

Psalm 119:160 (NKJV) “The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your *righteous* judgments endures forever.”

Matthew 22:37-40
Romans 5:8; 10:9

God Loves You! † Jesus Lives!

John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6
Matthew 13:35

Resurrection Day

All Scriptures are KJV unless otherwise noted

In 1 Cor. 15:1-8, Paul tells us the gospel that he preached: That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose again the 3rd day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas [Peter], then by the 12 and after that He was seen by over 500 brethren at once (most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote the epistle). The “*risen* Christ” was also seen by James and all the apostles and last of all by Paul himself.

It is critically important that Christ rose from the dead and that many people were eyewitnesses to that fact, because if Christ is not raised, then our faith is futile and we are still in our sins! Truly, if in this life only we have hope in Christ, then we are of all men the most pitiable. When Paul defended himself before Felix (in Acts 24:10-21), he said (in Verse 15) that “And have *hope* toward God, which they [**the Jews*] themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” * Added for clarity

* Remembering and celebration of the *resurrection* of Christ Jesus is *essential* for all Christians!

It is so important for Christians to understand this “concept” of salvation!! I’m afraid it is not taught in the churches much today and neither is it understood by many...including preachers and teachers!! In Romans 8:24,25, Paul writes, “For we are saved by hope: but *hope* that is *seen* is not hope: For what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for it? But if we hope for what we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”

This is further clarified in other passages of Scripture as well. A few examples include the following:

Heb 11:1, “Now *faith* is the substance of things *hoped* for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Heb. 11:13-16, “These *all* died *in* faith, not having received the *promises*, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. ¹⁵And truly, *if* they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they *might* have had opportunity to **have returned**. ¹⁶But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.”

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- “These *all* died *in* Faith, not having received the *promises*, but having seen them afar off”, was speaking about Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. It also applies to us today and it refers to the future **Resurrection Day**, which all believers anticipate.

*Both of these passages in Hebrews indicate, similar to **Rom. 8:24,25**, that this eternal salvation is (in the fullest sense) something in the *future* and that *at this present time* we *hope* for it by **faith**.

Phil. 3:7-15, “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. ¹²Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, **I count not myself to have apprehended**: but **this one thing *I do*, forgetting** those things which are *behind*, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press *toward* the mark for the prize of the **high calling** of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵**Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded**: and **if** in any thing ye be otherwise minded, **God** shall reveal even this unto you. ¹⁶Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.”

- Paul was *waiting and hoping* for the “*resurrection*” – See **Phil. 3:11** and **Rom. 8:23-24**. Also check out **Lamentations 3:21-26** (on page 4).

When in Athens, Paul preached the “Resurrection of Jesus” to them just as he did in all the synagogues.

Acts 17:18-21, “Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus,

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saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, *is*? ²⁰For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. ²¹(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

- This was a new teaching to these Greek philosophers and it caught their attention, giving him opportunity to preach the gospel *fully* to them.

Later, Paul was arrested and imprisoned. This worked for his advantage though, because it gave him opportunity to witness both to Felix, the governor and to King Agrippa as well.

Acts 24:14-16 records a portion of Paul’s defense before the governor, Felix: “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: ¹⁵And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. ¹⁶And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.”

- Here again we see Paul is careful to witness to Felix concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The fact of **Christ’s resurrection is foundational to the gospel of Jesus Christ** and must not be overlooked or omitted.

In Acts 26:6-8, Paul defends himself before King Agrippa, “And now I stand and am judged for the *hope* of the *promise* made of **God** unto our fathers: ⁷Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving **God** day and night, hope to come. For which hope’s sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. ⁸Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”

In Rom. 8:22-23, Paul says, “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. ²³And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, **to wit**, the *redemption* of our body.”

- So Paul is *clearly* saying here that he himself and the *born again believers* (the church that he is writing to in Rome), are still waiting to be “*adopted*” as children of God, which occurs when their bodies are *redeemed* – and that occurs when their **bodies** are “*resurrected!*”

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Phil. 2:12-16, “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵That ye *may* be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye *shine as lights* in the world; ¹⁶Holding forth the word of life; that I *may* rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in *vain*, neither laboured in vain.”

