

The dictionary definition for salvation is...
the act of saving or protecting from harm, risk, loss, destruction, etc...

Biblically, it can basically be summed up in one word...

deliverance.

Deliverance by redemption from the power of sin and from the penalties sin brings. It is sin that spiritually harms us, to the point of spiritual destruction. We may look good on the outside, but on the inside we become spiritually bankrupt, spiritually dead. We become dissatisfied with our lives, no matter how they may seem. Something is missing.

How does this “deliverance” happen? It can happen in many ways. A loss or a tragedy, a sense that a piece of our life is not in place or missing. Whatever the reason, you are put at a crossroad in your life to make a **choice**.

What does making a choice mean?

C - It starts with the **cross**, and what Jesus Christ did on it for us. In **John 3:16** it reads, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* God loved us so much, that He knew there was no way that we could get past our sinful nature that was leading us away from Him. So He sent His Son to come to us and pay the sin debt that we owed on the cross.

H - Through Jesus’ actions, we are given **hope**. Jeremiah wrote in **Jeremiah 29:11**, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Deliverance first begins to happen when we realize that we are powerless. That we realize that we don’t “got this”. From there we become open to the fact that there is a God who does “got this”. It is there a hope is found, even if it is a glimmer. It is through hope where a new way of life can be found, a life that provides a new future.

O - In **1 Peter 1:14** it reads, *“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.”* We begin to find that our ways don’t work in God’s plan for us. It was our ways that put us in a spiritual mess. It is time to change the game plan. God is giving us a new plan to follow. This is a plan for us to prosper. Let Him set our steps.

I - As we move forward in this walk, we find that is not about religion, a bunch of rules to follow. It is about having a relationship with God through His Son. In **John 14:6** it reads, *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* God seeks an **intimacy** with us. He does not want a robotic effort to follow rules. By opening our hearts to Jesus, God wants us to truly know who He is in our lives. He wants us to draw near to Him, so He can draw near to us, allowing Him to draw our hearts closer to His (James 4:8).

C - This walk is not an easy one. It goes against everything the world says is good. There will be people in our lives that will not like the change, and will let us know about it. **Courage** is needed to stand our ground. However, we are not doing it on our strength, but God’s. In **Joshua 1:9** it reads, *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* We are powerless over other people’s opinions or feelings. Standing firm in the relationship we are building with God through Jesus Christ, we allow Him to shine through us. Jesus himself said, “In this world you will face trouble; however, that’s okay. I’ve overcome the world (John 16:33) This is where we will find hope. This is where we will demonstrate our relationship with God.

E - This relationship with God is **eternal**. It will last forever. In **John 5:24** it reads, *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”* When we open our hearts to Jesus, we open ourselves to an intimate relationship with the Father that will never end. This is where the hope, the peace, and the joy is.

God is not about making bad people good; but through this deliverance, making people who were once dead to sin, alive again through Jesus.

You have a choice.