



Preach Proclaim Provide

Isaiah 61:1-3

New Believer in Christ

Congratulations for making the most precious and timely decision of receiving Christ as your own Lord and personal Savior. Receiving Christ in your life is not the end but rather the beginning of a great life of fulfilment and growth in Christ. Please take time to attend our New Believers classes' that will help you understand fundamental Christian principles to live by. Below we have defined what it means to be born again, saved or redeemed and the meaning of Sin in your life and an introduction about God as your Father as well as touching on some spiritual gifts. Reading this will make you settle down quite well in this awesome journey of Faith!

Salvation

In learning about salvation there are different terms involved which basically mean the same thing. To avoid confusion let us briefly consider some of those terms

1. SAVED

- Literally, it means to fully deliver someone or something from impending danger. We were in danger of being permanently separated from God [but you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he (Jesus) has now reconciled in his body or flesh by his death in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him"] (Colossians1:21-22, RSV)]

Salvation is our deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. Theologically, salvation is the whole process of deliverance in which God has made available to mankind. It entails deliverance from the power of sin (Romans 6:8-10), the curse of the law (Galations3:13), and deliverance from that which hinders us from enjoying the blessings of Abraham (Romans 4:13; Galations3:7-29)

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (**Romans 10:9-10**).*

- To be saved simple means to be **saved from something**. If a person is drowning and the lifeguard jumps in and saves them from drowning we know what they have been saved from. Spiritually many people are also drowning. They may or may not realize the danger of



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their situation, and Jesus the “lifeguard” has jumped in to ‘save’ them (us) from eternal damnation.

- Spiritually there is also something to be saved from. That something we need to be saved from is a terrible punishment and place called “**HELL**” the Story Jesus tells about the rich man (often referred to as Dives because Dives in Latin means rich man) and Lazarus. This story is found in **Luke 16:19-31**. Please read this passage of scripture in the Bible and look for these insights about hell.

Ask yourself the questions below

- Can those in heaven and hell visit each other? The rich man died and woke up where?
- Is the rich man having fun in hell? Is the rich man aware of having lost his opportunity of being saved?
- Is the rich man aware of having lost blessings? Is the rich man’s confinement to hell permanent?

Note: **In verse 31** of this passage Jesus says, ‘If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead,’ Moses and the prophets in the scriptures is a reference to people who are preaching to us today.

Obviously there is something to be saved from, a **real place** where those without salvation go when they die to suffer eternal torment forever, and they are forever separated from God and from the saved. They know they have missed out on the blessings of God.

2. BORN AGAIN

“Born again” means essentially the same thing as being “**saved**” However the phrase carries additional meaning and information about what happens when you are saved. Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be “**born again**” in the third chapter of the Gospel of John. Let us examine this passage of Scripture about being ‘born Again.’ The passage is found in **John 3:1-21**. Please read this passage of Scripture in the Bible and answer these questions:

- (a) Who will be in the Kingdom of God?
- (b) Is Jesus talking about being born physically a second time or being born for a first time spiritually?
- (c) How is someone “born again” and have eternal life?
- (d) Can you lose that eternal life and become unborn?

How do we condemn ourselves?

- Being saved is attaining life at birth. We are birthed into the Kingdom of God by the Holy Spirit. Only those who have experienced this spiritual birth will be in Heaven.

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- We receive eternal life at the moment that we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.
Once we have eternal life how can it be taken away? If it could be taken away it would not be eternal life. Eternal life cannot become un-eternal life.
- Jesus says in **Revelation 3:20**, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, he with me."

You are "saved" and "born again" at the same time. These two terms refer to the same thing in different views.

3. REDEMPTION OR REDEEMED

It is the deliverance of man from slavery of sin, the penalty of sin and the curse of the law by Christ paying the price.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons

Through redemption, our debt was not merely cancelled but paid in full. Christ became the ransom payment. Redemption means that we are no longer slaves to sin because Jesus paid in full our ransom and we are free (**Romans 5:6-9; 9:10-12**).

The New Life

Paul describes the new life of a born again believer in **2 Corinthians 5:17** when he says, Therefore if a man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." According to Paul **things are changed at the moment that we are born again**. Let us consider what this new life is like and how it has changed.

- The Bible will have new meaning for us as it is studied and as we listen to the Word of God being preached. Find **1 Corinthians 2:12-16**. Study this passage and find the answer to these questions;
 - a) Have we received the spirit of the world or the Spirit of God?
 - b) Does the natural man (the lost) understand the things of God?
 - c) What is one thing in this passage that clearly is freely given to us?
 - d) Those who are saved can understand the things of God because of what?
- Obviously if we are saved we received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God and because of that some things have been freely given to us that make us different than we were before salvation was received. Before we were saved, according to this passage, we could not understand the things of God. This is why there are so many interpretations of the



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Bible. It is why some read and read and study and study the Bible but never seem to get anything out of it. It is also why it is many times pointless to argue with the lost because for the most part they will only be able to understand clearly the Holy Spirit calling them to salvation.

