

The Experience of Salvation



JESUS OUR SAVIOR

“In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Substitute and Example. This saving faith comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God’s grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God’s sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God’s law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment.”

Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Belief #10

DECODING THE DECEPTION



THE EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV) “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Sanctification is Heaven’s Preparation Beyond Justification

I. Justification – God’s Work For Us:

Definition: The act of God declaring a sinner righteous through the merits of Christ’s atoning blood. (Romans 5:1)

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The thief on the cross— was justified at the moment of faith, his record cleared (Luke 23:42–43).

Justification removes guilt and penalty of sin, but it does not change the character.

II. Sanctification – God’s Work In Us

The ongoing process by which the Holy Spirit transforms the believer into the likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV) “For this is the will of God, your sanctification...”

Sanctification is the pursuit to become what we are not:

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV) “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:”

Israel leaving Egypt (**justification**), but needing the wilderness journey is where we learn obedience, before Canaan (**sanctification**).

Heaven is not only a place of forgiven sinners but for transformed saints.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Come with me to the line between:

- Where we were bound and where we were set free.
- Where Jesus found us and where He did not leave us.
- The Chains that held us and the Jesus that broke them.

What a day it was. When God brought His children out!

- The only memories left in Egypt were the dusty footprints of a multitude who for 400 years hungered and thirsted for freedom.
- Houses, where frustrated slaves cried for deliverance stand as a vacant symbol of the pardoning grace of God.
- Looking out over the walls of his pristine Egyptian palace, stands a defeated monarch, whose arrogance was stunted by a King he denied.

Pharaoh's prideful words now echo through the hallways of his defeat:

Exodus 5:2 (NKJV) “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”

God reduced Pharaoh's egotistical boasting to silent regret. When Pharaoh demanded Israel to make brick without straw, they blamed Moses for their trouble.

What they did not know was, God allowed the straw to be withheld because, there would be no builders left to build anything.

In other words, “Pharaoh, my people will no longer build your kingdom, they will be builders of my kingdom.”

After the dust settled on the Egyptian, the testimony was still alive:

Deuteronomy 6:21 (NKJV) “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.”

- **It took one day to get Israel out of Egypt.**
- **It took 40 years to get Egypt out of Israel.**

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (NKJV) “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, (2) all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, (3) all ate the same spiritual food, (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (5) But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.”

The belief that because God brought me out of my Egypt I am no longer at risk of falling, does not harmonize with the gospel.

The record of Israel’s failure is a reminder to us of our potential failure:

1 Corinthians 10:6-11 (NKJV) “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. (7) And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” (8) Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; (9) nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; (10) nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

The “gospel” is not only the **instant power of God** to free us from the penalty of sin, but the **continual power of God** to free us from the power of sin.

Babylon’s wine has intoxicated Christianity into a false sense of security.

2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV) “Having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

The denial of the “**power**” has led Christian to settle for a “**Form of Godliness**” because every attempt to be free from the power of sin has failed.

Step #1: Salvation from the penalty of sin is God's Pardoning Grace.

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS: God considers us righteous not because of our own merits or actions, but because God has credited or imputed the righteousness of Jesus Christ to us through faith.

Salvation from the power of sin does not come from us.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." The transforming power does not come from us, it works in us.

Step #2: Salvation from the power of sin is God's Transforming Grace.

IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS: The power of righteousness that God works within believers enable them to live a holy life.

Imparted righteousness is the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification; He empowers believers to strive for holiness and live a godly life. Imparted righteousness is the process of sanctification, where believers are progressively transformed to be like Christ.

Paul refers to this spiritual transformation as a metamorphosis:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

- **God saved Israel, from the penalty of sin in Egypt.**
- **After "God Saved them" they had a choice to make.**
- **We cannot do what only Jesus can do.**
- **Jesus cannot do what only we must do.**

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV) "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Until we make a choice to serve God, we cannot serve Him.)

Child Guidance, p. 209.3: Every human being possessed of reason has power to choose the right. In every experience of life God's word to us is, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Joshua 24:15. Everyone may place his will on the side of the will of God, may choose to obey Him, and by thus linking himself with divine agencies, he may stand where nothing can force him to do evil."

The apostle Paul understood the partnership of deliverance from sins' power.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV) “Therefore, 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; (13) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

We must work out what God worked in. The question is what has God worked in?

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NKJV) “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, (3) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (4) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Through Jesus, we have all we need to become like Jesus. We have escaped the corruption, the sure penalty of sin. However, there is a question. Was Israel pressing in the direction of Canaan or the direction of Egypt?

Paul gave a putrid list of sins that once controlled Israel, then he said:

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV) “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

God saved Israel from Egyptian bondage—by Grace through faith alone. They “**passed through the sea**” a symbol of being washed from their sin.

When the requirements of God clashed with their desires and God’s plans no longer thrilled them, they said: Exodus 14:12 (NKJV) “Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

Israel was saved from Egypt but refused salvation from the Power of Sin:

Titus 2:11-12 (NKJV) “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”

Israelites escaped Egypt yet most of them could not escape their desires!

2 Peter 2:20-22 (NKJV) “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. (21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. (22) But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

It's too late to think backwards, look backwards, or go backwards.

Romans 6:1 (NKJV) "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"

Progressive Transformation must become an intentional focus.

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV) "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (13) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, (14) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

- Forget what's behind you (Your Egypt Life, your failures, your weakness)
- Reach and press, making the call of God your goal and upward prize.

Jesus makes provision to free us from every sin that wants to dominate us:

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Every provision to be saved from the power of sin is available:

Romans 5:6-10 (NKJV) "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. (8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (10) For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

Salvation from the power of sin is not will power, its Christ's power:

Colossians 1:27 (NKJV) "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

If we don't allow Jesus Christ to move in, we will wreck His house.

We are not alone: 1 John 2:1 (NKJV) "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Jesus is faithful: 1 John 1:9 (NKJV) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The Ministry of Healing, p. 176: "God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus, our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ."

POINT #1: While Jesus is working on us, while He is working the sin out of us. He is covering us with His grace: 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

POINT #2: While He is working on us, we must decide to work with Him.

1 John 3:2-3 (NKJV) “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

**“If God can transform coals into diamonds,
He can transform sinners into saints. IT’S A PROCESS.”**

POINT #3: Jesus will finish what He started: Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

“The power of God does not stop at justifying us—it also transforms us. In Christ, we are not only declared righteous but made righteous by His indwelling Spirit. Justification removes the guilt of sin, but sanctification breaks the power of sin. The same grace that forgives us also renews us, shaping us day by day into the likeness of Christ. Therefore, the gospel is not only about pardon, but about power—power to walk in newness of life, to overcome through the Spirit, and to reflect the character of Jesus until the day He comes again.”