Lam. 3:21-26, “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I *hope*. ²²*It is of* the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³*They are* new every morning: great *is* Thy faithfulness. ²⁴The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him. ²⁵The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul *that seeketh Him*. ²⁶*It is good* that a *man* should both hope and quietly wait for the *salvation* of the LORD.”

We know from **Heb. 9:27** that (as a general rule) it is appointed unto men to die once and *afterwards* to be judged. We also realize that there are *exceptions* to this “general rule.” For example, Lazarus died twice, as did others who died and were then raised from the dead. Some examples of this include: **1 Kings 17:17-23** (widow of Zarephath’s son raised by Elijah); **2 Kings 4:34-35** (the Shunammite woman’s son raised by Elisha); **2 Kings 13:20-21** (man raised to life when he came into contact with Elisha’s bones); **Luke 7:14-15** (widow of Nain’s son raised by Jesus); **Luke 8:52-56** (Jairus’ daughter raised by Jesus); **Acts 9:40** (Dorcas raised by Peter); **Acts 20:9-12** (Eutychus raised by Paul). These people all died at least two times before they were judged.

In **1 Cor. 15:51-52** Paul writes, “Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [**die physically*], but we shall all be changed, ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised *incorruptible*, and we shall be changed.” ***Added for Clarity**

This passage links directly with **1 Thess. 4:16-17**, “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: *and the dead in Christ shall rise first*: ¹⁷*Then we which are alive and remain* [** “we” refers to believers who are physically alive on the earth when Jesus returns for His Church – see 1 Thess. 4:13-18 for entire context*] shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

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What Paul is describing in 1 Cor. 15:51-52 and 1 Thess. 4:13-18 is that Jesus will return one day, bringing the *souls and spirits* (the *inner man*) of those who believed *and died “in Christ” with Him (1 Thess. 4:14)*. Then, “with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with God” the *bodies* of the *dead in Christ* will be raised from the dead to be *reunited* with their *inner man (i.e. spirit and soul)* which *Jesus* brings *with Him*. 1 Cor.15 describes *in detail* about this resurrection *hope* and how that “the *last* enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” (1 Cor. 15:26). 1 Cor.15:35-49 describes *different* kinds of glories and bodies. 1 Cor. 15:50 tells us that “*flesh and blood*” (*natural* bodies) cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Verses 52-54 describe how the *dead* bodies are raised (*and changed*) to incorruptible and immortal bodies (or *spirit* bodies) and **this is the actual “Redemption”** of our bodies that is mentioned in Rom. 8:23-25. **After** the *dead in Christ* are raised first (see 1 Thess. 4:15-16), **then** those who are *still alive* on the earth at this time, *and who believed* in Christ’s work and coming, will be “*caught up together*” with them *in the clouds* to meet the Lord in the air and we will be with the Lord forever from then on (1 Thess. 4:17). These people (the ones who were “*in Christ*” and still alive at His coming) will **never die**, as stated by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:51, and also as stated by Jesus in John 11:25-26. But rather, their bodies all will be *changed* into *spirit* bodies, which will be incorruptible and immortal. This change will take place in “*a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.*”

King David understood this “*hope*” very well. When he had Bathsheba and killed her husband (Uriah – see 2 Sam. Chapters 11&12), God struck that child with illness and David fasted 7 days for the child (until the child died). While the child was alive David had hope that God *might* let the child live, but now that he was dead he knew he could not bring him back. Yet David still had this “*hope*”, that one day David would go to be *with* the child (whom David *believed* was with God). He knew the child would not return to be with David. As Christian believers, we have this same “*hope*” for our loved ones who die *in Christ* – that one day we will be reunited with them (and with *Jesus*) in heaven. Later, Jesus will resurrect our bodies and *reunite* our new *spirit* bodies (incorruptible and immortal) with our soul and spirit (the inner man). This is when “death” is actually swallowed up in victory (see 1 Cor. 15:50-58).

