

Abiding
January 3, 2015
Matthew 7:13-29 and John 15:1-8

What is Salvation?

Salvation is a **relationship** with God that has been made possible only by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Salvation is received by putting our trust in what Jesus has done for us (forgiveness of sins to a relationship with God) as we deny ourself to follow Jesus.

"Salvation is when you rest the weight of your soul on [Jesus'] finished work." Greear also emphasizes that salvation isn't about knowing you prayed a prayer correctly. Salvation is about your continued trust in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. "It's not a prayer that saves. It's a posture of repentance and faith that saves. The prayer is only so good as it expresses the posture." Greear points out that in many Bible passages, the word "believe" is in present tense. Salvation isn't a one-time event. It's an ongoing commitment and trust in our lives. As Greear says, "Believing is not something you did at one point in the past. It's something you are doing continually in the present. It began at a point in the past, but it's a posture you assumed in a moment that you maintain for the rest of your life."¹ - *JD. Greear*

Salvation is **Past, Present and Future**

1) What kind of fruit is being produced in me?

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Matthew 7:15-20

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 15:5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

What are the opposites of the Fruits of the Spirit?

- Fear/hate
- Despair
- Anxiety and worry
- Resentment toward God and others
- Envy
- Phoniness
- Fair-weatheredness
- Self absorbed
- Uncontrolled

¹ <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/Assurance-of-Salvation-JD-Greear>

2) **As a believer, what does God desire of me?**

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 2:3-5

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Mathew 7:24-29

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment.'

Mathew 22:37-38

Believers **obey** and **follow** God; this is Christ in me. Christ *must* lead and guide me. I follow Jesus; **He does the work.**

3) **It's not about me doing anything on my own. Me doing it on my own is the problem!**

"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. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Matthew 7:21-23

These verses are all about what "I/we" did totally **apart from Christ**. It's not about me doing anything, but Christ in me. I seek Christ, He does the work.

4) **What now?**

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 15:5

I am to abide first and the doing will follow. Doing without abiding is counterfeit. As before, I don't do the doing, God does it in me.

We are to follow Jesus and His Words.

Prayer Focus:

Do I know Jesus, not know about Him, but do I know Him?

Ask God that He would work in you and produce Godly Fruit. You and I are not the fruit producers.

That we would love God and follow His commandments. That is, we would abide in Christ daily.