

# Salvation through Grace

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## Introduction

In talking about salvation, or how to lead people to Jesus Christ, I first want to state that there are many scriptures to backup Christ redemption of our sins and the following message is just a small part of a massive host of scriptures which can be used. You have the wonderful privilege to discover these passages and use them in your own personal outreaches.

I have already preached an entire message of Salvation just from one book of the Bible, Roman's! The Salvation message is everywhere in your Bible, you could even find portions of the message through out of any book of the entire bible, even in the Old Testament, see for example the books of Genesis, Psalms or Proverbs. However it is in the New Testament that we discover Jesus Christ revealed revealed as King of kings and Lord of lords, and Saviour of the entire world!

The whole bible has many scriptures pointing to Christ's death and resurrection which are just waiting to be used to set the captive free from the law of sin and death. As I said before, I will maybe only touch on a few of these scripture, please forgive me if I miss out a favourite of yours! So I encourage you to get into your Bible, read it, and let the Holy Spirit open passages to you and reveal this great and Awesome gift of Salvation.

## What is the importance of the Gospel

The message of Salvation is foundational to our future in Christ Jesus. We need to be convinced in our hearts that God loves us, has sent His Son to die for our sins. To completely pay for our sins, once and for all time He completely removed the issue of sin from our lives. And made it possible for us to come into the very presence of a Holy God, unashamed and without stain, spot or wrinkle. So that we can know that we have been set apart for a very special purpose in his Kingdom

Remember Salvation is not a set of things, or a list of things to do to be saved or be born again. Salvation is the power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection which

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made it possible for God and man to be reconciled, by removing the guilt and condemnation that our sins deserve by removing the problem of sin altogether.

And you the messenger gets to partner with all the resources of God, to preach a message that will lead people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. You get a change to partner with God in changing the eternal habitation of the people you preach to, forever!

What an amazing privilege and we need to see it as such. God is not after numbers He is after individuals; He wants a relationship with individuals, each and every one of us! Never lose sight of the individual!

What is very important is that you preach the message of Salvation in a method that is simple and easy to understand, we do not want you to preach a long discourse of sin and Salvation making it difficult for people to understand, because the message of Salvation will speak for its self, because it is the power of God unto salvation and has Dynamite power to change people!

You have the Holy Spirit on your side convicting people of their sins, so let the power of this Message of the Gospel change the hearts of people. Never force anyone, let the Holy Spirit move over the people. Remember we are just instruments in God's hands, He knows those who are His, we just need to do His will and go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

### **We need Understanding**

Before we even start to preach about salvation we need to understand what exactly Jesus Christ did for us on the cross of Calvary .We must understand what Redemption is, because this is the basis of our faith in Christ Jesus! This needs to become a reality in our own hearts and we need to let it soak into our lives. Let it change our own hearts and belief systems before we start preaching Christ redemption to others.

Remember the Mumps and Measles story. You cannot preach the Mumps and expect the people to get the Measles!

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Redemption means the deliverance of sin, totally! It means to buy back or purchase something, like as a ransom for slaves – we were once slaves to sin but now we are redeemed through the blood of Jesus.

We need to understand that Jesus Christ did it all on the cross of Calvary and this has achieved according to **Hebrews 9:11-12**, an ETERNAL Redemption, that is for all time, forever and ever.

He has totally delivered us from all our sins, totally dealt with all our sins. Sin has been completely paid for, forever! Never to be done again! Once, for all eternity, sin has been completely removed from the picture. Never again will God hold anyone's sins against them.

### **Some Definitions**

So let get some understanding of the concepts and especially the understanding of what the words that are used in the Bible text, to describe Salvation. Again this is not the end of the list but some concepts you need to understand so that thing make sense.

<b><u>WORD</u></b>	<b><u>Definition</u></b>	<b><u>My Definition</u></b>
<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>	God's act of declaring a sinner righteous	Just as if I have never sinned!
<b>RIGHTEOUS</b>	A person has been judged and has been deemed to be leading a life which is pleasing to God.	Right standing with God.
<b>SANCTIFICATION</b>	Set apart for a special purpose ,made sacred or Holy	Made pure, clean and Holy
<b>ATONEMENT</b>	Refers to the forgiving or pardoning of sin through the death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion, which made possible the reconciliation between God and creation.	Sin has been pardoned.

