

3-Fold Salvation for 3-Fold Man

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Do you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you repented?

Good! Then I feel I can safely say with full scriptural witness that you are once and for all saved.

'Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.' Acts 16:29-31

'But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.' Romans 5:8-9

Did you believe today, as when you first trusted Christ?

Praise God! Today you received salvation.

'Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.' Hebrews 10:38-39

Will you believe for the rest of your life?

If you believe for the rest of your life, then you will be saved.

'...but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.' Matthew 10:22b

What am I getting at?

I am getting at a doctrine that could be called **'three-fold salvation for a three-fold man.'** Man is a spirit, right? The spirit of an 'unsaved' man is dead. That will really incite anyone you say it to who calls themselves 'spiritual' but will not confess Jesus as Lord, but it is in the B-I-B-L-E.

' And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)' Ephesians 2:1-5.

When you place your faith in what God has done for you through Christ, then your spirit is raised from the dead. The scriptural term for this phenomenon is 'born again.' (1 Peter 1:3). This spirit can be said to be 'justified.' (Romans 3:24). You don't have to 'do' anything to be justified, unless you call holding out your hand to receive a gift 'doing' something. And of course, since you didn't have to 'do' anything to receive it, there's not anything you could do to 'undo' it. You are saved. (Ephesians 1:11-14).

But there's more to it than that, for in scripture we find clear admonitions to do and not to do certain things, 'or else.'

'Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.' 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

'Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.' Galatians 5:19-21

'Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.' Galatians 6:7-8

So in apparent conflict with our previous conclusion we see that what we do or don't do has some effect on our 'salvation.' The answer to this conundrum is found in the very verses following the verses quoted above from Galatians.

Here's a scenario:

I am free from the condemnation of the law and have a pre-paid ticket at the will call desk next to the pearly gates. Now if I choose to use my freedom to go be a drug addicted, homosexual, warlock thief, do you expect that I would possess much "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance?" (Galatians 5:22, 23) **Of course not!**

And, considering that the kingdom of heaven is those things (Romans 14:17), it could in a sense be said that I was not an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. Although I'm 'saved' in the sense of my spirit being justified before God and being assured of escape from everlasting torment in hell, I am 'not saved' in the sense that my life has become a living hell of shame, hate, fear, lust, violence, and unrest. Although I 'believed' in time past and was 'saved,' the lifestyle indicates that I am not living out that belief on a day-to-day basis (2 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 10:10).

This day to day expression of our belief through the suffering of righteous living in an ungodly world filled with Satanic oppression and discouragement and temptations of our sinful bodies and souls is how we are 'saved' in the sense of partaking of heaven NOW. You must suffer in the flesh to be saved. Don't worry, you don't have to do anything to work up any suffering; God will be faithful to put people and circumstances in your life to manifest the areas in which you are not like his Son so that your sinfulness can be 'suffered through,' the result of which is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, meekness, temperance, faith (Romans 5:3-5; Matthew 3:11; Mark 9:49).

Salvation of the Soul

This 'salvation' is the salvation of your soul, that is to say, your will, mind, and emotions that make up your personality (1 Peter 1:9). It's the process by which God makes you more like his Son (Romans 8:28, 29). The term that's often used to describe this process is 'sanctification,' the 'setting apart' as holy unto the Lord of more and more areas of all facets of your life.

Scripture makes it clear that the bodies of dead people will be resurrected. It was prophesied in the Old Testament (Psalms 16:10; Ezekiel 37:1-14) and has examples there (2 Kings 13:21). It occurred in the New Testament (John 11:43,44; Matthew 27:50-53). Jesus openly rebuked the Sadducees for their unbelief concerning the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-32). It is a foundation of the Christian faith (Hebrews 6:1,2). Paul wrote the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 to explain the resurrection. Now when we are resurrected, we shall receive glorified spiritual bodies (1 Corinthians 15:44,51-53). We shall also receive

rewards for our deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10). At least part of our reward will be the degree of glory received in our bodies (Daniel 12:3).

Thus we find that our bodies will be 'saved,' that salvation that is obtained from enduring to the end. That it will occur is indisputable in scripture; exactly how or along what guidelines is difficult to say exactly. However, one saying that can be probably extrapolated is that the degree to which we glorify and do honor to Jesus Christ in our souls, to that degree will Christ's glory be manifested in our bodies.

By the way, the potential reward to be received is not so much to be a motive for deeds, but more to be something of an incentive to persevere when the temptation comes to give up. Heaven will be great regardless. One saying is that we will all be vessels that are totally filled with the Spirit of the Lord, but our choices to sin or obey right now are determining the size of the vessel. Oh well, in the end we'll all throw our crowns, heavy and bejeweled, or thin and plain, at His feet (Revelation 4:10). The word that can be used to describe this future thing that Jesus will do to us is 'glorification.'

So here we have the doctrine of three-fold salvation for three-fold man. It does cut down on some of that confusion as to whether or not you're 'saved' and whether it's by faith or by works.

- **You were saved** (justified by spiritual rebirth) when you first believed, as you live from day to day the life of faith in God through Jesus Christ.
- **You are being saved** (sanctification of your soul), and...
- **You will be saved** on that last day (glorification of your body).

Another way to think of it is that you were delivered from the 'penalty' of sin when you were justified, you are being delivered from the 'power' of sin daily as you are sanctified, and you will one day be delivered from the 'presence' of sin when you are glorified. Hallelujah!

Oh, just to cover all the bases, man is most definitely a three-fold creature. God formed man of the dust of the ground (body), breathed into him the breath of life (spirit), and man became a living soul (see Genesis 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

This foundational understanding can be greatly expanded upon for all sorts of practical circumstances to help you to 'fight the good fight of faith' and 'lay hold on eternal life.'

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