

## Salvation Summary (Part 1)

### 5-Finger Plan of Salvation:

1. The Problem: SIN (John 3:3; Rom 3:22b-23)
2. The Penalty: SEPARATION (Rom 6:23a; Rev 20:11-15)
3. The Provision: SUBSTITUTE (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 3:18)
4. The Proof: RESURRECTION (Matt 28:5-6a; Rom 4:25)
5. My Part: BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 15:30-31; John 3:16-18)

### What Does It Take to Be Saved?: Confusing Passages in the Bible

1. Must I Be Baptized? (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
2. Must I Confess Something? (Matt 10:32; Rom 10:9-10)
3. Must I Accept Jesus as Lord? (Rom 10:9-10; Phil 2:11)
4. Must I Endure to the End? (Matt 10:22)
5. Must I Receive Jesus? (John 1:12)
6. Must I Sorrow for Sins? (2 Cor 7:9-10)
7. Must I Open the Door of My Heart? (Rev 3:20)
8. Must I Repent? (Matt 3:2; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38; 3:19)
9. Must I Pray? (Luke 18:13; Luke 23:42; Rom 10:13)
10. Must I Enter a Narrow Gate & Walk the Narrow Way? (Matt 7:13-14)
11. Must I Take Up My Cross? (Matt 16:24-26)

### Why All the Confusion About Salvation?

1. *Poor Understanding of Bible Terminology*
  - a. Using Different Terms for the SAME Experience ("Saved")
  - b. Using Synonyms as SEPARATE Ideas (have faith – believe – trust)
  - c. Using Unclear or Inaccurate Phrases as Separate STEPS
2. *Poor Bible Study Methods and Practices*
  - a. Accepting apparent contradictions as additional steps or conditions (do you add all the passages up, then?)
  - b. Assuming a word has only one meaning ("saved")
  - c. Being sloppy with terms (we think & study with words)
  - d. Choosing unclear verses over clear verses
  - e. Drawing conclusions before studying thoroughly
  - f. Engaging unqualified teachers (1 Tim 1:3-7; James 3:1)
  - g. Failing to compare the whole of Scripture (2 Tim 2:15)
  - h. Forgetting that the bible is the final authority, not men's teachings
  - i. Neglecting to define and understand terms
  - j. Ignoring the immediate context (verses before & after)
  - k. Repeating teachings without studying them oneself (especially pastors/teachers)
  - l. Using any curriculum / materials without reviewing them for biblical accuracy (good materials are rare...)

### What Must One Believe to Be Saved?

1. Salvation Requires Belief in a Sin Problem
2. Salvation Requires Belief in a Specific Person
  - a. Jesus Is the Only Means to God
  - b. Jesus Was/Is God in the Flesh
3. Salvation Requires Belief in a Substitutionary Payment and Resurrection

### What Does It Mean to Believe?

1. Belief = Faith  
Whatever "belief" (or "believe") and "faith" (or "have faith in") mean, they are **identical**, two English synonyms used to translate the **same** Greek word.
  - Verb: **pisteuo** ("to have faith," "to trust," or "to believe")
  - Noun: **pistis** ("faith," "trust," or "belief")
  - Adjective: **pistos** ("faithful," "trustworthy," or "believable")It would be most consistent and less confusing if all three words were translated with different forms of the same English word rather than with different words (i.e. with "**believe**," "**belief**," and "**believable**").

2. A Biblical Definition of "Believe" - Romans 4:20-21

<sup>20</sup> *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief [**apistia**], but was strengthened in faith [**pistis**], giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

- 1) God's **Promise** (God's CLAIM) – "what He had promised" – Biblical faith or belief **requires a legitimate promise of God** (believing in something God has not promised is **erroneous, dangerous, and worthless!**)
- 2) Our **Persuasion** (Our CONFIDENCE) (*Verb*: Lu 1:1; Rom 14:5; Col 4:12; 2 Tim 4:5,17; *Noun*: Col 2:2; 1 Thes 1:5; Heb 6:11; 10:22)
  - Of God's **Power** (God's ABILITY) – God **can do** what He says He will do
  - Of God's **Performance** (God's RELIABILITY) – God **will do** what He says He will do

Biblical faith (or belief), then, is:

- Being **completely convinced** that God **can** and **will** do what He has **promised**.
- Being fully confident that God can and will keep His Word.
- Being convinced that what God has **said** He **can** and **will** do.
- "I take God at His Word"
- "I believe that God will do what He has promised."
- Accepting God's claims as true. (Romans 4:16-25)