- We will have a desire to be around other Christians. Find **1 John 3:11-14** and study this passage concentrating on **verse 14**. Find the answers to these questions:
 - (a) We will know that we have “passed from death unto life” because we do what?
 - (b) If you do not have love for other Christians and don’t want to be around them what most likely is the cause of that?

If we have been saved we will have supernatural love implanted in us causing us to love other Christians. This love will cause us to want to be around other Christians and to fellowship with them. We will have a desire to be in church, for that is where God’s power is most focused. Matthew 18:20 says what? Also, consider Hebrews 10:24-25. It has been said that if our religion is not strong enough to take us to church most likely it will not be enough to take us to Heaven. I believe there is an element of truth in that statement. It does not, however, mean that just because you are not in church that you are not saved or have lost your salvation. It is though a definite indicator of spiritual problems when we have no desire to be in church with other believers to worship our God.

- We will have a desire not to sin. We have a new nature but we still live in a fleshly body in a corrupt world. The apostle Paul describes the situation the Christian faces in **Romans 7:13-25**. Please examine this passage and answer the following questions:
 - (a) Does the apostle Paul live a life without struggle with the old nature?
 - (b) Is the apostle bothered by his failure to do good when he knows to do it?
 - (c) Is there something hindering the apostle from doing good?

The apostle Paul did battle everyday with the old nature just as do other Christians. Sin is not just what we do but as Paul reveals in verse 19 it is failure to do good when we know to do good.

- If we give attention to our good nature, that nature comes out on top. However, if we give our attention to the bad things, then the bad nature will come out ahead, Consider the following questions:
 - (a) What are some ways that you can give attention to the good nature?
 - (b) What are some ways that you can give attention to the old/bad nature?Here are some verses below that give you clues to answer the above questions:
Luke 6:45 Romans 12:2 ; Roman 13:14; Psalm 119:9; Psalm 37:1; 1 Peter 2:11; Matthew 5:28;
1 Thessalonians 4:3



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You might want to write your notes beside each verse how God spoke to you as you meditate upon it. These are excellent verses to memorize.

It is important to know that it is impossible to live the Christian life in your own strength. Only by abiding in Christ can we succeed in living the Christian life. Only through supernatural empowerment can supernatural life be lived.

SIN

What is sin? Disobeying God's will either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law
1John3:4. Mankind was created without sin but sin entered into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eve (Genesis3)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans5:12).

GOD the FATHER

Memory Verse: And God spoke unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: (the Lord: or JEHOVAH) and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them (Exodus6:2-3)

- a) Before Moses' encounter with God in the Midian desert, God was known generally as the God of the Fathers (Exodus2:24; 3:15). The extent of the children of Israel's knowledge of God was that he was the God of their forefathers and he was the creator. They did not doubt God's existence but they did not have an understanding of who he was. This is why Moses ask God, 'What is your name and who should I say sent me?' They did not have a relationship with God for themselves: it was based on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's relationship/

Yahweh or Jehovah (Lord) means the self-existent one (I am who I am or I am the One who is). Scholars say that it denotes God's personal name and his eternity. Throughout the Bible it is often used in relationship to God as redeemer and covenant keeper. God's personal name was so scared to most Jews that they feared to write or say it lest they misused it; therefore they substituted Adnoai for Yahweh. Jehovah is an English word created from the two to stand for God's personal name (**Genesis 2:4; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 68:14**)

- b) EL Shaddai means 'God Almighty' "all powerful" "all sufficient" In Hebrew El means "might". "strength", "power". Shad means "breast". God has more than enough nourishment to



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supply your every need and to comfort you (Genesis 17:1; 28:3, 35:11, 43:14 Exodus 6:3, Numbers 24:6 Psalms 22:1, 68:14). Read Psalms 91 and you will gain great insight into the meaning of EL Shaddai.

What do I need to do now?

Now that you have understood and assimilated the teachings above, your journey as a child of God has already commenced. The answer to the above is simple: Start growing in the knowledge of Christ and keep growing.

Your pastor becomes the most important person to help you get established. He/she has been anointed by God "to equip the saints (you) for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (See Ephesians 4:12). Be planted in a church under the care of your pastor and grow. Wish you healthy spiritual growth.

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