It is *this “hope”* (resurrection unto “*life*”) that Paul is refers to in Rom. 8:23-25 that we are “*saved*” by.

Romans 8:23–23 “And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we

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ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we are saved **by hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? ²⁵But **if** we *hope* for that we see not, **then** do we with patience wait for it.”

Peter writes of it also in **1 Peter 1:3-9** when he says that we are “begotten again” (*born again*) unto a “**lively hope**” (or a *living hope*) through the *resurrection* of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an *inheritance* incorruptible and undefiled that does not fade away, but it is “*reserved*” in heaven for those who are **kept** by the power of God, “through *faith*,” for salvation which *will be* revealed (*future* tense) in the last time.

- **Peter 1:3-9** “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten us again** unto a *lively hope* by the *resurrection* of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵Who are **kept** by the power of **God** through *faith* unto salvation ready *to be revealed* in the last time. ⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through *manifold temptations*: ⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, *might* be found unto praise and honour and glory **at the appearing of Jesus Christ**: ⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet *believing*, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹*Receiving* the end of your faith, *even* the *salvation of your souls*.”

In **1 Peter 1:3-9**, Peter makes it very clear that being “*born (or begotten) again*” occurs at the “*beginning*” of one’s faith (see also **John 3:3, 5-7**). Remember – “*spiritual rebirth*” is accomplished by:

1. The Word of **God** (see **1 Peter 1:23**) and
2. The *Spirit* of **God** (see **John 3:3-6** and **1 John 5:1,4,5,12,13,18**)

Peter also makes it clear that our faith will be tested and tried for the rest of our physical lives, to determine its genuineness. **If** it proves *genuine*, **then** it *will* be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is important to understand that the “*eternal*” salvation of our soul is not received until the “end” of one’s **faith** – after it has been *tested* and found (or proven) to be **genuine**. We may “fail” **some** tests (according to vs 6-7), but, praise God, **if** we *confess* our sins, **He** is faithful to *forgive* our sins *and* to

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cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**read 1 John 1:7-9; 2:1-6). The “keys” to the passage of 1 Peter 1:3-9 are found in verse 3 (we are “*born again* unto a *lively hope*”) and also in verse 9 (the [**eternal*] *salvation* of our souls comes at the ‘end’ of the *testing* of our faith – not at the beginning!). * Added for clarity

This “process” of *inheriting* the “*eternal* *salvation*” of our souls *is* Scriptural, *but* it is in *conflict* with *many* of the teachings in various churches concerning *salvation and eternal* life. Many Christians do *not* seem to fully understand this *salvation process*, *nor* do they *distinguish* the “*process*” of *salvation* from the “*event* of being “*born again*” (or ‘saved’). **Jesus** clearly makes the distinction in Matt. 24:13 when He said, “**But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**” In this particular verse, Jesus was saying that we must *endure* in the ‘love of God’ *until* the end, if we are to be saved. This correlates quite well with what **Jude** records in Jude 21: “**Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the *mercy* of our Lord *Jesus Christ* unto *eternal* life.”**

I believe that the main reason for this problem is that the terms “salvation,” “save,” and “saved” are *widely misunderstood* by many (if not by most) Christians. To help understand what the Bible is really meaning when the terms *salvation*, *save*, or *saved* are used, we must look to the “*original*” words in the Hebrew (O.T.) and in the Greek (N.T.). There are several words in both the Hebrew and Greek, which are translated into the words *salvation*, *saved*, and *save*. These same words are also translated into other words (in English) such as *deliverance*, *liberty*, *safety*, *prosperity*, *rescue*, *help*, *defend*, *defense*, or *victory* etc. This will be easily understood as one briefly examines the Hebrew and Greek definitions from Strong’s Concordance. I will list the *original* Hebrew and Greek words for “salvation” first, with the most common word first, then the next most common, and down to the least commonly used word last (*similarly* in each example).

