

# Faith Baptist Church Discipleship Level 1

Lesson 1. The Doctrine of Salvation

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## Lesson 1. The Doctrine of Salvation

Before we can study the doctrine of salvation, first we need to understand what the word means. So consider the two definitions of the word “salvation” as they are found in the Webster’s 1828 dictionary:

### Salvation:

1. The act of saving; preservation from destruction, danger or great calamity.
2. Appropriately in theology, the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him of everlasting happiness. This is the great salvation.
  - I. Saved from what? It is important to notice that in the definition of the word “salvation”, there is no mention of Hell. When we say we are saved, we mean that we are saved from sin.
    - A. Free from the bondage of Sin. **Romans 6:18**  
Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
    - B. Free from the wages of sin. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Free from the reign of sin. **Romans 6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

II. Do I need to be saved from sin? The answer to this question is a resounding YES. The Bible says that in the sight of God, every single person looks the same. By this we mean that everyone is born with the inclination to sin. This inclination is also called a “sin nature”. The sin nature is the part of a person which naturally wants to do what makes our bodies (our flesh) feel good. It is our sin nature that craves to think about, look upon, say, and do things that the Bible calls sin. An easy way to think about sin is by defining it as anything that is contrary to God and his Word.

- **1 John 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Sin is knowing that something is wrong, and doing it anyway, or knowing something is right and choosing not to do it.

- **James 4:17** Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin. So, if doing what God says is wrong is a sin, then we are all sinners. No one has ever lived a completely perfect life, completely void of sin.

This is made clear in the Bible:

- **Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

- III. How can I be saved from sin? This is the most important question any of us could ever ask. It is possible to be saved from sin, but not the way you might think.
- A. Not by being sinless. **1 John 1:10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
  - B. Not by buying it. **Acts 8:20** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.
  - C. Not by doing good works. **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

All of these things might sound good, but none of them deal with the sin that we are guilty of. The punishment for sin must be paid, after all God is just and fair.

The Bible says that God knew our sinful and hopeless condition, and yet he loved us and wanted to see us saved from having to suffer the punishment for sin. God made a plan that would save us.

- **John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn

the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

God sent his Son Jesus into the world, but unlike every other person, Jesus was perfectly sinless. The Bible says that he was tempted to sin just like us, but every single time he resisted the temptation and remained perfect.

- **Hebrews 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

This means that while we are guilty before God, Jesus was totally innocent before God. And this is why Jesus came into the world. By remaining innocent of sin, he could take our guilt and punishment instead. So that would mean that our sin would be punished without us suffering the punishment. That is exactly what happened.

- **Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

IV. So, what must I do to be saved? That is a great question, and the answer is much simpler than you probably think. The Bible says that Jesus did everything necessary for us to be saved from sin. All that is left for us to do is trust in the sacrifice for our sin, and abandon our own efforts (and everything else) to save ourselves.

- **Romans 10:9-10** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt

believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Could it really be that easy? Can anyone really be saved simply by calling out to God in faith? YES!!! It doesn't matter who you are, or what you've done, God loves you and wants you to be saved.

- **Romans 10:12-13** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

When the Bible speaks about believing in your heart, it is referring to a change of heart that is called "repentance". This simply means to turn from loving and pursuing sin and turn to believing and following God.

- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

In conclusion: God has provided everything necessary for us to be saved, all we must do is trust in his plan instead of ours. The plan of salvation can be summarized as follows:

1. To be saved one must know he is a sinner. **Psalm 51:3** For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.

2. To be saved one must realize he is helpless to save himself or even help save himself. **Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
3. To be saved one must repent of sin. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
4. To be saved is to receive Christ, who is eternal life, by trusting in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. **Hebrews 10:10** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Understanding all of this, are you sure you are saved? If there is even a hint of doubt, you should stop what you are doing, bow your head, and ask God to save you from your sin.

Questions for review:

1. According to James 4:17, what is the Bible definition of the word sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. When we say we have been saved, what does it mean that we have been saved from. \_\_\_\_\_
3. According to Romans 3:23, who needs to be saved from sin? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was God's plan to save us from sin since we couldn't save ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. So, what is the only thing I'm required to do to be saved?  
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6. The story of how and when we got saved is called our testimony. Briefly give your testimony, include where you were, when it happened, and who the Lord used to tell you about what Jesus did for you. \_\_\_\_\_  
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You should try to become very familiar with your own testimony so that you will be able to concisely share with others how you got saved from sin. The Lord may use you to tell your family and friends how they can also be saved.

Other Scriptures to Read:

- 1. Romans Chapter 3
- 2. The Gospel of John Chapter 3
- 3. Ephesians Chapter 2
- 4. 1John Chapters 1-3