

Salvation & Your relationship with God.

You are here because you are interested in at least getting to know more about how to establish a relationship with God. While I can give you all sorts of experiences that I've had or I've heard about, these are no basis for faith. The Bible says in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. In other words, faith comes by hearing, understanding & believing what the Bible says. Because of this, I want to show you from the Bible how to start & enjoy your relationship with God.

The word Salvation found in the Bible comes from the Greek word σωτηρία – sōtēria (*so-tay-ree'-ah*). The Strong's definition is: (properly abstract) noun; *rescue* or *safety* (physically or morally): - deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.

Likewise, the word for Saved found in the Bible comes from the Greek word σώζω – sōzō (*sode'-zo*). From a primary word σώς sōs (contraction for the obsolete σάος saos, "safe"); to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

These two terms are used often in referring to our relationship with God. He saves us. Saves us from what? From evil. I think it's important to notice part of the definition of the word Saved. Be (Make) whole. For something to need to be made whole means that it is not whole. something is missing. Maybe that's why your here. Maybe you sense that something is not right. There's a missing piece and you can't seem to find it. The truth is, something IS missing.

Most people know the story of Adam & Eve found in Genesis chapters 1-3. God created man perfect and then gave him dominion over all the earth and everything that moved on the earth (Gen 1:26). It's significant to understand this because God gave man DOMINION. This put man in charge. From this moment forward, not even God would move on planet earth without a man's permission.

Adam & Eve were given the garden of Eden to keep and to tend. They were commanded by God not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil that was in the garden. This command came with the warning that the day they eat it they will surely die. Satan in the body of a serpent came and tempted Adam & Eve. He said "You won't really die! If you eat it, you'll be like God". When Adam ate the fruit of the knowledge of Good & Evil through open disobedience, he didn't fall dead that very second. He was immediately cut off from the life that is in God though. Immediately he died spiritually, and at that moment began to die physically.

More importantly though, he bowed his knee in obedience to someone other than God and by doing that, transferred his authority and dominion to Satan. 2 Corinthians 4:4 calls Satan the "god of this world" and says that he is actively trying to blind the minds of the ones who don't believe in Jesus as the Christ. He's actively trying to keep the light of this truth from shining into them.

Ezekiel 18:20 says The soul that sins, it shall die... Rom 6:23 says For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. To understand this further, we know that according to John 1:4 In God is life. Sin separates us from God and so sin separates us from life. God wants you to have life and to enjoy a close covenant relationship with Him. The lie that the serpent told Adam and Eve in the garden is the same lie that he told me and has been telling you, "you

can sin and not get the death”.

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE:

One of the most famous verses in the Bible is John 3:16: **For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17: For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved”.**

God is not mad at you. He desires a relationship with you. Please understand. The entire plan of salvation...It was all His idea. He loves you and desires to have a close relationship with you. He will certainly not condemn you.

Jesus said in John 6:37 (BBE) **“Whatever the Father gives to me will come to me; and I will not send away anyone who comes to me.”** THAT is a remarkable promise. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done. If you come to Him to repent, He will not send you away!

The Bible says in Romans 10:9-10 (BBE) **“If you say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and have faith (believe) in your heart that God has made Him come back from the dead, you will have salvation”.**

Do you believe that? Jesus died in your place, suffering the death that was meant for you in order for you to have access to the Father through Him. Do you believe that Jesus' sacrifice was enough? Do you believe that He suffered enough – for you. Do you believe that He paid enough to wipe away every one of your sins? Was his suffering enough to pay the claim of death on your own life? He didn't die for Himself. He died for you. He didn't need salvation. He's perfect. His bleeding, His suffering, His dying, He did it for me and for you. He paid what we could not pay leaving us one thing to do...Only believe. That's why I ask...Do you believe that he paid enough for you. If the answer is yes, please pray the following prayer. Mean every phrase from your heart. Understand that as you pray this prayer, much like a wedding vow, you are entering into a covenant with God almighty by accepting His son as your Lord. Do not pray this lightly.

Dear Heavenly Father... I come to you in the name of Jesus.

Your Word says **“I will not send away anyone who comes to me.”** (Jn 6:37 BBE) so I know you wont send me away but you take me in and I thank you for it.

You said in your Word **“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** (Rm 10:13 GWT). I am calling on Your Name, so I know You have saved me now.

You also said **“If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with his heart and is justified, and declares with his mouth and is saved (Rom 10:9-10 ISV).** I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He was raised from the dead for my justification, and I confess Him now as my Lord.

Because Your Word says **“For one believes with his heart and is justified, and I do believe with my heart, I have now become the righteousness of God in Christ (1 Cor 5:21) and I am saved! Thank you Father.**

If you prayed the prayer above, We would love to know it. Please go to the contact page at <http://artmills.org> and reach out.

You can email me, contact me on Facebook, twitter or send a note to my postal address. I will pray for you and get more information into your hands to help you take the next step on your new path with God.

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