A. Old Testament (Hebrew) words for “salvation” (with Strong’s Concordance #) – 4 words

1. # 3444 – “yeshuah” – means *deliverance*, *aid*, *victory*, *prosperity*, *help*, *health*, *saved* or *salvation*.
2. # 3468 – “yasha” – means *liberty*, *deliverance*, *prosperity*, *salvation*, or *safety*.
3. # 8668 – “teshuwah” (or teshuah) means to *rescue*, *deliverance*, *help*, *safety*, *salvation*, or *victory*.
4. # 4190 – (in Ps. 68:20 only) – “mashaah” means *deliverance* or *salvation*.

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B. New Testament (Greek) word for “salvation” (2 words)

1. # 4991 – “soteria” means rescue, safety, deliver, health, salvation, save, or saving.
2. # 4992 – “soterion” means defender, defense, or salvation.

C. Old Testament (Hebrew) words for “saved” or “save” (2 main words)

1. # 3467 – “yasha” means to be free or safe, to cause to be free or safe, to defend, rescue, preserve, to bring salvation, save, savior, get victory.
2. # 2421 – “chayah” means to cause to revive, to keep alive, to give (promise) life, to preserve alive, to save, to be whole.

D. New Testament (Greek) words for “saved” or “save” (2 main words)

1. # 4982 – “sozo” means to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, or make whole.
2. # 4991 – “soteria” means rescue, safety, deliver, health, salvation, save, or saving.
3. # 1295 (1 Peter 3:20 only) – “diasozo” means to cure, preserve, rescue, to bring safe, escape (safe), heal, make perfectly whole, save.

So, from the above “*original*” Hebrew and Greek word definitions, it is pretty clear that the **basic** meaning of the words “salvation,” “save,” and “saved” incorporates the “*concepts*” of being delivered, rescued, helped, preserved, protected, healed, made whole, revived, defended, to get victory or to have prosperity. **It is very important to notice** that **not even one** of the **definitions** above included ***any*** of the words one would **expect** – such as **everlasting, eternal, or eternity**. Sadly, many (***if not most***) Christians have been taught (or else ***assume***, on their own) that for one to be **saved** (or **salvation**) is somehow an “*eternal*” thing. **I do wish to make it clear** that there **is** such a thing as “**eternal salvation**” (or **eternal redemption**). **Heb. 5:9**, speaking about **Jesus**, says, “And being made perfect, **He** became the author of ***eternal salvation*** **unto all them that obey Him**,” **also**, in **Heb. 9:12** (again speaking of **Christ Jesus**) says, “¹²Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by **His** own blood He entered in **once** into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption for us**.” We

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must understand that the redemption price that Christ paid stands good **forever** (*eternity*). It is *eternal* in it's “*merit and efficacy*”. **But** man's “*possession*” of it in this *present* life, does **not** automatically *guarantee* it will *remain ‘possessed’ eternally*. It is eternal even if **no** man ever received it or kept it. There are certain conditions one must meet to get it and to *keep* it.

Some conditions to obtain (inherit) “eternal life” include:

(*Dake's Large Print Annotated Bible notes pages 174-5 NT)

1. Come to Christ (John 6:37,44,45,65)
2. Eat His flesh and drink His blood (John 6:50-51,53,58)
3. Labor (John 6:27)
4. Reap (John 4:35-38; 15:4-8)
5. Hate (i.e. love *less*) the life in *this* world (John 12:25)
6. Know God and Christ (John 17:2-3)
7. Enter the *right* gate (Matthew 7:13-14)
8. Cause no offence (Matthew 18:8-9)
9. Keep His Commandments (Matthew 19:17; John 14:15)
10. Forsake *all* (Matthew 19:27-29; Mark 10:28-30; Luke 18:28-30)
11. Live *free* from sin (Romans 5:21; 6:16-23; 8:1-13; Titus 2:11-14)
12. Continue in well doing and seek *eternal* life (Romans 2:7)
13. Sow to the *Spirit* (Galatians 6:7-8)
14. Fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on it (1 Timothy 6:12,19)
15. Be sober and *hope to the end* for it (Titus 1:2; 3:7; 1 Peter 1:5,9,13; Romans 8:23-25)
16. Endure temptations (James 1:12; 5:11; Heb. 10:23, 35-39; 12:1-3; 1 Peter 1:6-9)
17. Let the promise of it remain in you and *continue* in God and in Christ (1 John 2:24-25; 5:11-20; John 15:4-6)
18. Love everyone (1 John 3:14-15; John 13:34; 15:12; Matthew 5:43-48)
19. Keep yourself in the *love of God* as you look for *eternal* life (Jude 20-24; Matthew 24:10-13)
20. Overcome sin (Revelation 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21; also chapters 14 & 15)
21. Be faithful unto *physical* death (Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12-14; 10:23-27, 35-39)

