

Genuine Salvation Is Absolutely Certain

- I. Genuine Salvation [God preserves, saints persevere. (John 10:27–29; Hebrews 3:12–14; 1 Peter 1:5)]
 - A. God's truth:
 - 1. God's justice is satisfied (the penalty is paid)
(Leviticus 17:11; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:22–26; Hebrews 2:17; 9:22–26; 1 John 2:1–2; 4:10)
 - 2. Regeneration (from death to life)
(Ezekiel 36:26–27; John 3:3; 5:24; Ephesians 2:1–7; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3, 23)
 - 3. New creation / consummation (future perfection, sinless)
(Genesis 1:26–31; Acts 3:19–21; Romans 8:19–25; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1–5; 22:1–5)
 - B. A life-long process:
 - 1. Initial salvation – *Justification* – Freedom from the penalty of sin
(Romans 5:1, 9–11; Ephesians 2:4–5, 8–9)
 - 2. Ongoing salvation – *Sanctification* – Freedom from the power of sin
(Romans 6:1–14, 19, 22; 8:13; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18; 7:1; Galatians 5:16–25; 6:7–8; Ephesians 4:15, 17–24; Philippians 2:12–13; 3:12–14; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 3:12–14; 6:4–6; 10:14; 12:14; James 1:4; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:24–25)
 - 3. Final salvation – *Glorification* – Freedom from sin's presence, in the presence of Jesus Christ
(Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; John 6:37–40; Romans 8:16–25, 29–30; 1 Corinthians 15:1–2, 50–58; Philippians 1:6; 3:20–21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24–25)
 - C. Outcomes
 - 1. Peace: assurance, confidence, joy
(Proverbs 1:33; 3:25–26; Jeremiah 17:7–8; John 1:12; Romans 3:24–26; 5:1; 8:1, 15–16, 31–39; 2 Corinthians 3:4–5; Ephesians 1:13–14; Philippians 4:4–7; Colossians 3:15; Hebrews 9:12, 26; 10:19–25, 35–39; 1 John 2:3; 3:14–15, 19–24; 4:15–18; 5:11–13; Revelation 2:11; 20:6)
 - 2. A transformed life
(John 12:25–26; 15:4–5; Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:22–24; 6:15; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11–14)
 - 3. Eternal life
(John 3:36; 10:27–30; 17:3; Romans 6:22–23)

II. False salvation

A. Self-deception/self-delusion

1. “My God loves me and won’t send me to hell.”
(Trusting a false god of our own making)

Since Jesus alone is the way to the Father, we must come to him his way on his terms.

(Exodus 34:6–7; Psalm 73:27; 119:155; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 11:22; Ephesians 2:17–18; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 4:4)

2. “I have an understanding with the man upstairs” (Saved on our terms, not God’s)

God saves us, according to His plan, not ours. We do not decide what is acceptable to God our Creator.

(Deuteronomy 12:8; 1 Samuel 2:3; Proverbs 8:13; 14:12; 16:5; Jeremiah 17:9–10; Malachi 1:6–14; Matthew 22:11–14; Luke 16:15)

3. “I’ve earned a place in heaven because I’m a good person.”
(Saved by my works, not by God’s grace)

God saves us, on the basis of His work. We cannot earn our way into heaven, no matter how hard we try.

(Psalm 14:1–3; Luke 18:9–14;

Romans 3:10–12, 23, 28; 4:2, 4–5; 11:6;

Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8–10 (saved by grace → created for good works);

Titus 3:4–8)

B. Hypocrisy – “I’ve prayed the prayer” (Lip service only)

(Ezekiel 33:31–32; Psalm 66:18; Malachi 2:17;

Matthew 7:21–23; 13:20–21; 24:46–51; 25:14–30;

Mark 7:6; Luke 13:22–30; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 10:26–31; 1 John 1:5–10; 2:19; 3:4–10)

C. Outcomes

1. Anxiety: uncertainty, worry, fear
(Matthew 13:20–22; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 John 4:18)

2. An unchanged life
(Luke 9:62; John 15:2, 6; Galatians 5:19–21; Philippians 3:17–19; Ephesians 5:5–8; Hebrews 10:26–27; James 2:14–26; 1 John 1:6)

3. Eternal punishment
(Matthew 13:40–43; Romans 2:6–11; 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9; Revelation 21:7–8)

Warnings are God’s means to keep his people. (Philippians 2:12–13; Jude 24)