

WHAT MUST A PERSON DO TO HAVE FULL SALVATION BEFORE GOD

A biblical study of direct and complementary
texts

Personalized for Ruperto Bravo Benavente R.B.B.

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC REVIEW Reina Valera 1960 Bible
Francisco Lacueva Greek Spanish Interlinear New
Testament**

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Purpose and reading method

This study gathers the passages that answer a decisive question: what must a person do to receive full salvation from God? Direct texts state the call or describe the saving event. Complementary texts explain its foundation, scope, evidence, hope, and promises. Each section separates biblical reference, textual explanation, doctrinal relationship, and pastoral application. The Reina Valera 1960 is the requested biblical reference. Francisco Lacueva's Interlinear is used only as a consultation aid; no unverified wording or lexical claim is attributed to it.

Key passages: Luke 24:44-47; Acts 20:21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Application: Read every passage within the argument of its biblical book.

Central thesis

God graciously saves the sinner who turns to Him and believes in Jesus Christ. The foundation is not the believer's moral quality but the person and finished work of the Son: His sinless life, substitutionary death, and resurrection. Repentance and faith do not purchase salvation; they are the response by which the sinner abandons self-justification and receives Christ. The Spirit applies salvation through new birth, justification, reconciliation, adoption, union with Christ, and sealing. Good works follow as fruit, and glorification completes what God began.

Key passages: John 3:16-18; Acts 16:30-31; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7

Application: Rest in Christ as the sufficient Savior, not in a human work, feeling, or formula.

The universal diagnosis

Scripture does not divide humanity into people who need salvation and people able to appear righteous by themselves. All have sinned. Sin includes deeds, desires, and the deep inclination to live without God's glory as the center. It brings guilt, corruption, slavery, and death. Personal reform cannot erase past guilt or attain God's perfect righteousness. This diagnosis humbles us, yet prepares us to hear grace.

Key passages: Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:9-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3

Application: Stop comparing yourself with others. Receive God's diagnosis and seek His provision.

Are we always sinners?

While we live in mortal bodies, sin remains present and believers can fall. Paul describes a real conflict, and John says that claiming to have no sin is self-deception. Yet Scripture does not reduce the believer's identity to sinner alone. Believers have been washed, sanctified, and justified; they are in Christ and called saints by belonging, while still needing confession, correction, and growth. We may therefore say: all are sinners in need of grace; believers are justified sinners who still struggle with sin's presence until glorification.

Key passages: Romans 7:14-25; 8:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 John 1:8-2:2

Application: Neither deny sin nor let a fall define your whole identity. Confess, receive restoration, and walk by the Spirit.

God's initiative

Salvation begins in God's love, mercy, and purpose. The Father sent the Son when humanity could not rescue itself. The gospel call is universal and responsible: God commands all people to repent and freely offers life to whoever comes. Divine sovereignty does not make the human response unreal; Scripture proclaims both truths without making them rivals.

Key passages: John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-8; Acts 17:30-31; Revelation 22:17

Application: Hear the offer personally: come to Christ without presenting merit.

The person and work of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the only mediator. Truly God and truly man, He reveals the Father, represents humanity, and offers a sufficient sacrifice. He lived without sin, bore our sins on the cross, died once, and rose bodily. The cross is not an example of human effort but God's unrepeatable saving act: justice is upheld, the slave is redeemed, the enemy reconciled, and the guilty forgiven.

Key passages: John 1:1-14; 14:6; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Application: Look away from yourself. Assurance grows from Christ's worth, not from the strength of your feelings.

The gospel to be believed

The apostolic message announces that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day according to the Scriptures. Saving faith is more than believing God exists or admiring Jesus. It receives God's testimony

about His Son and trusts Him personally. Faith has content, an object, and a promise: it knows the gospel, rests on Christ, and takes God at His word.

Key passages: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 1:16-17; John 1:12; 1 John 5:9-13

Application: Ask not only what you know about Christ, but whom you trust for acceptance before God.