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22. Believe and obey the gospel (John 3:15-19, 36; 4:14; 5:14; 6:40,47,54; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 5:17; Romans 1:1-7; 2 Thess. 1:3-10; 1 Peter 1:22-25)

23. Be born again, hear Christ, and follow Him (John 3; 10:27-29; 21:17-19; Matt. 19:16, 21-24; Mark 10:17, 21-25; Luke 9:35 etc.)

From Dake's notes (NT Page 175): We must *understand* that we can receive (and keep) eternal life now, if we meet all of God's conditions, but it does not become an unforfeitable (or **eternal**) *possession* until we “*enter into it*” (Matt. 7:13; 18:8-9; 19:17; Romans 6:22); and we “*receive it*” (Romans 6:23; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:13; Revelation 2:10). It must be understood that it is “*inherited*” at the “*end*” of *this physical life* (Romans 6:22; 1 Peter 1:9,13), in the world to come (Matthew 19:27-29; Mark 10:28-30; Luke 18:28-30).

Daniel 12:1-2 says, “¹And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ²And many of them that *sleep in the dust of the earth* shall awake, some to *everlasting life*, and some to *shame and everlasting contempt*.”

This passage in **Daniel** addresses how *Israel* will be delivered (or saved) after a *time of trouble*. This period of trouble is referred to by other descriptions, such as ‘the time of *Jacob's* trouble’ (Jer. 30:7), ‘the *tribulation*’ (also the *great tribulation* in Matt. 24:4-31), ‘the coming of the lawless one’ (in 2 Thess. 2:7-12), ‘Daniel's 70th week’ (Dan. 9:24-27 – *particularly* verse 27) etc. It is during this 70th week of Daniel's that **God** will *complete His* plan for *Israel*, as described in **Daniel 9:24**, “*Seventy weeks* are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make *reconciliation* for *iniquity*, and to bring in *everlasting righteousness*, and to *seal up the vision and prophecy*, and to *anoint the most Holy*.”

Believers *must* more fully *understand* the “**New Birth**” (being *born again*). “It is a *moral and spiritual* change, not a *physical* one (Galatians 4:29; John 3:1-8). It's a change of *heart, will, motives, desires, life style and conduct*, not of an organism (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). It's a change of “*Masters*,” not of constitutional make up of body, soul, or spirit (Romans 6:11-23). It's a *consecration* of one's *body, soul, and spirit* to serve

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God and holiness rather than the devil and sin (Romans 6:16-22; 8:1-13; Colossians 3:5-10; Galatians 5:16-26).

It's a change of favor, and a new standing before God (Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 3:8-10). It's also a change of *character, state, and service* (Galatians 5:21-22; 1 Corinthians 13; Romans 3:24-31; 5:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:21). The moment one is grown enough to recognize he is a sinner and when he repents and believes the gospel, a *moral and spiritual change* takes place. But the moment he chooses to sin again, he has a *moral [*and spiritual] fall*, he incurs the penalty of the *broken law* again, and comes under the penalty of death again (James 1:13-15; 5:19-20; Romans 6:11-23; 8:1-13; John 8:34; 2 Peter 2:19-22; Hebrews 6:4-9; 10:26-29; Galatians 5:4, 19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 John 3:8-10; Ezekiel 18:4 etc.) **If a man sins**, he **must** be *forgiven and restored* or pay the *death penalty* as stated in Galatians 6:7-8 and other Scriptures stated above.” ***Added **Dake's large Print Bible Notes on "new birth" Gal 4:19 pg. 362 of NT**

