



The central message of the bible focuses on who God is, what He requires from us, and how we can be saved for eternity. It clearly tells us that all have sinned and need salvation.

How then does the Word of God lead us to salvation?

In John 3:3 Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

In John 3:16 He added: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Why? Rom 6:23: "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

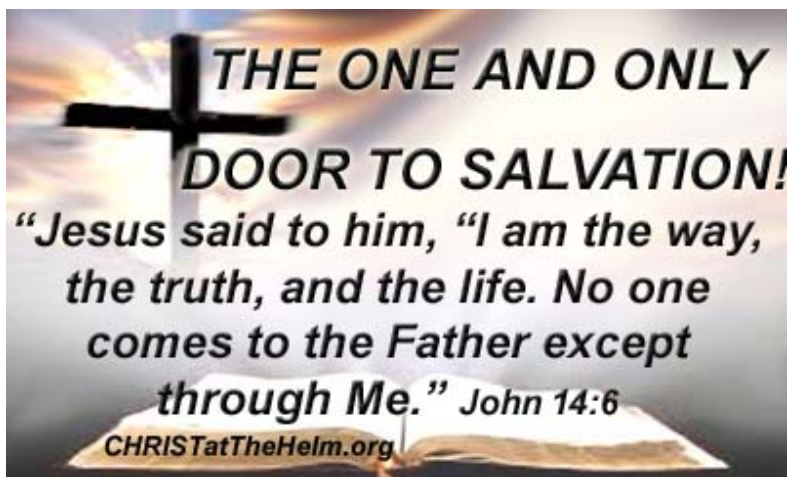
1Thess 5:9-10: "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him."

2Cor 4:6: "For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."

Jesus added in John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Do we believe God's plan for salvation in Christ?

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How do we know for certain that Jesus is the only way to salvation?

Acts 4:12: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

John 10:9: "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

John 3:36: "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Why?

Psalm 37:39: "But the salvation of the righteous *is* from the LORD; *He is* their strength in the time of trouble."

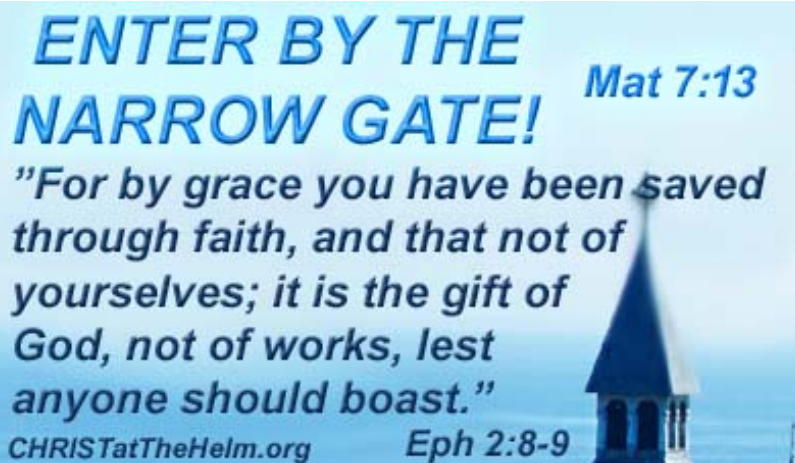
How?

Titus 3:4-5: "When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit."

Finally, Jesus in Mat 11:25 said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes."

Have we truly entered through the door, Christ?

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To believe is defined as to accept something as true from a reliable source, accepting it as evidence, and to rely on it by faith. As such, to truly believe involves that we conform ourselves to that truth.

That's why Rom 10:9-10 state, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Then Mat 7:13 tells us to "enter by the narrow gate", and not hypocritically wave at Christ and continue living like the world.

Why? While some say they believe in Christ, unless their belief turns into action, it is in vain, as James 2:19 say, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!"

Jesus said in Luke 9:62, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

The reason 1John 2:19 add, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."

Have we truly entered the narrow gate, crossed the threshold resolutely, and embraced and committed to follow Christ?

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GOD DESIRES A BROKEN SPIRIT AND TO REPENT

"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

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2Cor 7:10

If we claim to believe in God and Christ for salvation, obviously, the first revelation from the Holy Spirit is that we are sinners needing repentance as Scripture says:

Acts 3:19: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Acts 2:38: "Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God."

Luke 24:46-48: "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."

Why?

Psalm 51:17: "The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."

2Chron 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin."

Do we understand the need for true repentance from sins, leading to salvation?

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SURRENDER & SUBMIT TO CHRIST AS LORD!

***“And those who are Christ’s have
crucified the flesh with its
passions and desires.” Gal 5:24***

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What else does truly believing in Christ incorporate in the life of a believer?

From scripture, we understand that repentance requires an outright change in our life’s attitudes, which translates in complete renunciation of sins that previously dominated our lives. This is accomplished through complete surrender and submission of our lives to follow Christ.

How?

Titus 2:11-12: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”

Psalms 25:5: “Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.”

1Peter 2:24, speaking of Christ Peter said, “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.”

