

Spirit, Soul and Body – Three-Fold Salvation

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV)

³how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

“how shall we escape” – What excuse can we give if we do not fully partake in the wonderful salvation that God has provided for us through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ?

- *“if we neglect so great a salvation” – Many times Christians can neglect or disregard this “so great a salvation” that we have received through Jesus Christ, because we fail to fully grasp how vast, comprehensive, and wonderful it truly is.*
- *Salvation is so much more than just having our sins forgiven and not going to Hell.*
- *Today we want to explore what the Bible teaches about the different aspects that this so great a salvation offers each Believer, so we do not neglect or take our salvation for granted.*
- *Neglecting this so great a salvation that Jesus purchased for us is like inviting someone to the most marvelous and extensive buffet imaginable. When they come to the table they choose only a few items, but neglect to fill their plate to overflowing with all the bounty that the buffet table offers.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶Rejoice always,

- *If we are not yet overflowing with unceasing joy it means there are still many things we have yet to partake of on the banqueting table.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Christ's provision of salvation is so extensive that it includes all three aspects of our being: spirit, soul, and body.*
- *For us to be able to begin to grasp the salvation that Jesus Christ has purchased for us through His sufferings at Calvary, we must first understand what the Bible teaches about how God created us spirit, soul, and body.*

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

¹²For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- *From Hebrews 4:12 we can learn two things; 1) There is a clear distinction between spirit and soul, 2) The Bible will clearly teach us the difference between spirit and soul.*

Hebrews 8:5 (NKJV)

⁵who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

- *"the copy and shadow of the heavenly things" - The New Testament unlocks the Old Testament, but the Old Testament provides clarity and insights which illuminate the New Testament.*

2 Corinthians 5:4 (NKJV)

⁴For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

- *2 Corinthians 5:4 describes our bodies, our earthly dwellings, as a tent or tabernacle, and 1 Corinthians 6:19 describes our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit.*
- *This tent or tabernacle we are living in can be seen as a reference to the Tabernacle in the wilderness that God instructed Moses to build.*
- *When God described creating the universe He did so in one chapter, but when God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle, God's description covered at least 6 chapters. There are numerous additional chapters on how the priests were to minister before the Lord in the Tabernacle.*

- *The Bible goes into very great detail about the construction of the Tabernacle of Moses and how the priests were to serve.*
- *Through the Tabernacle of Moses we can receive many wonderful truths and revelations.*
- *We can learn about God's Divine Order – Its construction and service.*
- *We can learn how Christ's redemptive death made a way for our salvation.*
- *We can learn how to enter into the presence of God – the Holy of Holies.*
- *These are only a few of the many revelations contained in the Tabernacle.*
- *But today we want to study the Tabernacle as it relates to how God created us spirit, soul, and body.*
- *There were two rooms in the tabernacle. One was called the Holy of Holies and the other the Holy Place.*
- *The Holy of Holies represents our spirit.*
- *The Holy Place represents our soul.*
- *The exterior covering of the Tabernacle represents our body.*

The Holy of Holies – Our Spirit.

Hebrews 9:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

⁷But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

- *The second part refers to the Holy of Holies, which the high priest entered into once a year.*

Hebrews 9:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

¹²Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

- *Who is our High Priest? Jesus Christ.*
- *The entrance of the high priest into the Holy of Holies represents when we received Christ. He enters our spirit and we are born again.*
- *Why could the high priest enter into the Holy of Holies only once a year?*
- *Because we are born again only once.*

- *The high priest only did one thing; He came in and applied the blood.*
- *When Jesus comes into our spirits He applies His own blood to our lives, and our sins are washed away.*
- *Only the high priest was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies.*
- *Before the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies no one else was there.*
- *The only thing that the high priest did when he entered in was to apply the blood.*
- *Our spirit “room” was created only for the presence of God and nothing else can enter.*
- *Before Christ comes in and we are born again it only contains “the breath of life” which, at our death, will return to God who gave it if we don’t receive Christ. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)*
- *In both languages, the Greek and Hebrew words for “spirit” mean, “wind” or “breath” conveying both the idea of force and life.*
- *The spirit is the source of life and it contains the potential to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit so that we can receive eternal life.*
- *When Christ enters into our spirit and we are “born again” there is no further work to be done in our spirit. The fullness of Christ has entered and our spirit is now perfect.*
- *Jesus Christ does not come into our spirit as a “baby Jesus,” but as our High Priest, the Son of God, and our perfect Saviour.*
- *Our reborn spirit is as perfect as Jesus Christ is, and there is no requirement for it to grow, mature, or go through a process of sanctification.*

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

- *Another picture the Bible gives us of what happens when we receive Jesus Christ, is an egg being fertilized to produce new life.*
- *In 1 Peter 1:23 Christ’s Spirit is described in relationship to our new birth as “incorruptible seed.”*
- *Our human spirit can be pictured as an egg and Christ’s Spirit like a sperm and when the two combine they form a new creation that never existed before – Christ’s Spirit and our human spirit become one!*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- *If we are in Christ, Christ's spirit and our spirit have been joined together, and we are a new creation – In our spirit we have not been renovated, but something totally new has been created.*