It is also important to understand that the "New Birth" can happen once and it can also happen again and again. The gospel teaches forgiveness *more than once* – even 490 times (Matthew 18:21-22). Would God command *men* to do this if He would not do, at least, as much Himself? if any man (or **Christian**) sins, he has an advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1-2). What is this advocate for, *if not to restore backsliders to God?* (see 1 John 1:7-9; Jeremiah 3:12-13, 22-23; Psalms 86:5; Romans 10:13). *Re-conversion* is taught in James 5:19-20; Romans 11:18-24; 2 Timothy 2:17-26; Galatians 4:19; 1:6-8; 3:1-5; 5:4; 6:1; Revelation 2:4-5, 16, 21-26; 3:3, 15, 16. Peter was *born again* (see Matthew 16:16) and had the power to heal and preach (had the **Holy Spirit**), yet **Jesus predicted his backsliding and re-conversion** (in Luke 22:31-34). This shows a man can be converted but must be converted *again*, if he sins, as Peter did in Matthew 26:69-75. In Luke 15, Jesus taught that a sheep, a coin, or a son could *become lost* and be **found again**. Therefore it is illogical to argue one can be *lost and found only once*, or that *once being found* that they could *never* be lost again. It would be still *more unreasonable* to argue that if any one was lost and *never found again*, that it was *never* found in the first place. This process is possible of men who go back into sin any number of times. The parable of the prodigal (*lost*) son makes this clear in Luke 15:24, when the "father" said, "For this my son *was* dead, and is alive again [so he had to be alive (*spiritually*) before, then *became* (*spiritually*) dead, and is now made *alive again*]; he was lost and is found [so he had to be *found* before or he could not have been lost, yet now he is found again in the end]." We see this in Psalms 51:1-14, where David was renewed again *after* he committed sin. God taught Israel time and again (even in the Old Testament) that He would "restore" them again, if they

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Matthew 22:37-40
Romans 5:8; 10:9

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John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6
Matthew 13:35

would meet His conditions (see Isaiah 1:16-18; Jeremiah 3:13-15; 4:1-4; 18:1-10; Hosea 6:1-3; 10:12-13; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 and more). ****Dake's Notes Pg. 362 NT with emphases added**

Hebrews 12:1-3 says, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin* which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us **run with patience** the race [***or course**] that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our faith*; who for the joy that was set before **Him endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For **consider Him** that *endured* such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” ***Added for clarity**

****When one has been “born again” by the Word of God and the Spirit of God (see page 6 [bottom] and top of 7), and they have *truly* been *saved (or rescued or delivered)* from their *spiritually dead* condition, we must always keep in mind that, at this time, it is not ‘unforfeitable’ yet. They have been *reconciled* to God (by faith) through Christ’s finished work on Calvary’s Cross and His subsequent resurrection. At this point, the *born again* believer is now *spiritually alive* and has *entered “the race”* (or their “*course*”). The Bible records this in Hebrews 12:1; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 4:6-8 *etc.*). **Jesus** often taught at diverse times that man is “to take up their *cross* and *follow Him*” (Mt. 9:9; 16:24; 19:21, 28; Lk. 9:23; 18:22; John 1:43; 12:26; *etc.*). We must realize that the genuineness of our faith will be tested until *death* (Heb. 11:5, 7-9, 17-19; 23-27; 30-39; James 1:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; Rev. 2:10 *etc.*).**

Matthew 16:24-26 says, “Then said **Jesus** unto **His** disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** ²⁵**For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.** ²⁶**For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give *in exchange* for his soul?”**

It *has* been said, “**He is no fool, who gives what he *cannot* keep, to *gain* what he *cannot* lose.**” I can’t recall who said (or wrote) this, but it is likely that it refers to **Matthew 16:24-26**. **If** we wish to have eternal life *in Christ*, **then** we must *surrender* our *present* life to Him **now**. At *first*, this seems like too much to ask but, think about it. This life is very *short*, compared to *eternity*. Furthermore, *this* life is *filled* with *pain, troubles, expenses* and *worries*. An *eternity* of *blessings* and *peace*, in God’s presence seems *much* better to me.

