

HOW TO BE SAVED

R. STANLEY, B.E., M.TECH.,
*A BUILDING ENGINEER
TURNED BIBLE TEACHER*

StanleyOnBible
13 Church Colony
Vellore 632 006, India
<stanleyonbible@hotmail.com>

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1

What is Salvation?

Salvation is not a discovery of modern preachers!

It was first proclaimed by the Lord Jesus Christ. The very name “Jesus” means “Saviour.” During His days on earth, Jesus did lot of good to people. But His primary purpose and ministry was to save sinners. Salvation and Jesus are inseparable.

Next, the disciples of Jesus carried the message of this Salvation throughout the world. And God confirmed their message through signs and wonders.

It is the same message which this booklet brings to you. Read with an open mind. You can be saved even before you finish reading it!

Here is a question many ask the moment we tell them they must be saved:

“Does it mean that all those who claim to have been saved do not sin at all?” This question is legitimate. Here is the answer—

Salvation belongs to three tenses: Salvation past, Salvation present and Salvation future.

Salvation past is deliverance from the **penalty** of sin. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death (that is, eternal separation from God), but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Salvation past delivers us from the penalty of sin and brings us into fellowship with God.

Salvation present is deliverance from the **power** of sin. The Bible promises, “Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are under grace.” Temptations will certainly be there after you are saved. But if you don’t stand on your own strength but depend on the grace and power of Christ, you will experience a daily victory over sin.

Salvation future is deliverance from the very **presence** of sin. This is a blessing we receive not here but up in Heaven. Because there is no place for Satan in Heaven, there will neither be temptation to sin nor the presence of it. No more struggle; eternal rest! This is what we read about Heaven in the Bible: “The City had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it... And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light.”

When you repent of sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you receive salvation past. As you rely on Him and live victoriously over sin

you enjoy salvation present. As we wait for His Second Coming with watchfulness and faithfulness, He will receive us into glory and enable us enjoy the eternal Salvation.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a Salvation ?

*The Bible verses quoted in this Chapter—
Heb 2:3,4; Mt 1:21; 1 Tim 1:15;
Rom 6:23; 6:14; Rev 21:23,24; Heb 9:28*

2

What must I do to be Saved?

There is no scarcity for meetings and sermons in Christian circles today. There is a definite spiritual thirst among the people. Many shed tears on hearing moving sermons. However the percentage of those who are really saved is still low in our Churches. I believe one of the reasons is that the “way” of Salvation is not as clearly explained as the “need” for it is stressed. Friend, let me explain to you in the simplest possible manner what you must do to be saved.

First, you must realize your true condition. Millions who have been saved are those who came to God saying, “*Just as I am, without a plea!*”

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One of them exalted himself before God, with no humbling whatsoever. He also despised others. But his prayer was of beautiful words. The other one was different: “He, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me

a sinner!” Not the first but this man went home justified, said Jesus in a parable.

Some of our seemingly noble characteristics and deeds make us think we are good. This is the real hindrance to Salvation. Prophet Isaiah explains it beautifully: “We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

May be we don't have glaringly bad habits. But no one is righteous before an all-holy God. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. He who says he has not sinned or has no sin, does not deceive God or His ministers but himself, says the Bible.

Second, you must believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Sacrifice and Substitute for your sin; and receive Him as your personal Saviour.

We became enemies to God because we sinned against Him. Jesus Christ came as a Mediator between God and us to make peace. He gave Himself as a sacrifice to redeem us. He bore our sins on the Cross and was punished for our lawlessness. His spotless blood will cleanse us from all sin.

Friend, believe this: Jesus went to the Cross just for you! Remember the thief, who had been crucified by the side of Christ, who got saved the moment he believed on Christ.

A Jailor fell down trembling before two servants of God crying. “What must I do to be saved?” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,” was the immediate answer. He believed and it brought the joy of Salvation to him and his entire family.

Salvation is a miracle! This moment a sinner; but the very next moment a justified man, because he believed! This moment it is all darkness; the very next moment glorious light! This moment a child of the devil; the very next moment a child of God! It is by simple faith one receives this Salvation, the miracle of miracles.

We read in the Bible, “As many as received Jesus Christ, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His Name.”

Third, you must confess with your mouth what you believe in your heart.

Apostle Paul wrote, “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 to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.”

It is as a confirmation of this verbal confession and obedience to God that baptism in water is instituted. John the Baptist baptized those who repented of their sins and confessed that God is

righteous. And the disciples of Christ baptized those who repented and received the Word of God joyfully. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved."

