

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible says that Jesus came to rescue humanity from sin. Jesus is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus said, "I came to seek and to save those who are lost in their sins." Jesus is the male child, born of woman, promised to Adam and Eve, who defeats sin and Satan. Jesus is the Messiah of Israel who will restore the Kingdom of David. Jesus defeated sin at the Cross. Jesus is the only Man who ever lived sinless and died sinless. Allowing sin to kill Him, Jesus defeated sin because of His sinless death.

Jesus became human at Bethlehem. The eternal Son of God left heaven's glory, was born into humanity through the virgin, was both God and man, and gained all authority over heaven and earth as a Man. Jesus gained the right to rescue from sin any cooperating soul through conviction of the Holy Spirit. When a person cooperates with Holy Spirit conviction allowing the Spirit to bring him to faith in Jesus, God causes that soul to be born again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Cooperating believers begin their journey of salvation and relationship with God by receiving the work of God in their life and God promises to complete that work.

In the second stage of salvation, believers work out their salvation with fear and trembling. Still residing in their earthly body, believers must struggle against sin and practice putting on the fruits of the Spirit. The indwelling Holy Spirit in the believer provides the power and the conviction to change and be like Christ. This experience in earthly life allows the believer to know the love of God and choose to love God because of what He has done. This experience allows the fruits of the Spirit to be produced in one's life, allows for learning to resist temptation, and allows opportunity for overcoming the influence of the world's values.

Believers get to live out the Biblical worldview in both knowledge and practice. This provides preparation for stage three of salvation's experience. When the believer leaves this earthly body and enters the new heavenly body prepared in heaven, sin has no residence in this glorious estate. The only things from earth that reside in the glorified condition are the things done in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus. All actions accomplished by the

fruits of the Spirit will be the basis for heavenly and eternal rewards. The Spirit and what He did through the believer's life will accompany the believer all through eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:1-21

The sinless death of Jesus also accomplished His right to rescue all of creation from sin and death. For all eternity in the future, God will live with man on earth and earth will be free of all sin and death. Paradise will be restored. The delay is to give more people the opportunity to become a participant in the Kingdom of God. All it takes to get into the Kingdom is cooperation with the work of God in your heart. It is by grace that you can enter the Kingdom through your cooperating faith, not by your works but through the work of God. Believers are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life. In Christ, we are chosen to be holy and blameless in His sight, to be made in the image of Jesus, and forever be rescued from sin and death. Salvation has three stages and we eagerly await stage three where we stand forever in the presence of Jesus clothed in the righteousness that He built into our life. Romans 8:21 Ephesians 1:1-4 1 Peter 1:3,4

Believers are saved by Jesus' resurrection life imparted into them. "We are saved by His life."

Romans 5:10

Believers are "in Christ" and Christ is in the believer. Believers are no longer defined by their flesh with its tendency to sin but by their new life in Christ. Christ in me is the indwelling Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Christ, and who produces the fruits of the Spirit in the life of the believer. Christ's presence in the believer allows for growth in holiness and transformation of character. Believers rely on the power of Christ to live the life of holiness in this world. We are saved by faith in the power of Christ and we live by faith in the power of Christ. Romans 1:17 Stage two of our salvation, often referred to as sanctification, engages the believer in working out salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12b,13 Through the believer's cooperation God works both to will and to do His good pleasure. A lack of cooperation will result in the disciplinary hand of God upon the believer. Hebrews 12:5-11

Humbly trust in God through Christ to keep you in His care.