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John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6
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- Other *related* verses include Matt. 10:28, 36-39; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26; 14:25-33; 18:18-27 etc. These verses, along with Matthew 16:24-26, all speak about the cost of discipleship. We may not think much about that here in America, but in places such as China, North Korea, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Islamic controlled countries, people are being martyred every day! Some lose homes and possessions, some lose their lives, some entire families are *annihilated*, and some *entire villages, churches* and/or *cities* are destroyed and exterminated. We, in the U.S., need to *open* our eyes to what is going on in the *rest* of the world. It makes me wonder how we would do under such persecutions. Believe me, Christians are *now beginning* to be persecuted in the U.S.A. It is not on the same level as other places, but, it will increasingly get *worse* in this country. I believe we will see a significant increase in the persecution very shortly. Remember, **God will test the genuineness of our faith**, even here in **America**. This persecution will be greatly increased by *ungodly and corrupt* politicians, *primarily* from one party, but not entirely so.

Just as Christ *denied* Himself (and His *fleshly* body), which He did as He obeyed “the *will* of the Father” (in **Luke 22:41-42**), *and* by offering up His “body of *flesh*” on Calvary’s cross; God also expects us to offer up our bodies as a *living* sacrifice. This is “**our** cross” to bear and we are to *endure* in this effort, whatever it entails, until we die physically.

Romans 12:1-2 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to *this* world: but be ye *transformed* by the *renewing* of your mind, that ye may *prove what is* that *good*, and *acceptable*, and *perfect*, will of God.” *To “*prove*” is to show, or demonstrate, and validate something.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian believers, concerning *their* salvation:

Philippians 2:12-16, “¹²Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more *in my absence*, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is **God** which worketh in you both to *will and* to *do* of *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things *without murmurings* and *disputings*: ¹⁵That ye *may be* blameless and harmless, the **sons of God**, without rebuke, *in the midst* of a

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crooked and perverse nation, among whom *ye shine as lights in the world*; ¹⁶*Holding forth* the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

It was critically important to the apostle Paul that those who came to Christ under his ministry would *continue* to *persevere and endure* in the word of life and the race (or *course*) that they had *begun*. That way he could rejoice that *his race, and labor*, had not been in *vain*. He also wrote to the believers in **Corinth** with a similar warning.

1 Cor. 15:1-2, ¹“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ²*By which* also **ye are saved, if ye keep in memory** what I preached unto you, *unless* ye have **believed in vain**.”

Paul also sent several stern warnings to the believers in Galatia: (2 examples below)

Gal 3:1-4, ¹“O *foolish* Galatians, who hath *bewitched* you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ²This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit** by the *works of the law, or* by the hearing of *faith*? ³**Are ye so foolish?** having *begun* in the **Spirit**, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? ⁴**Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.**”

Gal. 5:1-6, “**Stand fast** therefore in the *liberty* wherewith Christ hath made us **free, and be not entangled** *again* with the *yoke* of bondage. ²Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be *circumcised*, *Christ* shall profit you **nothing**. ³For I testify again to every man that is *circumcised*, that **he is a debtor** to do the **whole law**. ⁴Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; *ye are fallen from grace*. ⁵For we through the *Spirit wait* for the *hope of righteousness by faith*. ⁶For *in Jesus Christ* neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; **but faith** which *worketh by love*.”

There are numerous warnings in the Word of God concerning the *salvation* of our souls and the attaining of “*eternal salvation*” and *everlasting* (or *eternal*) life. There are many other examples given in God’s Word concerning things we must continue in if we are to **receive** (or enter into) “*eternal salvation*” and “*everlasting life*.”

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With this concept of “perseverance” in mind, consider the following poem (author unknown) that is titled:

“Don’t Quit”

“When things go wrong, as they sometimes will; when the road you’re trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and debts are high; and you want to smile but you have to sigh;
When cares are pressing you down a bit; rest if you must, but don’t you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns, as every one of us sometimes learns;
And many a failure turns about, when you *might* have won if you stuck it out.
Don’t give up, though the pace seems slow; you *may* succeed with another blow:

Often the goal is nearer than; it seems to a faint and faltering man.