Beloved, you cannot be saved in any way other than this Bible way. Our religious deeds or acts of charity cannot earn us Salvation. Pray as below—

"God, I have nothing good in me; I am a sinner; Be merciful to me; I believe on Your Son Jesus Christ and receive Him into my heart as the Substitute for my sins and as my Saviour. I confess my faith and obey You. Amen."

This is how you can be saved.

*The Bible verses quoted in this Chapter —
Lk 18:13,14; Isa 64:6; Rom 3:10,23; 1 Jn 1:8;
1 Tim 2:5,6; Isa 53; 1 Jn 1:7; Acts 16:31;
Jn 1:12; Rom 10:9,10;
Lk 7:29; Acts 2:41; Mk 16:16*

3 Can I be sure of my Salvation?

Is it possible for anyone right here on earth to say for sure he is saved? This is the question of many.

Yes, such an assurance is possible because Salvation is a definite experience. Salvation is otherwise called by Jesus as Rebirth or Spiritual Birth. While Jesus was talking to Nicodemus a Jewish teacher, He compared Rebirth to the blowing of wind. "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." True, though the experience of Salvation cannot be fully explained in words, it is an experience as definite as the blowing of wind.

"The Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved." So we read of the early Church. Then is it possible that Salvation is not a definite experience?

The saved person is a child of God. He is a member of God's family. He is no more a slave but a son. He has the Spirit of adoption by whom

he can rightfully call God as “Abba, Father!” The Spirit of God Himself bears witness with his spirit that he is a child of God. What an assurance!

The devil keeps off many people enjoying this assurance. Multitudes perish because of his deception. He is a liar and the father of lies. Beloved, come out of his trap right now.

The Bible says, “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater;... He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself.”

You might have heard some folks testifying they saw a vision or heard a voice. There is no such teaching in the Scripture that all should have this kind of experience. Therefore you should not be seeking such an one. The promises in the Bible for Salvation and the inner witness of God’s Spirit are sufficient. It is dangerous to seek anything beyond this.

Still there are others who solely depend on their feelings. This is sad. Beloved, feelings may change but not the facts! Never change the following order—

Facts first!
Faith next!
Feelings last!

*The Bible verses quoted in this Chapter—
Jn 3:8; Acts 2:47; Rom 8:15,16; 1 Jn 5:7-10*

4 What are the signs of Salvation?

“The tree shall be known by its fruit,” said Jesus. “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.” In these days of counterfeits, it’s important to identify a genuine experience of Salvation.

First of all, as mentioned in the previous Chapter, there will be true peace and joy through the Holy Spirit in the heart.

When we make peace *with* God we have the peace *of* God. Jesus called it a peace the world cannot give, It is His own peace. The burden of sin rolled away! Guilt, slavery, fear, all gone! Now peace floods in like a river. No more condemnation. Eternal life!

*Heaven came down
And glory filled my soul,
When at the Cross
My Saviour made me whole!
My sins were washed away,
And my night was turned to day!*

So sings the saved man with understanding. He is filled with gratitude. He shouts with exuberance, "Thank You, Lord, I thank You!"

If over the sinner who repents there is great joy among the angels in Heaven, will the angels on earth around him stay unmoved?

Secondly, the saved man begins to hate sin and the evil ways of the world.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God."

The sinful acts he was indulged in during the past so willingly appear abnoxious to him now. The joy of the Lord has replaced the silly pleasures of sin. He now confesses, "I belong to the Lord God. I am His slave." He answers the allurements of the devil and the attractions of the world with a resolute "No!"

Now he has no time or desire to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, to stand in the path of the sinners, or to sit in the seat of the scornful.

This does not mean he will never ever commit any sin. Before getting saved he was like a pig. He would love the mire! Now he is a lamb. Even if someone pushes a lamb into the mire, it will not stay there but immediately come out. Have you understood the difference?

Thirdly, the saved man falls in love with the Bible.

It is no more the routine of reading the Bible for a few minutes as a religious custom, but a delightful desire to spend hours in Bible meditation. He loves the Word of God as a newborn baby desiring milk. He realises that God is speaking to him direct from every page. It's true he doesn't understand everything in the Bible but that doesn't diminish his desire for it. The reason is, he has been born again "not of corruptible seed but by the incorruptible Word of God which lives and abides forever."

Fourthly, he becomes passionate in prayer.

