

July 2021

Salvation

(Made as a witness for the belief in salvation)

Do you doubt your belief? Have you had any doubts about your belief in the truth of the Bible? What is salvation? What does salvation mean?

The Bible is a training manual for life according to 2 Timothy 3: 16 and 17 which says “ALL** Scripture is God-breathed (inspired by God to all the authors of the Bible) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant (you and me as Christians) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”.**

The dictionary definition of salvation is deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2: 8-9 where salvation comes from: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Salvation is the deliverance of humankind from such fundamentally negative or disabling conditions as suffering, evil, finitude, and death. It also entails the restoration or raising up of the natural world to a higher realm or state.

The doctrine of salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Faith is the only system of perception that is totally devoid of any human merit. Only the object has merit and in salvation the object of faith is Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The most common meaning of salvation is to be saved by God from the consequences of our sin. The Bible speaks of our salvation in a bit of fuller terms than simply being rescued from hell.

There are 4 simple steps on how to get saved:

- 1) Recognize that you are a sinner.**
- 2) Recognize that Jesus died on the cross for you. (1 Peter 3:18)**
“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.
- 3) Repent of your sins.**
- 4) Receive Jesus as you Savior.**

The first time the word salvation is used in the Bible comes from Exodus 15: 2 in a song from Moses and the meaning of salvation in this verse is that the Israelites were “saved” from slavery from the Egyptians. King David used the word salvation 24 times when writing the book of Psalms.

I’m not sure it means the same thing that “Jesus is our salvation” that was talked about in the Gospels of the New Testament. The reason I say this is because the first time that salvation is used in the New Testament is in Luke chapter 2. It talks about a man named Simeon that was inspired by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Lord’s Christ (Jesus) before he died. Simeon went to the temple and had seen Jesus, so this is what he said in verses 29-32: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation (meaning Jesus), which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

In the Old Testament, I think when the authors used the word salvation, they were talking about a sort of refuge in God like a haven from the woes of the world of that day. The word salvation is an extended derivative of the words save, safe and saved. Safe and save have different meanings depending on the circumstance whereas salvation has one meaning and is used strictly in Bible terminology.

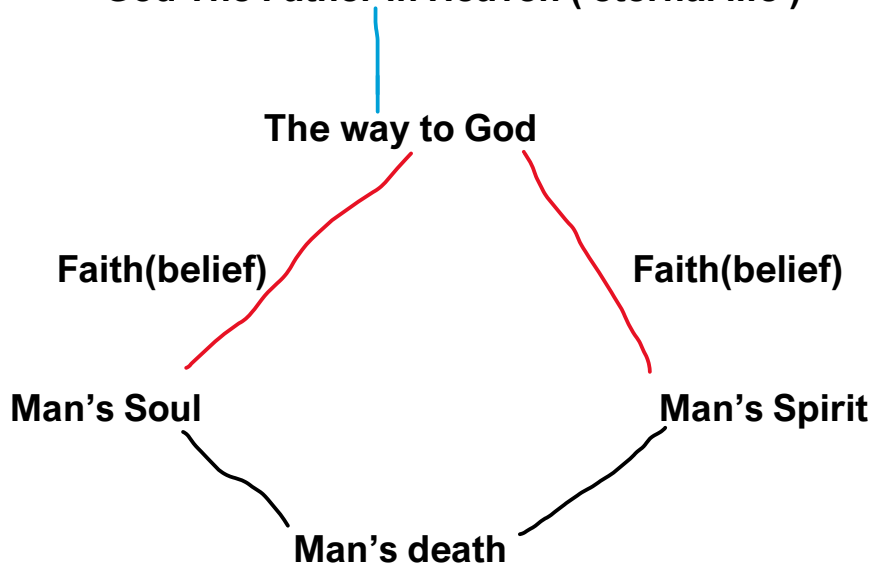
In this commentary, I will try to use illustrations for God’s plan of salvation for the life of a believer.

The Old Testament in God's plan of salvation for man.

God The Holy Spirit (not incarnate)

God The Son Jesus (not incarnate)