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- *This verse does not say that those who are joined to the Lord are one soul with Him, but one spirit, and we are perfectly united with Christ in our reborn spirits.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- *“that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” - The moment we are born again our reborn spirit contains the righteousness of God, since our spirit has been united forever with Christ's Spirit.*
- *The Baptism of the New Birth*

Romans 6:3 (NKJV)

³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

- *When we are born again our spirit has been baptized or totally and perfectly united in Christ's Spirit, and His Spirit in our spirit, and the two have become one.*

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)

¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

- *Another picture of our new birth is the Holy Spirit baptizing our spirit into the Spirit of Christ.*
- *The baptizer is the Holy Spirit and it is our spirit being baptized as we are baptized into Christ's Spirit.*

- *Just as the Holy Spirit caused Mary to physically conceive Jesus Christ within her body, the Holy Spirit takes the Spirit of Christ and our spirit and unites them together as a new creation.*
- *It is interesting and significant that the Ark of the Covenant was located not in the Holy Place, but in the Holy of Holies.*

The only piece of furniture in the Holy of Holies is the Ark.

- *The covenant of our salvation is not located in our soul or body, but in our reborn spirit, and it has been sealed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.*
- *It's reassuring to know that the covenant of our salvation is not dependent on what is happening in our soul, but what has been completed in our spirit.*
- *The Bible describes this aspect of salvation as justification.*
- *Justification has taken place in our reborn spirit and is a completed one-time event.*
- *Justification means that we have been declared righteous, because we have put our faith in Christ.*
- *Justification has saved us from the penalty of sin, which is eternal damnation in Hell.*
- *Bible verses that describe the salvation we have received through our new birth and the justification that resulted, normally speak about salvation as gift, a one-time event. They use the past perfect tense and speak about it as being unconditional.*

Romans 3:28 (NKJV)

²⁸Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

- *Justification is something that is based solely on faith and not on anything we have done.*

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

- **“saved through faith, and that not of yourselves” - *Justification is based solely on faith in Christ and not on works or performance.***
- **“have been saved” – *This verb is in the past perfect tense which means it is a one time action that took place in the past and was completed in the past.***
- **“it is the gift of God” – *Justification and eternal life are described as a gift. All one must do to be saved is to accept the gift.***

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

- **“who has saved us” – *a past completed event - this speaks about justification.***
- **“not according to our works” – *justification is something we have received total independent of anything we have done.***

John 5:24 (NKJV)

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.

- ***John 5:24 refers to justification. Through faith in Christ we will not come into judgment, but have already passed from death to life, because now we have eternal life in our reborn spirit through Christ.***

Ephesians 2:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- *The Greek verbs for “made us alive,” “you have been saved,” “raised us up,” and “made us sit together,” all speak of an action that occurred in the past and was completed in the past.*
- *The moment we are born again we are joined with Christ and in the spirit we are already sitting with Him in heavenly places.*

The Holy Place – Our Soul

- *It is important to note that in the instructions God gave Moses in building the Tabernacle, God started in the Holy of Holies, and then worked His way outward to the Holy Place, and then ultimately to the Outer Court.*
- *God’s plan of redemption always moves from the spirit to the soul and not the other way around.*

Hebrews 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

- *The Holy Place is a picture of our soul, and unlike the Holy of Holies where the high priest entered in once a year and only to apply the blood, the priests ministered daily in the Holy Place.*
- *Each day the priests went into the Holy Place to put it in order, keep it clean, and bring in fresh bread, keep the incense altar burning, and the golden Lampstand burning brightly.*
- *Just as there was a lot of work to be performed in the Holy Place, once we receive Christ there is much work to be accomplished in our souls.*
- *When I was first born again my spirit was perfect, but my soul was still a complete mess.*
- *This aspect of salvation that deals with our souls the Bible refers to as sanctification.*
- *Sanctification is saving or freeing our souls from the power of sin.*

- *Unlike justification, which is an instantaneous event, sanctification is ongoing.*
- *Unlike justification, which is unconditional, sanctification is contingent on us continuing to submit to the Holy Spirit to take us through the sanctification process.*

Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- *“work out your salvation with fear and trembling” – These verses clearly speak about the sanctification process and the work that we must engage in to see our souls set free from power of sin.*
- *“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” - The wonderful news is that we are not doing this work alone and it is actually God who is at work in us to accomplish this transformation of our souls—with our cooperation.*

1 Peter 1:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

- *“receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” – The various tests and fiery trials we may experience in our lives have one ultimate goal – to bring our faith to fulfillment resulting in the salvation of our souls – sanctification – our souls being set free from the power and control of sin.*

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- *The end result of the sanctification process is that our souls are to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ just as our reborn spirits are already perfect.*
- *Bible verses which speak about sanctification, contain conditional promises and offer rewards, inheritances, and crowns for those who overcome.*
- *Below are a few of the many promises God offers to those who willing submit to the sanctification process and have their souls conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.*