Prayer becomes his vital breath. Earlier he had not known God. But now he knows God as his Father. So this longing to speak to Him! Only now he understands the golden walltext, *Prayer is Victory!* Previously he could not even pray for five minutes—he would have neither words nor matter. But now with the help of God's Spirit he becomes mighty and fervent in prayer. As water is to fish so is prayer to him. When Ananias, who was instructed to follow up Paul who had met Christ, was hesitating to go to him out of fear, God told Ananias, "Behold, he is praying." This was a sure sign of his conversion!

Fifthly, he longs for the fellowship of those who have believed on Christ.

There are only two groups of people in this world: The saved and the unsaved; God's children and the devil's children; Citizens of Heaven and those hell-bound. The congregation of the saved is called the Church. That's what we read in Acts 2:47. When asked, "What is the Church?" someone immediately answered, "No saint outside it and no sinner inside!" What a definition! When we get saved, we just begin to understand the love of God. Only in the fellowship of saints we understand the length, height, width and depth of God's love.

Sixthly, those who are saved will walk in love with others. They will retribute matters with the wronged.

We will begin to love others expecting nothing in turn because of the love of God which is poured out into our hearts. Loving the enemies, the persecutors and the opposers is a proof of our being children to the God of love. Loving God is the first commandment, and loving man is the second but equal to the first.

When we are saved our conscience is cleansed by the blood of Christ. We must now strive to keep that conscience clear not only before God but also before men. Jesus has specifically taught us to reconcile with the wronged ones before offering any gift to God.

When Jesus was about to enter his house, Zacchaeus, a Tax Collector, confessed he would retribute matters with men wherever necessary. Jesus immediately said, "Today Salvation has come to this house."

Seventhly, the saved man will just be anxious to share his new-found joy with others.

A Tamil proverb says, "Let the world also get the joy I got." Jesus said, "People won't light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand."

A woman in Samaria has had five husbands. The one she was living with when Jesus met her also was not her husband. Just imagine what respect she would have had in that village when she met Jesus. But she became a new creation! Leaving her pot right there near the well, she ran into the village. She considered not what people who knew her would think of her. She mobilized and brought almost the entire village to the feet of Jesus! This is what witnessing is.

Psalmist David illustrates his experience like this: "God brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord."

If this booklet has benefitted you, you may gift it to a friend. This is how you can become a channel of blessing to others.

*The Bible verses quoted in this Chapter—
Lk 6:43,44; Jn 14:27; Rom 8:1; Lk 15:10;
2 Cor 5:17,18; Jn 8:34-36; Psa 1:1; 1 Pet 2:1-3;
1:23; Rom 8:26; Acts 9:11; Mt 5:44,45; 22:37-39;
Acts 24:16; Mt 5:23,24; Lk 19:8,9; Mt 5:15;
Jn 4:28-30; Psa 40:2,3*

5

Do you still have Questions?

I trust the reading of the previous Chapters has helped you get a clear picture of the experience of Salvation. It may be difficult to explain it still simpler. However there are several common questions people ask about Salvation.

If someone says he would get saved only after getting all his questions satisfactorily answered, it is most likely this person would never get saved! Because, mere intellectual knowledge will not save anyone. Won't it be foolish if someone refuses to use electricity until he understands all about electricity? The Bible calls us to, "**Taste** and see that the Lord is good!"

A young boy in a jungle was crying on his knees with tears, "Lower one foot, God, lower one foot!" An elderly Pastor who came that way asked him what he meant. The lad replied he was praying for his dad. The Pastor didn't understand yet. The boy then explained, "My dad knows the Bible cover to cover, but it's all mere head knowledge. I prayed that this knowledge would be lowered by one foot to reach his heart!"

Here are the answers from the Bible for the common questions and excuses—

1. *Is it not good enough that I am religious?*

“Unless you are converted and become as little children you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt 18:3)

“Circumcised on the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin... concerning the righteousness which is in the Law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ” (Phil 3:5-7,11).

2. *Is it not enough if I harm nobody but always do good to others as much as I can?*

“You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God” (Lk 16:15)

“Whoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all” (Js 2:10)

“By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast” (Eph 2:8,9)

3. *Will a God of love send anyone to eternal hell?*

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it” (Mt 7:13)

“The King said to the servants, Bind him (the one without the wedding garment) hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”

(Mt 22:13)

4. *Is it not better to be like me than those who claim a Salvation experience but play hypocrisy?*

“In accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render each one according to his deeds... For there is no partiality with God... God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ” (Rom 2:5,6,11,16)

5. *Is Christian life so easy? There are many people I cannot forgive and habits I cannot forsake!*

“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me... For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Mt 11:28-30)

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13)

6. *Will not God save me when He desires?*

“We as workers together with God also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain... Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **today** is the day of salvation” (2 Cor 6:1,2)

6

May I share my Experience?