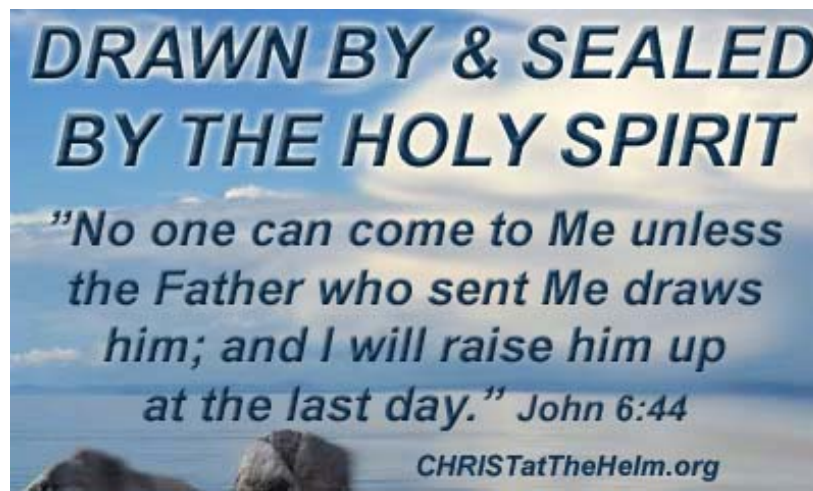
Psalms 34:18: “The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

What happens if we don’t surrender to Christ?

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

How surrendered are we and submitted to follow Christ at His Word, to honor and worship our Savior?

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Truly, it is God who draws our hearts to Christ through the Holy Spirit.
How so?

Eph 1:11: "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."

Eph 1:4-5: "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ."

2Thess 2:13: "We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

Then what?

Rom 8:38-39: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

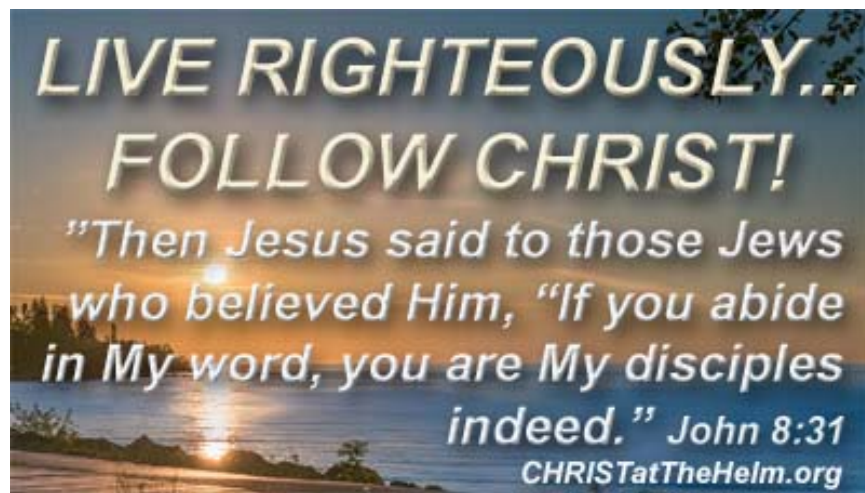
In other words, at salvation we are sealed by the Holy Spirit to be eternally in God's presence.

How do we know that we are truly saved?

John 10:27: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

Rom 8:16: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

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Our commitment to Christ as Savior and Lord demands that we follow Him through His Word.

Why?

Gal 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

1Peter 2:9 says, "But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

How?

1Tim 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Titus 2:11-13: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

Eph 6:13: "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Can we confess as Rom 1:16 says? "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation."

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Following Christ for our sanctification requires that we reject temptations to sin and live by God's Word.

Paul in Rom 6:14 said, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

"We should no longer be slaves of sin", as Romans 6:6 declares.

2Tim 2:19: "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

What's more?

1Cor 6:9-10: "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

What if we do sin?

1John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

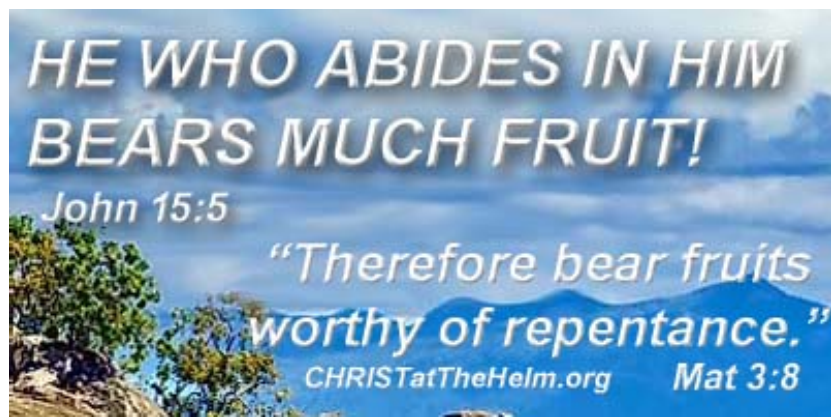
Then Pro 28:13 warns us, "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy."

How do we resist temptations to sin?

Eph 6:11-12: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age."

Will we reject the world's temptations of lust of the flesh, and the craving for power and money, so as to truly follow Christ?

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Jesus on many occasions told His disciples that as believers, we must bear fruit for God. If we truly repented of our sins, and surrendered our lives to follow Christ, this is a command and a duty.

Here's what Jesus said on this:

John 15:5: "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

John 15:1-2: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

Luke 3:8(a) "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance"; and verse 9(b),"Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

In other words, bearing fruit is not simply an option but rather a duty.

Why bear fruit?

Eph 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

What if we don't?

Mat 7:21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

As believers who were given a new heart and a new spirit, are we bearing fruit to the glory of God and Christ, as God demands from us?

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BEWARE OF DECEIVERS AND FALSE PROPHETS

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1John 4:1

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In this world, we face deceiving religions, as well as preachers and teachers who profess a diluted message of the gospel, to control the minds of people to their profit. They existed in Jesus time, and more so now with the help of electronic medias.

1Tim 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

2Cor 11:3 warns us, "I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent."

2Cor 13:5 asks, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified."

Jesus in Mat 7:21-23 declared: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

Are we keeping our spirit on alert against deceivers through the knowledge of God's Word?

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