Often the struggler has given up, when he *might* have captured the victor’s cup.

And he learned too late, when the night slipped down; how close he was to the golden crown.

Success is *failure* turned inside out, the silver tint of the clouds of doubt.

And you never can tell how close you are; it *may* be near when it seems afar.

So stick to the fight when hardest hit; it’s when things seem worst that you mustn’t quit.”

This concept of “persevering and enduring” is also illustrated throughout the Word of God, in both the Old Testament and the New. There are hundreds of examples which point to the relevance, *particularly* concerning how it relates to the *Christian* and his “goal” - “the *resurrection* unto eternal life.” Many of these scriptures, or their references, are included in this essay, but *many others* are not listed or addressed.

Rev. Finis Dake makes note in his annotated Bible, on **page 362 of N.T.** that, “there is nothing made but what can be revived, restored, recast, refinished, rebuilt, reanimated, refashioned, and remade by proper and skilled workmanship. Would we be so *foolish* as to claim that *Almighty God* is the only one who cannot do His work over and over again, should it need to be done? Shall we say that man alone cannot be forgiven, restored to favor, and be “revived” more than once?”

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It is man alone who dares to impose this limitation upon the Sovereign and Almighty God! The only things that God cannot do are things which are “contrary” (or *opposed*) to His nature.

God Cannot: (Dake Large Print Annotated Bible Note 30 Limitations of God Page 1058)

(Note: this is *merely* a Partial List)

- Lie (Hebrew 6:17-19) Please, look up the references and Read them (for all the following examples)
- Break His own laws (Psalms 119:89)
- Deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13)
- Have respect of persons (Romans 2:11; James 2:9-10)
- Save a soul apart from grace and faith in Christ (Romans 3:26; John 3:16)
- Be unrighteous (Romans 9:14)
- Curse men when they meet His terms (1 John 1:9)
- Be tempted with evil (James 1:13-15)
- Tolerate hypocrisy (Isaiah 1:13)
- Turn down any soul that comes to Him according to His terms (John 6:37; Romans 10:13)
- Save rebels who persist in rebellion and refuse to meet His terms (Proverbs 1:22-33; Matthew 18:3; John 3:3, 5)
- Judge the righteous with the wicked (Genesis 19:22; 2 Peter 2:4-9; Revelation 20:5-6, 11-15)
- Forgive unconfessed sin (Luke 13:1-5; 1 John 1:9)
- Keep one saved who is living in (or practicing) unrepentant sin (Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:19-21; 6:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
- Cancel any reaping for what is sown (Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 6:7-8)
- Guarantee that every saved man will continue in Christ (John 15:1-8; Romans 6:16-23; 8:12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 9:27; Galatians 1:6-8; 5:4; Exodus 32:32-33; Ezekiel 33:12-20)
- Keep the saved from going back to sin if he chooses to (Romans 6:16-23; 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:9-10, 19-20; Hebrews 6:4-9; 10:26-29; 11:13-16; James 5:19-20; 1 John 2:1-2; Ezekiel 33:12-20), and other similar examples.

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Consider it in this manner: God is a **God of creation** and He is able to restore, recreate, revive, rebirth, renew, etc. because this *complies with* His *nature*. Thank **God** that He can do these things with man! Also thank **God** that He is merciful, gracious and forgiving! God does not change and His **Word will not change**, but He can change us, remake us, restore us, revive us, conform us, renew us, transform us, and “save” us, over and over if He so chooses. I thank God for the hope He has given to us through His *promise* that He will “resurrect” His *saints*, giving them *new glorified spirit bodies* that will be *immortal and incorruptible* and that *we will live and reign with Him* in His *Kingdom* from then on and forever.

Praise His Holy Name! Amen!

I love the words and chorus of Tim Hughes’ song: (Only showing 1st verse and chorus)

Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

Praise God for His *marvelous* works!

Praise Him for **manifesting HIMSELF to mankind!**

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