I was born as the first son to my mother Anbu and father Rajamani in a village called Nazareth in the southernmost part of India. Mum was a teacher and dad an army officer. A good Christian home. Strict upbringing. Humble background. There was no place for movies or novels at home. I attended all the Church services. We were two boys to our parents. If we didn't memorize atleast one Scripture verse each morning, mummy won't give us breakfast. Sundays were still more difficult! We must memorize one full Psalm. No lunch otherwise. Besides this, memorizing prayers from the Common Prayer Book also. I bagged most of the Scripture prizes. Stood first in the class, second only at times. So a pet for the teachers and the headmaster. When parents caned their children they would shout at them to look at Anbu's children! Dr. Vedabothagam's wife was my God-mother. I was named by her as Stanley after a British soldier by the same name and God's servant Stanley Jones—with such expectations. But...

Though I looked good on the outside, I was living in sin. I was a whitewashed tomb. True I looked so much better than several fellow-students and friends. But the heart was bad. I disliked questions like, "Are you saved? Are you born-again?" But Mr. Michael Chelladurai and Mr. Gnanadurai, who were my teachers, had been praying for my salvation for several years, which I was not aware of.

One day I was confronted on the street by Mr. Gnanadurai. He asked me how I was getting on. I understood what he meant! I tried to dodge and slip away but failed that day. He opened his pocket Testament and that set me to tremble. That too, he opened up to read Galatians 5:19-21. I argued I had not committed adultery, murder, and all that. He wouldn't leave me. "Lustful look itself is adultery; Hating a brother is murder;..." Thus he began explaining each sin. I put down my head in shame. He counseled me to confess my sinfulness to God that evening when I would reach home. It was a Friday. I didn't like to eat. With mummy's permission, I forewent the evening meal and was in prayer humbling myself before God. My sins came before me. I cried, "Lord, I will no more say I am good. What a wretched sinner I am! Forgive me. Yes, it was for my sins Jesus was crucified. Have mercy on me, O Lord!"

I had to go to college the next day. I was 16 years then. Year 1962. I was in the Pre-University

Class in St. John's College at Palayamkottai. Because of the poor economic condition at home I could not pay for hostel and so was a dayscholar travelling up and down daily by train from Nazareth. Then came Sunday. I somehow got the book, *On being a Real Christian* by Christian Weiss. I took it with me to the red sandy desert outside my hometown. I started reading that book on my knees. Even before I came to the second chapter I sensed the strong witness of the Spirit in my heart. The Scripture texts and explanations in that book so beautifully planted in me the assurance of Salvation. I jumped up with joy and shared it with the elders. Mummy was greatly delighted.

Hatred and pride began to melt away when Christ came into my heart. After all during my students days my enemies were just the rivals in study. With some of them I had not talked for long. Now that I'd become a new creation I ran to them and got reconciled. I could so lay aside pride (the so-called shyness) only because of the indwelling power of Christ. My conscience became clear. I started to testify. Bible meditation and prayer became a delight. When I was praying another day in the same desert I was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gave me strength to overcome temptations. Victorious life became a possibility.

Now (2009) it is fortyseven years since I received this wonderful experience. I have never regretted the simple decision I took then to follow Christ. On the contrary, several times on my knees by my bedside I have shed tears of gratitude for the grace that saved me. Friend, I close with this saying—

*There's only one life,
It'll soon be past;
What's done for Christ
Alone shall last!*

Model Prayers

In the next four pages are given model prayers for morning and evening. You may add your personal details suitably. In course of time you will learn to pour out your heart before God in your own words.

Morning Prayer

O Lord,
who grants us the grace and strength
we need each day,
we thank You for giving us good rest
all through the night and enabling us
to wake up afresh this morning.
This is the day that You have made for us.
Help us to rejoice and be glad in it.

O God,
we praise You for adding yet another day
to our lives, while so many who had been
better people than us have already
left this world. Help us this day to please You
in our thought, word and deed. Cause us
to be vigilant to notice and avoid the traps
Satan has set against us. Strengthen us to be
witnesses for Your Son Jesus Christ
at our home, outside and in our workplace.
Beautify us with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Our Heavenly Father,
sustain us with this day's bread and clothing.
Let Your blessings be on all our endeavours
today. Protect us and preserve us from
dangers, accidents and disasters.
Let Your Heavenly angels surround us always.
Frustrate all the plans plotted against us.

