

## Definitions of Salvation Terms

### 1. Sin - the transgression of the law

I John 3:4 “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”  
by the law is the knowledge of sin a boundary that has been trespassed

Breaking God’s law; missing the mark of moral purity; falling short of God’s righteousness.

All men have sinned (Rom. 3:23; 5:12).

Man’s sin began with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden (Ge. 3; Ro. 5:12).

The penalty of sin is death (Ro. 6:23).

The forgiveness of sin requires the shedding of blood (He. 9:22).

Jesus Christ paid the full penalty for sin when He died and shed His blood on the cross (Ep. 1:7; He. 1:3; Ro. 5:9-10).

Man receives complete and eternal forgiveness for sin by exercising personal faith in Jesus Christ (Ro. 6:23).

### 2. Mercy – holding back a deserved punishment

- We are all condemned.
- When God does not give us our just punishment, that is mercy.
- By definition, it cannot be earned

Titus 3:5-7

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Mercy is constantly available to the believer.

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### 3. Grace – unmerited favour

We could say that it is granting someone an undeserved blessing.

Ephesians 2:1-9

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in **mercy**, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by **grace** ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his **grace** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by **grace** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:  
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- God's mercy keeps us from hell
- God's grace takes us to heaven
- By definition, it cannot be earned

Mercy and grace are often confused.  
While the terms have similar meanings, grace and mercy are not the same.

Mercy is God not punishing us as our sins deserve.  
Grace is God blessing us despite the fact that we do not deserve it.

Mercy is deliverance from judgment.  
Grace is extending kindness to the unworthy.

As a result of our sin, we all deserve death (Romans 6:23) and eternal judgment in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:12-15).  
With that in mind, every day we live is an act of God's mercy.

If God gave us all what we deserve, we would all be, right now, condemned for eternity.  
We deserve nothing from God. God does not owe us anything.  
Anything good that we experience is a result of the grace of God (Ephesians 2:5).

#### **4. Repentance -a change of mind**

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.  
It is a change of the mind about ourselves and of God, so that we see ourselves as sinners needing a Saviour.

Repentance is a necessary part of salvation.  
The person who believes:

- that he is a sinner who deserves hell
  - Jesus, died, was buried and rose again for my sins making the complete payment
- is then ready to receive Christ by faith.

#### **5. Faith - taking God at His Word**

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is simply believing the things that God has said enough that we are willing to trust Him alone and place our entire eternity on Him.  
When we do that, we are saved.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Repentance and faith work together.  
I see the reality of my sin and the judgement that I deserve and then I turn to God and believe.

#### **Faith comes through hearing the Word of God.**

Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

**Without faith it is impossible to please God**

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

## **6. Salvation – to be rescued**

1Pet 1:9 “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

- I admit my sin
- I ask God for mercy
- I accept God's grace
- I repent
- I put my faith in Christ
- I get rescued!

## **7. Imputed – credited / charged to an account**

To put on someone's account; to reckon; to lay to one's charge.

This is what God does for those who trust Jesus Christ.

Christ's righteousness is imputed to the Christian

Romans 4:22-25

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

James 2:23

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

## **8. Justified - declared righteous**

Romans 4:22-25

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24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Romans 5:1-2

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23-28

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Justification means “to declare righteous.”

Justification is God’s declaration that those who trust Jesus Christ are perfectly righteous before Him. It is a legal concept, like when a judge gives a verdict.

Before I am saved, God declares that I am a condemned sinner.

After I come to Christ, God declares that I am righteous because of what Christ did for me on Calvary.

[It means “to declare righteous.” It does not mean “to make righteous.”

The evidence of this – you still sin.]

God then sees me through the righteousness of Christ - just as if I'd never sinned.

It comes after imputed righteousness, and stays because there is no more imputed sin.

## **9. Regeneration – the new birth / nature**

This is to be born again; given new life.

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

When we come to God by faith we are regenerated (re-gened).

This is literally a new birth.

The work is done by the Holy Spirit. (John 3 and Nicodemus)

Regeneration is the spiritual change wrought in man by the Holy Spirit, by which he becomes the possessor of a new life.

It is to be distinguished from justification, because justification is a change in our relationship to God, while regeneration is a change in our moral and spiritual nature.

They occur at the same point of time and are both instantaneous.

Still they are distinct in that the one is the removal of guilt by divine forgiveness, and the other is the change from the state of depravity, or spiritual death, to that of spiritual life.

## **10. Redemption - bought back**

Eph 1:14 “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

- We were once His (created)
- We ran from Him (the Fall, our own personal sin)
- On the cross He paid for our pardon, redeeming us back to Himself

## **11. Sanctification – to be set apart for God**

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

“Sanctify,” “holy,” and “saint” are translated from the same Greek words.

They mean to be set apart for special service.

To sanctify, or to make holy, does not mean to purify or to make sinless, but to set apart something for God and for His service.

In relation to the Christian, sanctification or holiness refers to being set apart to God from sin.

There are three distinctly different aspects of this sanctification: past,

present, and future.

Every Christian can say, "I have been sanctified; I am being sanctified; I will yet be sanctified."

**Past Sanctification** means the believer is already **positionally** set apart in Christ (Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1:30; 6:9-11; Heb. 10:10,14).

At the new birth, every believer is eternally sanctified in Christ.

This sanctification is an eternal reality, and is based on a new spiritual position the Christian has in Jesus Christ. The Corinthian believers were far from sinless, yet they were called saints and were said to have been sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2,30).

In this sense, the Christian can say, "I AM sanctified in Christ."

**Present Sanctification** is the process by which the Holy Spirit gradually changes the believer's life to give victory over sin.

This is **practical** sanctification.

This is Christian growth, putting away sin and putting on godliness (Rom. 6:19,22; 1 Th. 4:3,4; 1 Pe. 1:14-16).

This present process of sanctification never ends in this life (1 Jn. 1:8-10).

In this sense, the Christian can say, "I am BEING sanctified by God's power."

**Future Sanctification** is the perfection the believer will enjoy at the coming of our Lord (1 Th. 5:23).

At Christ's coming, every believer will receive a new body that will have no sin.

The Christian will no longer have to resist sin within or to grow toward perfection.

His sanctification will be complete. He will be wholly and forever set apart to God from sin.

We must be careful not to confuse these different aspects of sanctification or holiness.