

Salvation (Part 2)

How do we live it, and can we lose it?

We can't understand God very well in order to make the right choices (obey Him) unless we:

- ◆ Receive His Spirit (be saved) - (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- ◆ Study and understand His Word (Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- ◆ Correct our thinking: (see the lesson on “the battle field of the mind”)
 - ▷ Identify our wrong thinking (Study of Scripture, prayer, the counsel of wise believers) (Matthew 22:29)
 - ▷ Develop habits (practice godly behavior) that lead to Christ-like character. (1 John 3:7-10; Romans 5:3-5)

Obedience:

- A foundational truth: We cannot live the life of Christ unless we have the Spirit of Christ that gives us the Power to live the Christian life! We cannot do it on our own power or means (which often leads to resentment or burnout) - (Romans 8:5-17)
- Our actions are based on what we believe to be true (see Jonah 3:1-10 as an example).
- What is the actual source of all truth? (John 14:6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- We must therefor train our thought life (Philippians 4:8).

Because:

- ▷ Feelings are a **poor** guide for doing what is right. (an example in Ephesians 4:26-27)
- ▷ Feelings often follow, not precede, doing what is right. (John 15:10-11 - joy follows obedience)
- ▷ We must therefor feed the spirit and starve the demons (see the separate study on this).

Can one lose their salvation?

- ◆ **God disciplines those He loves (as His true children)** (Hebrews 12:5-11)
- ◆ **Worldly sorrow vs Godly sorrow:** (one leads to death, and one leads to true repentance and salvation): 2 Corinthians 7:10-11)
- ◆ **Some may leave the Church, but did they really ever belong?**
 - John 5:39-40 (some know the Scriptures well but are really not saved)
 - 1 John 2:19 (they left but they really never belonged to Jesus)
 - 1 John 3:6-10 (no one who keeps on practicing (“unrepentant”) sin really belongs to God)
- ◆ **Salvation is assured:**
 - John 6:37-40 (He will not lose any of us but raise us up at the last day)
 - John 10:27-29 (no one can snatch us out of Jesus’ hand)
 - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (He puts His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit and guarantee of what is to come)
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 (those who believe are marked and sealed with the Holy Spirit guaranteeing our inheritance)
 - Ephesians 4:30 (sealed with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption)
 - 1 John 5:18 (God keeps us safe)
- ◆ **However, “intimacy” with God and others can be damaged:**
 - Sin and disobedience causes us to fall out of our relationship with God (out from under His umbrella of protection and blessings) and from one another. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
 - Fellowship with God and with one another can be damaged due to sin - (1 John 1:1-9)

There are no “failed adoptions” with God! (Ephesians 1:4-5)