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<b>GRACE</b>	The gift of divine favour in salvation of sinners.	<b>God's Riches At Christ Expense.</b>  Un merited favour.
<b>MERCY</b>	Mercy is a word used to describe compassion shown by one person to another. Or a request from one person to another to be shown leniency or unwarranted compassion for a crime or wrongdoing	Compassion or leniency
<b>REDEMPTION</b>	The word redemption means 'repurchase' or 'buy back', and in the Old Testament referred to the ransom/buying back of slaves	Bought with a price, Jesus Christ's precious Blood.

Jesus Christ's Death on the cross has made us in right standing (Righteous) before God, just as if we have NEVER sinned (Justified). He has bought us with a piece (Redemption) from the curse of sin and death, by paying the ultimate prices for the sins of ALL mankind! Wow!!

We were made pure and were set apart for a very special purpose (Sanctified)! Not only did He do this but He redeemed us from the curse of the law, meeting all its requirements for sin of ALL mankind, no exceptions, All the Muslims, All the Jews, All the Catholics, All the Jehovah's Witnesses', all the Hindu's, every person who has ever lived on this earth and whoever will live on this earth. So I am saying - HE DIED FOR ALL YOUR SINS, TOO!!!.

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### The Message of Salvation

Every person has the right to know and experience God's love, they also have the right to hear the message of Salvation at least once in their life times and they need to decide in their own hearts who they will serve.

This is independent of any other belief system they might hold. God wants us to preach the message so that everyone can have the opportunity to accept or reject Him not bias of any kind, All people on earth deserve to hear the message of Salvation!.

As I said before it is our task to bring this message to the people and to correct this wrong idea of God that people have.

Most people alive today believe have an opinion of God -? Most of them have a wrong concept or wrong mid set of God

- That God is angry with them. God is walking around with a stick and punishes them for their sins. He cannot wait for them to do something wrong to punish them in some way or the other!
- That God is distant form them – A God who lives far away in heaven, he is not concerned about me and my life, I am just another human being living on earth. I am unimportant to God.
- A God who is impossible to please – Their works, their best efforts just cannot make them feel any closer to God. He is unapproachable
- They are too much of a sinner or have done something that God can never forgive them for. They have sinned so badly that, they believe God has rejected them altogether.
- The have failed God in some area, maybe a marriage, many in their personal relationship like backsliding. God can forgive these sins but He cannot forgive this sin I have committed.
- They believe they have committed the unpardonable sin, so God cannot forgive them.

What is the unpardonable sin? Let's have a look at **John 16:7-11**,

*“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for*

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*if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, **he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.***

So the unpardonable sin, the sin against the Holy Spirit is *because they do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and his death on the cross of Calvary!!*

### Responding to the Gospel

Whichever method we use to tell people about God there needs to be a response and there needs to be a point where they, (according to Romans 10:9), Confess with their mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord and Believe in the hearts that God raised Him from the dead. They need to apply their faith to the finished work of the cross.

What is very important is that we tell the people about what Jesus did for them, which made God's anger appeased. God is not mad at them for their sins anymore, because the sin problem has been removed forever, and they have the freedom to come to Him without fear and condemnation. The greatest sin is not sin itself but the failure to Believe in Jesus Christ's finished work.

We also have to ensure that the people are brought to true repentance through turning their lives around. See what **2 Corinthians 7:10** says about Salvation, "*For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death*"

When people come to Jesus and they are genuine (we cannot judge who is genuine or not, we need to trust God to do the work), their sorrow / grief for their sins and what their sins cost Jesus Christ on the cross. Will produce repentance!.

Let me pause here quickly to explain the word repentance, repentance means a total turn around, like walking into a brick wall and turning around. You turn from your old way. You stop living your life like you used to and you now start living your life of Jesus. Repentance is the way we can see if people really are serious about God and if the message has accomplished its goal.

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So the people have repented, this leads to Salvation – the three types of sealing in by the Holy Spirit – **Ephesians 1:1-14, 2 Corinthians 1:20-21, 2 Corinthians 5:5** etc.

