

WE ARE SAVED BY...

Religious division exists over many things; how we are saved is probably the biggest. Some say “grace only.” Some “faith only.” But the Bible teaches that many things save. The Bible does not contradict itself; *all* of these things save us. None work alone!

1. **MERCY** Everything starts with God’s mercy (not getting what we deserve)! **Titus 3:5** – “*according to his mercy he saved us...*” Had God not had mercy on us, He wouldn’t have extended grace, there’d be no plan of salvation, and we’d all be lost, with no hope!
2. **GRACE** His mercy then brought grace (getting what we don’t deserve)! **Eph 2:5,8** – “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*” Mankind never earned salvation. We didn’t even earn the *plan* of salvation (**Rom 5:8** – “*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”). We are saved by God’s grace, but not God’s grace alone! “...through faith!”
3. **FAITH** God’s grace is extended to *all* men (**Titus 2:11**), but not all will be saved (**Mt 7:13-14**). So, something on our part is needed. **Acts 16:31** – “*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.*” This was to the Philippian jailer, who knew *nothing* of Christ or the plan of salvation...yet. This belief is faith – an obedient belief.
4. **OBEDIENCE** God has *always* required total obedience (cf. Naaman). **Heb 5:9** – “*author of eternal salvation to all who obey.*” (cf. **Jn 14:15**). Faith is believing in, & obedience to whatever He says. And ALL He says is TRUTH.
5. **LOVE OF TRUTH** **2 Thess 2:10** – “*...them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved*”; **John 8:32** – “*ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” – everything God says is truth.
6. **KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH** **1 Tim 2:4** – “*Who will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*” **Hos 4:6** – “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I have rejected thee...*”
7. **WORDS** **Acts 11:14** – Send for Peter “*who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.*” We’re saved by words because words are required in order to communicate to us God’s will & His plan of salvation. This shows the need to evangelize!
8. **THE WORD** **James 1:21** – “*lay apart all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls.*” Meekness (strength under control) is required on our part. We must *accept* God’s word; He will not force it on us. But when we accept (and obey) it, it will save us! But what is this word?
9. **GOSPEL** **Rom 1:16** – “*I am not ashamed of the gospel...for it is the power of God unto salvation to all that believe...*” **1 Cor 15:1-2** – “*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*” The gospel saves. He goes on to define it as the death, burial, & resurrection of Christ.
– But, **2 Thess 1:7-8** teaches us to **obey** it – “*the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
– How do we **obey** a fact?
10. **CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD** **Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13** – *whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” Call = invoke, appeal to; name = authority. Whoever shall appeal to the authority of the Lord (as Paul appealed to Caesar – Ac 25:11), must be in obedience to the Lord!
11. **BELIEF** **Jn 3:16; Mk 16:15-16** – One must obviously believe that Jesus is the Son of God (no one will obey if they don’t believe)!
12. **CONFESSION** We must be willing to publicly confess Jesus as Lord. **Rom 10:9** – “*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...thou shalt be saved.*” This is *much more* than what we did to become a Christian. This is to be daily (by our life & example)!
13. **BAPTISM** Yes, in spite of what people say, we must be baptized to be saved! **1 Pet 3:21** – “*...baptism doth also now save us...*” **Mk 16:15-16** – “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” But, baptism is not enough!
14. **HOPE** The rest of the NT teaches us how to live faithfully, and **Rev 2:10** commands us to live faithfully unto death. Part of this includes hope (**Rom 8:24** – “*For we are saved by hope*”). Only faithful Christians can have this type of *desire + expectation* of heaven (**1 John 5:13** – we can *know* we have eternal life)!

CONCLUSION: Each of these verses says we are saved by something. One final verse, **Rom 5:10**, says we are “*saved by his life.*” This is written to Christians, who have been saved by His death, and now by His life. This means **living Christ’s life!** As Paul said in Gal 2:20, that he had died and now *Christ* lived in him. In allowing this to happen, Paul was being saved by Christ’s life. Are you doing this?