "never knew me."

*Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*

The phrase “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ more or less means, “no genuine relationship in and through the Holy Spirit.” It is easy to say you are a Christian, wear the jewelry, go to church all the time, etc. The true test of Christianity is obedience. But how is obedience even possible? John 14:15-27 provides some powerful insight:

*“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.*

**IF** you truly accepted the gift of Justification, you were immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit wants to help you – to guide and direct you, to test you, so you grow in the knowledge and grace of the Lord.

I must say that it **IS POSSIBLE to basically ignore the Holy Spirit**, even after you are justified. Otherwise, the Apostle Paul would not have written these two verses:

*1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.*

*Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

An easy way to remember this is:

Grieving the Holy Spirit means He says, “No, don’t do this!” But, you say, “Yes, I will do it!”

Quenching the Holy Spirit means He says, “Yes, do this!” but you say, “No, I won’t do it!”

One reason (not the only reason by far) to consider the importance of this phase of our salvation is that although believers will not suffer the “Great White Throne Judgment” – where Jesus will judge and eternally punish non-believers based on their sins - we will stand before His bema seat and be judged on **what we did with our lives during this phase of our salvation**. The Bible calls these “things” **rewards**.

A whole study can be made of this, but that is for another blog. Trust me, find the time and resources to study this and get to work! Your works won’t save you, but your works after you are saved may be worth a great deal for all eternity!

### **Glorification - The "future" tense of salvation**

- **Happens in an instant (for all believers – dead and alive – at the moment of the Rapture)**
- **Completely handled by God – no cooperation on our part necessary**
- **Our body is freed from the presence of sin – forever!**

Glorification is the part of salvation that will be accomplished in the future, to complete the work of God in and for the one who has believed. This happens at the moment of the Rapture of the (true) Church. At that time all true believers (from the church age - only from Pentecost to the Rapture) will be taken to heaven and given new glorified bodies. With these new glorified bodies, **our body is freed from the presence of sin, we will never sin against God again! Hallelujah!**

This is covered in several verses (you would do well to take the time to read, study, ponder these):

- John 14:1-3
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 13-18
- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
- 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10; 23-24
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38
- 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 46-49; 50-54
- Romans 8:23-25
- 1 Peter 1:6-8; 13
- 1 John 3:1-2

- Philippians 3:20-21
- Colossians 3:4

*1 Corinthians 15:50-54* “I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, **but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

*Philippians 3:20-21* **But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**

*Colossians 3:4* *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24* *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. **May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.***

**Bottom line:**

IF you have been called,

IF you have answered the call with a grateful yes,

Then you have been Justified!

Get on with the next phase (Sanctification) while there is still time!

Blessings my Sibbs in Christ Jesus!

Maranatha!