Repentance toward God

Repentance is a change of mind and direction: acknowledging sin, abandoning self-sufficiency, and turning to the living God. It is not penance that cancels debt or emotion offered as payment. God grants repentance, and its fruit appears in a reoriented life. Acts 20:21 joins repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as inseparable aspects of one response.

Key passages: Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 11:18; 20:21; 26:20

Application: Call sin what God calls sin and turn to Him in confidence in His mercy.

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

To the question what must I do to be saved, the apostolic answer is believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith receives, trusts, and rests. It does not turn its own intensity into merit or depend on a perfect remembered formula. Weak faith can hold a strong Savior. Genuine faith does not remain alone, but its confession, obedience, and love are fruit rather than the judicial basis of acceptance.

Key passages: John 3:14-18,36; 5:24; 6:35-40; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 10:8-13

Application: Measure the promise by Christ's faithfulness rather than salvation by an experience's intensity.

Grace, works, and baptism

Ephesians carefully orders cause and fruit: salvation by grace through faith, not by works; then a life prepared for good works. James confronts a lifeless verbal profession and does not add works to the price of justification. Baptism is commanded obedience, public testimony, and identification with Christ and His people. It does not replace faith or add power to Christ's blood.

Key passages: Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-26; Acts 10:43-48; Luke 23:39-43; Romans 6:3-4

Application: Obey and bear fruit because grace has been received, not to purchase it.

What God grants to the believer

Justification is God's declaration of righteousness because of Christ. Regeneration is new birth by the Spirit. Reconciliation replaces hostility with peace. Adoption receives the believer as child and heir. Union with Christ joins the believer to His death and life. The Spirit's indwelling and seal mark ownership and anticipate the inheritance. These are dimensions of one saving application, not levels bought by successive merits.

Key passages: Romans 3:21-28; 5:1-11; John 3:3-8; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:13-14

Application: Thank God for the breadth of His work and live from the new relationship He created.

Assurance, falls, and Christ's advocacy

Assurance rests first in God's promise and power. The one who hears and believes has eternal life; the sheep are in the hands of the Son and the Father; nothing created can separate believers from God's love in Christ. This does not make sin light. A fall damages fellowship, joy, and usefulness and may bring fatherly discipline. Yet Christ remains Advocate and Intercessor. Confession restores fellowship; it does not repeat His sacrifice.

Key passages: John 5:24; 10:27-30; Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 1:9-2:2

Application: After a fall, neither hide nor excuse yourself. Confess, receive the Father's correction, and return to the light.

Sanctification and future hope

Justification is complete; sanctification is progressive. The Spirit produces fruit and conforms believers to Christ as they obey, renew the mind, and put sin to death. Full salvation also includes the future redemption of the body, resurrection, and glorification. Then not only sin's guilt and rule, but its very presence will end. This hope avoids both present perfectionism and moral resignation.

Key passages: Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:18-30; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3

Application: Fight sin with hope: God is still at work and will complete His work.

Direct texts

These passages explicitly state human need, the gospel call, the content of the message, or the reception of salvation. They should govern doctrinal formulation.

Key passages: John 1:12-13; 3:3-18,36; 5:24; 6:35-40; 10:27-30; 11:25-27; 14:6. Acts 2:37-41; 3:19; 4:12; 10:34-48; 13:38-39; 16:30-34; 17:30-31; 20:21. Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-8; 5:1-11; 6:23; 8:1,28-39; 10:8-13. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-8; Hebrews 10:10-18; 1 John 5:9-13; Revelation 22:17.

Application: Begin here and let direct teaching govern disputed or figurative passages.

Complementary texts and anticipations

These passages reveal patterns, promises, and characteristics later related to Christ: the promised offspring, God's refuge, Abraham counted righteous by faith, the substitute, Passover, atonement, the lifted serpent, the suffering Servant, the new covenant, a new heart, and cleansing. They must not be freely allegorized; their Christological use should follow Jesus and the apostles.

