

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

- **Regeneration**

Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

- **Repentance**

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the confession of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

- **Justification**

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

- **Sanctification**

Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

- **Glorification**

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

# Salvation in relationship to addiction

## Romans 10:1- 15

***Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (Romans 10:1-2 NKJV)***

Probably one of the most controversial and confusing issues an addict faces is the issue of salvation. Many are assuming that they are saved and in reality are not. Perhaps some well-meaning family or church member, in an attempt to fix our problem quickly, has led us to pray, “The prayer.” In many cases we were either too young, or too unformed to make a heartfelt commitment to Jesus Christ. Add to that the fact that sin and repentance are topics rarely discussed in Sunday sermons, and we can begin to understand where the confusion originates. We end up feeling like we are defective, beyond reach, or simply unimportant to God. For most of us, failure, rejection, and inadequacy has been the norm in our lives, so why should we expect our salvation to be different.

Often those same well-meaning family and church members have told us to “just say no!” They can’t understand why we can’t pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, or simply make a stronger effort. But those of us involved in life dominating sin know that more effort is futile in saving us from destruction. How relieved we are when we learn that salvation is not something that we can earn either. It has nothing to do with being good enough or trying harder.

Many of us do have a great desire to know and love God; we just don’t know how or think we are not good enough for Him to care about us. Like the Israelites mentioned above we may have “a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” Since the power of God is the only power strong enough to deliver us from life dominating sin, the foundation of our life of freedom must begin with genuine salvation.

Many of the hindrances will be alleviated when we understand the meaning of the word “believe” in verse 9 of Romans chapter 10, “***that 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.***” Our journey of faith will begin when we turn from relying on self and learn to trust the only One who can help us, The Lord, Jesus Christ.