

What is Salvation?

Rob McFarlane



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My Story

Before I became a Christian I was aware of something missing in my life. There was a void in my heart that needed to be filled. When I was 15 years old I was invited to attend a drama presentation of the life of Jesus Christ seen through the eyes of Peter, one of his disciples.

It was the first time I had heard the gospel and that I could have a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

It was the best decision I have ever made. The void in my heart has been filled. Since then I have experienced a peace, joy and purpose in my life.

My experience is not unique, but something shared by many people all over the world who have decided to follow Jesus. My desire is that through this book many others will come into a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ. What Jesus has done for me and many others, he can do for you!

Jesus is the only way

The Bible teaches us that the only way we can have a relationship with God is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is exclusive in the sense that there is only one mediator between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12 ESV)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5 ESV)

Salvation by Grace through Faith

Many people think that you have to be a good person to come to Jesus. However the Bible teaches us that we can never live a life that pleases God in our own strength.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 ESV)

We can't earn our way into heaven by our good deeds or by keeping a set of rules or laws. Salvation cannot be earned or achieved. It is a gift that has to be received by grace through faith in Jesus.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7 ESV)

Salvation is God's Will

God wants everyone to be saved. Salvation is exclusive in the sense that the only way we can have a relationship with God is through Jesus Christ, but we know that salvation is also inclusive in the sense that God's will is that everyone is saved.

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4 ESV)

The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 ESV)

Steps to Salvation

The big question has to be - How do we receive salvation? It is a wonderful free gift and it is God's will that we all are saved. God has created us with a free will and we must choose to surrender our lives to him as Lord and Saviour.

What do we need to do to make that choice? I am really pleased you have asked! Let me share with you the three steps to receiving salvation.

First, we must believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. By doing this we are surrendering our lives to Jesus. By making Jesus Christ our Lord we are saying that he is the most important person in our lives and that we want to live for him.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10 ESV)

Second, we must repent. To repent means to make a 180 degree turn. It means an inward change of heart that produces an outward change in behavior. It is turning away from a self-centred life and living a Christ centred life. It is saying that we will follow Jesus and put him first in everything.

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus. (Acts 3:19-20 ESV)

Third, we must pray and call on the name of Jesus. We call this the prayer of salvation.

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13 ESV)

Prayer of Salvation

If you want to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, please pray this prayer:

"Father God, I want to give my life to you. I am a sinner and I need your forgiveness. I believe in my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord. I make a decision today to turn from sin and to follow Jesus. Thank you that I now belong to Jesus, thank you for your forgiveness, in Jesus name. Amen"

If you have prayed this prayer today you have started a wonderful journey in relationship with Jesus. The Bible says you are now a child of God and a brand new person. Walking with Jesus is a wonderful adventure of faith.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13 ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

Your Next Steps

God wants you to grow in your relationship with Jesus.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18 ESV)

There are three things that I encourage you to do in order to grow in your relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

First, get a Bible and start to read it. A good place to start is with the Gospel of John, which tells us who Jesus is, what he taught and did in his ministry on earth. There are twenty one chapters in the Gospel of John and I encourage you to read a chapter a day over the next 21 days.

Second, start to pray. Prayer is talking and listening to God. A helpful acronym for prayer is PRAY. Start your time of prayer with PRAISE saying thank you to God. Next REPENT saying sorry for things that we have done that are not pleasing to God. Then ASK bringing your requests before God. Finally YEILD is surrendering your day to God and ask him for instructions for life.

Third, join a local church that believes the Bible and where you can enjoy fellowship with other Christians. It is important to build friendship with other Christians who can encourage you in your relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I hope that you have found this book helpful and this is my prayer for you today.

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11 ESV)



What is Salvation?

A booklet written by Rob McFarlane explaining how you can become a follower of Jesus and grow in your relationship with him.



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