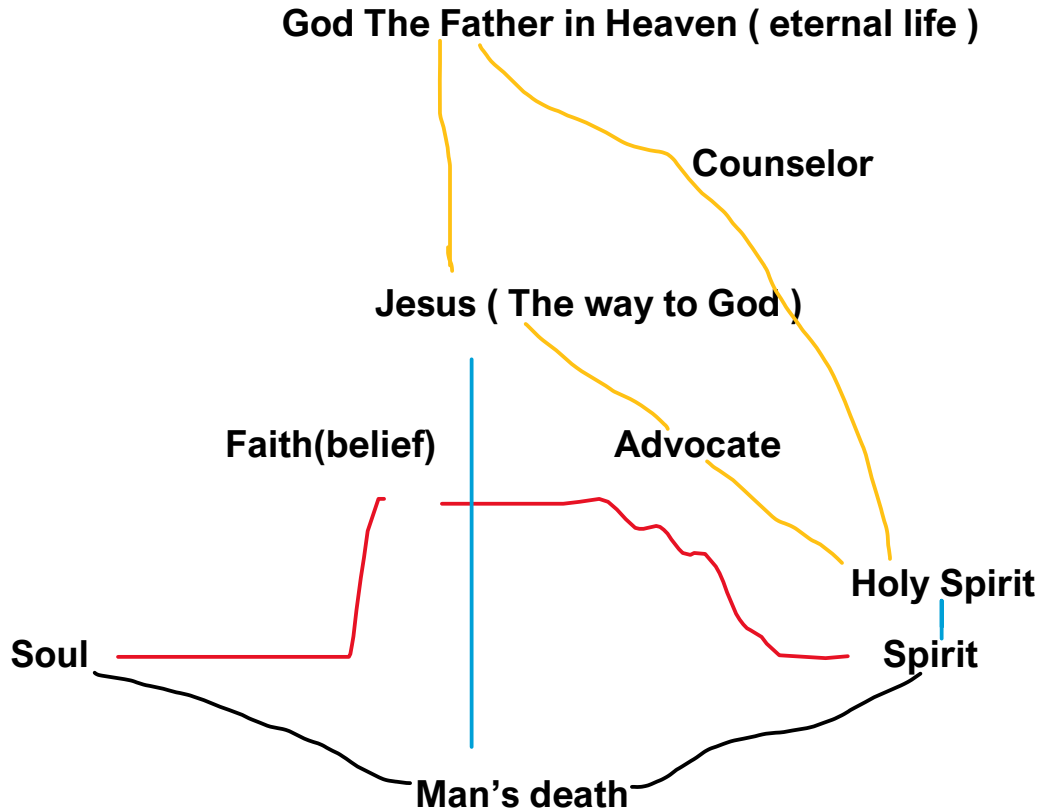
God The Father in Heaven (eternal life)



I think when David was using the word salvation that he was thanking God for his life on earth because ever lasting (eternal) life is not mentioned. The word salvation meant your life on earth was saved through the grace of God from an untimely death.

Keep in mind that when a person dies, his soul and spirit are still alive and go directly to God. The soul resides in the mind (brain) and the spirit resides in the heart of man. The way to God in the Old Testament is through the faith and belief in God because, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not incarnate yet. This is Old Testament salvation.

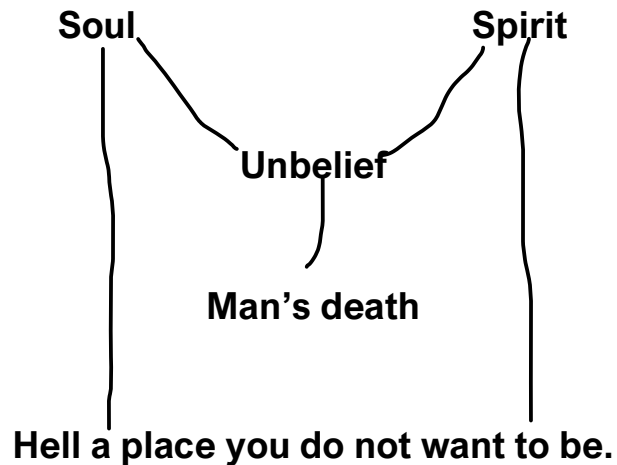
The New Testament in God's plan of salvation for man.



Jesus and Holy Spirit are now incarnate, so the illustration changes. The way to God is through Jesus in his own words of John 14: 6 "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me". The Holy Spirit protects our spirit in the heart and connects our soul and spirit by faith and believe in Jesus to enter the way to God. The Holy Spirit is an advocate to Jesus and a counselor from God to man. This is New Testament salvation.

Man's fall (the unsaved, no salvation) from God's plan of salvation.

God is not in the picture.



Unfortunately, there is nothing to connect the soul and the spirit because of unbelief in Jesus and there is no connection to God. Therefore, the soul and spirit cannot enter a heavenly body at death. To me, that would be a frightening choice to make. I can not understand why anyone would want to make a choice of unbelief unless they were in a state of undeniable. After death, the bridge to God is broken and there is no repairing it. It is too late: the choice has been made.

God's plan of salvation is for everyone if you choose it. Jesus said in John 18: 36 "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place". It is interesting that Jesus would use "another place" instead of "another world". The word "planet" was not known in the time of Jesus. The definition of world is a place for humankind. If He would have used the word planet instead of world, then heaven would be on another planet somewhere in the universe. With this in mind, my first 3 commentaries come together within this one (Commentary 4).

In conclusion, you can wipe away every doubt by clinging onto a famous Bible verse that is the basis of all Christianity John 3: 16 in which Jesus says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". And that my friends, is salvation. We are all sinners saved by grace.

God bless you.

(as a witness your salvation means a belief in Jesus as your Lord and Savior)

A commentary by a Christian Brother: Larry Hord.

Dedicated to my son:

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