- Sealing of a Jam jar for preservation. Our spirits are sealed in with the Holy Spirit, preserved forever, never to be contaminated.
- Teflon coating of their spirit – this is the coating of our spirit that the devil or our sins cannot penetrate into our spirit. Nothing can get in except God's Spirit.
- The seal of ownership, our seal of ownership. We are God's Children!

When we preach we need to let the people know that Christ Jesus totally dealt with their sin problem and their sins are totally REMOVED, are out of the way, never to be brought up again. The reason why people go to Hell is not because of their sins, not because of anything else but that they did not believe.

Our task as pastors, evangelist and teachers of the word of God and any born again Christian is to lead any person into the knowledge of what it means to be saved and The KEY to this is found in **Romans 10:9-17**

**Romans 10:9-10** *"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."* This is the foundation of Salvation and all over the New Testament you will find examples of this method being used all through the New Testament.

**Romans 10:11**, says, *"For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." – No one who truly believes in Jesus Christ for their salvation will be put to shame"* People need to know that God is not a respecter of person's, He knows the inside of each person (**Galatians 2:6**).

**Romans 10:13**, says that, "everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.", we need to ask ourselves this one question, does this passage say some people? Or is it everyone even the unsaved? It is ALL or EVERYONE who call so who are we to judge whether someone is genuine or not? All people who call on His name will be saved.

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God is looking for people to go out and preach this message all over the world to every person, every tribe, every nation and every tongue with no bias. All people without exceptions, see what the rest of the passage says in **Romans 10:14-17**, “*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*”

Remember that believing alone is not enough, we need to apply our faith in Christ finished work on the cross, in fact faith without action is dead and even the devil believe in Jesus Christ and so do his demons but they tremble in fear!!

**James 2:17-20** “*So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?”*

So people are saved, get born again or find Salvation through none other than Jesus Christ and that is to

- To confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord!
- To believe in my Heart that God raised Him from the dead
- And put my faith in God’s word that I have eternal life
- This leads to repentance, a turning around of our lives or changed way of life
- This will product the New creation In Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

There really was nothing else to do because Christ had done it all for me. This is exactly what Peter said to the jailer when he asked how he could be born again? See **Act 16:30-31**, “*Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.*



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John puts it this way in **John 1:12**, *“To all those who did so take him, however, he gave the right of becoming children of God--that is, to those who had faith in his name”*

When we do what God expects of us, to accept Jesus Christ by confession of our mouth and believing in our hearts and adding faith to our action, believing we are saved. Then our spirit is infused by God’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit and we are sealed into Salvation for all eternity

**John 5:24** *“Truly I say to you, The man whose ears are open to my word and who has faith in him who sent me, has eternal life; he will not be judged, but has come from death into life.”*

We must never forget that Salvation does not come through our preaching of a great sermon but Salvation comes when we connect people’s spirits with the Spirit and they realise their need for a saviour which brings repentance, which brings Salvation which never brings regret for all eternity (**2 Corinthians 7:10**).

John says it this way **John 17:3**, *“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”* When we are saved we know we are His. We need to tell the people this, they have eternal life and they can know they have this through faith in Christ Jesus.

And Luke in the book of Acts put it this way in **Act 4:12**, *“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.”*

No other name, no other person, no other way but through Jesus Christ. While we were still God’s enemy, while we were still in our sin and distant from God, before we wanted to know Him, says Paul in **Romans 5:8** *“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

You know it is not our good looks, how much we read the bible, not anything that we can ever do, but the Grace and Mercy of God that. He chose the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross to REMOVE our stain of sin from our lives and now we have access to the very throne room of God.

The only thing we do is accept this finished work of the cross in FAITH Pauls says it like this in his letters to the Romans, **Romans 1:16-17**, *“For I am not ashamed*

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*of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

The just or righteous will live by faith and again in **Romans 5:1-2** “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Lastly as I end this section I just want to add, that although we have led the people to Salvation and they have made a genuine commitment to God by confessing with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord! And believing in their heart's that God raised Him from the dead, and put our faith in God's word that we have eternal life.