2 Timothy 2:21 (NKJV)

²¹**Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)

¹²**“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**

- *While our justification is independent of our work, our rewards are conditional upon our work.*

2 John 8 (NKJV)

⁸**Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.**

- *Depending upon how we live our lives we will receive a reward, part of a reward, or no reward.*

Hebrews 10:35 (NKJV)

³⁵**Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.**

- *As we continue to trust in God even during times of hardship or temptation, it will result in our souls being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ and a great reward will accrue to us.*

Hebrews 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²**that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

- *Through faith and patience we inherit the promises.*

Hebrews 11:26 (NKJV)

²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- *Moses is an example of one who endured hardship, because he valued the reward God was offering him.*

1 Corinthians 3:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- *At the Judgment Seat of Christ there is fire.*
- *The fire is not for condemnation, but for purification and testing.*
- *The reward is not based on our works, what we have done, but our work, who we have become.*
- *At the Judgment Seat of Christ there will be great joy as well as great sorrow and disappointment.*
- *For those who have built eternal things upon the foundation of their salvation they will receive a great reward.*
- *“he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire” - For those who have built carnal things upon the foundation of their salvation they will suffer a great loss.*
- *These rewards, crowns, and inheritances are eternal and more precious than we can comprehend at this present time, while still in our mortal bodies.*
- *Some Christians may say, “I love God and I don't need His rewards. Being saved is enough.”*

- *God has prepared these special rewards, inheritances, and crowns and it delights His heart when He can give them to us. It grieves His heart when the very things Christ died for to bless us with are forfeited for all eternity.*
- *The Baptism involving our souls – the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 3:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- *Jesus Christ baptizes our soul into the Holy Spirit which is meant to both empower us to overcome sin and to be a witness.*
- *The coverings of the Tabernacle are like a picture of our bodies.*
- *Justification, dealing with our spirits, is freedom from the penalty of sin – which is eternal damnation.*
- *Sanctification, deals with our souls, is freedom from the power of sin so that we can be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.*
- *Glorification, deals with our bodies, is freedom from the presence of sin and it is where we will receive resurrected incorruptible bodies which will never be vexed by temptation, pain, sickness, or sorrow.*

Romans 13:11 (NKJV)

¹¹And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

- *Justification is a past event which was fulfilled at the moment we received Jesus Christ as Saviour.*
- *Sanctification is a present event that we experience daily as we walk with Christ.*
- *Glorification is a future event that we will experience at the resurrection.*

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- *Water Baptism involves our bodies.*
- *Our spirits are baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ as our new birth.*
- *Our souls are baptized by Jesus Christ into the Holy Spirit to empower us.*
- *Our bodies are baptized by a fellow believer into water to signify we want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.*
- *Three types of deaths:*
- *Spirit - When we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and are born again we have died to the Law. (Romans 6:3; Romans 7:6)*
- *Soul - Daily we are to die to ourselves and live for Christ. (Romans 6:11; 1 Corinthians 15:31)*
- *Body - One day we will leave these mortal bodies and in the resurrection receive immortal bodies. (1 John 3:2)*
- *Three types of judgments:*
- *Spirit – We are judged righteous what we received Jesus Christ and were declared justified. (Romans 4:5)*
- *Soul – We are to judge ourselves daily so that we do not allow sin to reign over us. (1 Corinthians 11:31-32)*
- *Bodies – One day we will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account of our lives. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)*
- *Three types of confessions:*
- *Spirit – We confess our sinfulness and our need for Jesus to be our Saviour.*
- *Soul – We confess our sins daily so we can be forgiven and cleansed. (1 John 1:9; James 5:16)*
- *Body – We confess that one day we will experience the resurrection through Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:1-4)*

Some Comparisons between Justification and Sanctification

- *Justification occurs instantaneously at the moment of salvation,*

Sanctification is an ongoing process.

- *Justification is what God did for us,
Sanctification is what God does in us.*
- *Justification is based on faith without works,
Sanctification is based on faith in action.*
- *Justification requires that we confess our sinful nature,
Sanctification requires that we confess specific sins.*
- *Justification is usually described in the Bible in the past tense,
Sanctification is usually referred to in the present tense.*
- *Justification breaks the penalty of sin,
Sanctification breaks the power of sin.*
- *Justification required Christ's death,
Sanctification requires our daily death.*
- *Justification depended upon God's judgment of us as righteous,
Sanctification requires that we judge ourselves righteously.*
- *Justification is referred to as a gift from God,
Sanctification is spoken of in terms of rewards, crowns, and inheritances.*
- *Justification carries with it unconditional eternal salvation,
Sanctification carries with it conditional eternal rewards.*
- *Justification recognizes Jesus as our Saviour,
Sanctification recognizes Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.*

1 John 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

1 John 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹**Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.**

The first verse speaks of our soul and the second verse refers to our reborn spirit.