Fill us with Your love,
that we could love even our enemies.
Grant us the willpower to overcome the tests
that tend to make us lose our patience.
Help us to control our tongues.
Prevent us from interfering
with unwanted affairs.

O Perfect One,
teach us not to render evil for evil,
but to defeat evil by our good deeds. Guide us
to share Your love revealed through Christ to
at least one person this day. Help us not to be
longfaced but be seen always with a smile.

Almighty God,
I don't have enough strength needed
for today's work and responsibilities.
But I can do all things through Christ who
strengthens me. So shall it be, Lord! Amen.

Evening Prayer

O God,
who created the day and the night
and promised us that neither the moon
at night, nor the sun during the day would
harm us, we thank You for being with us
and guiding us throughout this day and
bringing us to this evening.
Forgive us the sins we have committed
against You this day, in our thought,
word and deed. Let us not repeat these
mistakes again and again.

Our Righteous Judge,
help us to receive the reward due for all
the works we have done this day.
Be patient with us for the lapses
and deficiencies in the work we have
carried out half-heartedly without putting
all our efforts. Forgive us if we have hurt
any one. Give us a humble heart to seek
their forgiveness by tomorrow itself
because You have told us that
our anger must subside before the
sun goes down.

Lord,
we praise You for all Your blessings
this day. You gave us food, clothing
and shelter; granted us health; established

relationships and encouraged us—
thanks a million, Lord! What shall I render
for all the good things
You have done this day in my life!

Lord of Comfort,
we pray for those who are lamenting and
crying out in agony due to losses,
difficulties, distresses, troubles and trials.
Grant them in abundance Your grace and
the favour of men. We are not worthy of
the love You show us. We end this day
with grateful hearts singing,
“The love that Jesus has for me
is more than tongue can tell.”

O Lord,
You are protecting us without sleep or
slumber. We commit our spirit, soul
and body to You this very moment.
Keep us as the apple of Your eye.
Satisfy us with Your Holy presence.
Let us awake in the morning in the
brightness of Your countenance.
Yours is the Kingdom, the Power
and the Glory forever. Amen!

God's Word
for our "A to Z" needs & problems

Anxiety ... Isa 26:3; Phil 4:6,7

Backsliding ... Jer 3:22; Psa 51; Isa 42:3

Confusion ... Psa 32:8; Isa 58:11

Depression ... Psa 34:17-19; 43:5; 55:1-6,22

Emptiness ... Hab 3:17-19

Failures ... Prov 24:16; Lk 5:1-11

Grief ... Psa 116:3,4,8; Mt 5:4

Hurt ... Lk 17:3,4; 1 Pet 2:19-23

Insecurity ... Mt 7:24-27; 1 Jn 2:16,17

Jealousy ... 2 Cor 10:12; 1 Cor 7:20-24; Acts 7:9

Knots ... Jonah 2:1-9; Psa 105:17-19; Isa 45:2,3

Loneliness ... Job 19:13-20,25; Psa 27:10; 46:1-5

Mistreatment ... Gen 16:8-10,13; Ex 1:7-12

Nightmare ... Gen 15:12-15; Dan 7:28; 8:27; 10:10-12

Opposition ... Psa 3:1-6; 27:1-3; Isa 54:17

Pain ... Rom 8:18,22-24; 5:3; 1 Pet 4:1,2

Quarrel ... Psa 124; Mt 5:9; Js 3:16-18

Rejection ... Acts 7:35,36; Mt 21:42; Acts 2:36

Sickness ... Isa 53:4; Js 5:14-16

Temptations ... 1 Cor 10:13; Heb 2:17,18

Unbelief ... Rom 10:17; Heb 3:12,13; Mk 9:24

Vengeance ... Mt 5:38-42; Rom 12:18-21

Weakness ... 1 Cor 1:27-31; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Zech 4:6,7

eXhaustion ... Isa 40:28-31; Mt 11:28-30

Yoke ... Lam 3:27; Psa 94:12-14; Mt 11:28-30

Zigzagging ... Js 1:6-8; Isa 30:20,21

*(These Bible verses are worth memorizing.
Write them in a pocket notebook
for ready reference and frequent reminders.)*