We still have a further task which is often neglected, and that is the task of discipling our converts. We have fathered spiritual children, now we need to bring these children up into spiritual maturity. We must ensure, if we cannot do this ourselves that we have able men and women that can walk with these people and bring them to maturity. This is so very important and a sad fact of most evangelical outreaches including the ones I have been involved in. I plead with you, we are responsible for them and we must bring them to maturity in Christ!

### So who can receive Salvation?

The passage we looked at in **Romans 10:13**, says “everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be *saved*.”. I do not know about you but that says EVERYONE has the opportunity to Call on the name of the Lord and be saved! This is not based on religion, race, language, ethnic background or anything else, if you are a human being it means YOU!!!

Christ died for you and if you apply your faith to this, call on His name and believe you will be saved, no acceptations.

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### The unsaved

Remember that the bible tells us that to the people of this world, the gospel of Christ sound like utter stupidity, they cannot understand or believe that God would forgive them. And if He does forgive their sins, they must do some form or act of works to please Him, or so they think.

Most people will think we are crazy and that our beliefs are stupid and have no basis, this is clear from many passages in the bible but here are two examples, **1 Colossians 1:18**, *“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*.

And, **2 Corinthians 4:4**, *“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.”*

When you speak to a non-believer you need to ask them this question and from their answers I promise you will know where they stand before God.

Let say there is a God and you die tonight and God met you at the gates of heaven and asked you why He must let you into heaven, what would you say?

If their reply is based on anything other than the finished work of the Cross then they cannot be saved or they have a wrong idea of salvation.

We cannot rely on our works to save us, **Isaiah 64:6** says that our righteousness, our works is as filthy rags before God.

So it is only through His finished work on the cross and God’s total grace and mercy towards, combined with their FAITH, that they have access to the very throne room of God.

Now when you have brought light on their believe system you can change it by bring God’s light and love to bear on them as you share the Gospel to them.

Never force it, if they do not want to hear just bless them and allow them to leave.

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Remember one very important fact is that not everyone will respond, we cannot decide this one will and this one will not. We must be faithful and bring the truth of the Gospel to the people and allow the people or person to accept or reject it.

It is by no way a reflection on you. I remember I had a co-worker who I really put a lot of effort into letting him know that God loved him and died for him. I would pray for him every day and ask God for an opportunity to speak to him.

One day that opportunity presented itself and I gave him the Gospel of Christ in great detail and in a plain and simple way so that he could understand. He was even crying and I really saw the Holy Spirit speaking into his spirit.

When I asked him if he want to accept Jesus Christ as Lord, he looked at me with tears in his eyes and shook his head, and said no! I did not press it further. I prayed for him and said that anytime he wanted, Jesus was there to be accepted.

Boy I was devastated, I went home, I could not understand that he said no. The devil even had a field day with me telling me I had done something wrong.

That evening at the supper table I told my mother about the episode at work and she lovingly explained that not all who hear the message will accept it. It was my task and responsibility as a Christian to take the Gospel to him but it was his responsibility to believe or reject it.

So please do not allow the devil to confuse you, not everyone will receive the message, see the story of the sower **Matthew 13:24-30**

### Closing

The most amazing thing about the Gospel of Christ is its simplicity. You do not need to study for years to understand it, you just need to hear it and if you allow it will change you from the inside out.

Paul said it this way in **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of*

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*reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

You are the New creation in Christ Jesus, you have been empowered to be Christ’s Ambassador (representative) so go out and start preaching the Gospel to people. God is not mad at people because in fact He is not counting our sins against us, see the passage above, but the sad fact is people are counting their own sins against themselves. The devil is helping condemn people but as you and I know according to **Romans 8:1-2**, “*There is therefore now no condemnation in Christ Jesus*”

Before I end this whole topic I just want to add that you really need to apply wisdom and ask God for a strategy. We know it is His will that we reach out to people but what works in one area will not work in another area. The Gospel remains the same and never changes but the way people understand and respond to it might vary.

My prayer for you is that you as Jesus Christ said in **John 15** but particularly verse 5, “*I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me*”

Go out and Bear much fruit for our Saviour!!!