Key passages: Genesis 3:15; 15:1-6; 22; Exodus 12; Leviticus 16; Numbers 21:4-9; Psalms 22; 32; 110; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Zechariah 12:10; Luke 24:25-27,44-47; Hebrews 8-10.

Application: Use anticipations to illuminate Christ's work, never to displace direct gospel statements.

Frequent objections

Is believing that God exists enough? No; saving faith receives the Son. Can morality save? No; it neither erases guilt nor produces perfect righteousness. Does the law save? No; it reveals sin and leads to Christ. Does a fixed prayer save? Prayer may express faith, but Christ saves. Does grace authorize sin? No; grace unites believers to Christ and begins new life. Do falls automatically cancel salvation? Sin requires confession and discipline, while Christ intercedes. May believers claim to be sinless? No; yet they must also acknowledge their new standing in Christ.

Key passages: James 2:19; Romans 3:19-20; 6:1-14; Galatians 2:16; 1 John 1:8-2:2

Application: Answer with the whole counsel of Scripture, preserving grace and the call to holiness.

Conclusion

What must a person do? Repent toward God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Where does full salvation rest? In God's grace and Christ's one sufficient sacrifice. What does the believer receive? Forgiveness, righteousness, life, reconciliation, adoption, the Spirit, and the hope of glory. What follows? Growth and obedience as fruit. Until glorification believers cannot claim freedom from sin's presence, yet neither should they live as condemned. In Christ there is forgiveness, advocacy, strength to rise, and a certain promise of completion.

Key passages: Acts 20:21; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 10:10-14; Philippians 1:6

Application: Come to Christ, remain in His word, and walk in humility, confession, and hope.

Study questions

1. Why is the need for salvation universal?
2. How are repentance and faith related?
3. What is the difference between salvation's foundation, means, and fruit?
4. Why does 1 John 1:8 rule out present sinless perfection?
5. How do Romans 8:1 and fatherly discipline fit together?
6. How do complementary texts serve without displacing direct texts?

Bibliographic note

Biblical reference: Reina Valera 1960 Bible. Linguistic consultation tool: Francisco Lacueva, Greek Spanish Interlinear New Testament. Explanations do not replace reading each passage in full.

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1 ALL HAVE SINNED

The need is universal. Rom 3:23



2 GOD CALLS

Repent and believe. Mark 1:15



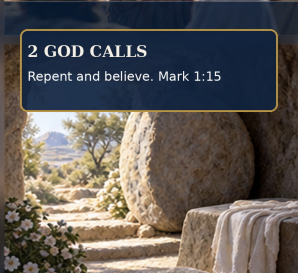
3 FAITH IN CHRIST

Believe in the Lord Jesus. Acts 16:31



4 THE CROSS

One sufficient sacrifice. Heb 10:10-14



5 RESURRECTION

Christ lives and saves. 1 Cor 15:3-4



6 GRACE

God's gift, not wages. Eph 2:8-9



7 JUSTIFICATION

Peace with God by faith. Rom 5:1



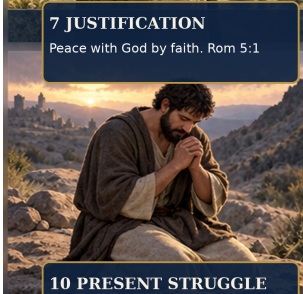
8 NEW BIRTH

Life through the Spirit. John 3:3-8



9 ADOPTION

Children and heirs. Gal 4:4-7



10 PRESENT STRUGGLE

Sin is still present. 1 John 1:8



11 CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE

Confession and restoration. 1 John 2:1



12 GLORIFICATION

Free from sin's presence. Phil 3:20-21

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Editorial note: Only professional background relevant to a public publication has been included. Sensitive personal information, identity documents, addresses, and other private data have been omitted.