HOW TO RECEIVE SALVATION (NEW BIRTH)
Understanding the New Birth

1. WE ALL NEED SALVATION.

> ***…No one is righteous— not even one*** (Romans 3:10 NLT).
>
> ***For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard*** (Romans 3:23 NLT).

In the beginning, when Adam disobeyed God in the Garden, sin and spiritual death entered the entire human race. Adam's sinful nature was passed down to all his children and future generations. Therefore, everyone is born in the world with a sinful nature, and spiritual death infects all humanity.

Death Means Separation

The word *death* means "separation." Man experiences death in three ways. We are born separated from God spiritually. He will die physically when his spirit separates from his body. If he is not saved before he dies physically, then he will die eternally and be separated from God forever in hell.

All humanity is plagued with spiritual death, God's guilt, and wrath because of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden. Adam sinned, affecting him and all his physical seed (children).

Sin, by definition, means to miss the mark. All humanity has missed God's mark. God and man are separated from each other. Man is spiritually dead and needs a Savior to connect him back to God.

We Are Not Sinners Because of What We Do

We are not sinners because of our acts of sin, such as lying, cheating, stealing, etc. Instead, we are sinners because of how we are born. We are born sinners.

> ***For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me*** (Psalm 51:5 NLT).

Our spirit man is born in the world without God, which means we must be born again spiritually.

Jesus Came to Bridge the Gap

Our spiritual condition before being saved is like a radio in perfect working condition that is unplugged from its power source. Until the radio is joined to the electricity, it is dead. In the same way, spiritual death is the hopeless condition of all who do not know Jesus Christ. Jesus is the bridge or the cord that connects us back to God.

Being born again or saved does not mean belonging to a certain church or denomination or having Christian parents. It means being in right relationship with God. We become Christians, not by what we do or what we have done, but by what Jesus did for us.

2. GOD MEETS OUR NEED FOR SALVATION.

How does God solve our need for salvation?

> ***For God so loved the world, THAT HE GAVE his only begotten Son, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*** (John 3:16 KJV).

God gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, to take the sins of the entire world on Himself. He took our punishment and died on the cross so we would not have to be punished.

Only the cord attached to the radio can connect it to the power. No other cord can connect the radio to the power (electricity) in the wall. Jesus is also the only way to God (power). He is the cord that gives us salvation.

> ***Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me"*** (John 14:6 NLT).

Jesus is the only way to God because He paid the price with His life on the cross. No other person or god can be the way because no one else has offered to pay for humanity's sins.

God Supplies the Grace as We Supply the Faith

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (Ephesians 2:8 KJV).

We do not deserve God's grace, His unmerited favor, but He gave us this gift of grace without us working for it. God does not require us to be right or perfect to receive His grace. We can do nothing to earn it.

Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:9 KJV).

Our good works cannot save us. No one can stand before God and brag about the good things they did on earth. If we were asked, ***"Why should God let you into heaven?"*** our only answer should be, ***"Because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior."*** We cannot obtain salvation by helping people or giving money to the poor. Only Christ and His sacrifice will be accepted as payment for our sins. God does not save us because WE are good, but because HE is good.

3. WHO QUALIFIES TO RECEIVE SALVATION?

Jesus said, "Whosoever" in John 3:16. Many try to say that Christianity is only a white man's religion. Yet, "whosoever" means anyone can receive the gift of salvation. Regardless of age, sex, race, creed, color, family background, social standing, or religion, we qualify when we come to Him.

4. HOW DO WE QUALIFY TO RECEIVE SALVATION?

Jesus said, "WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH" *(John 3:16 NLT).* God requires simple belief in our hearts that Jesus died and rose from the grave.

That if thou shalt CONFESS with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt BELIEVE in thine heart that GOD HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, thou shalt be SAVED (Romans 10:9 KJV).

He tells us how to apply or act on our faith. To confess means to acknowledge, agree with, or say the same thing (in this case) that the Bible says about Christ and His sacrifice. We are to confess that God raised Jesus from the dead. We are saved or born again by what we believe and say.

Sinners are never instructed to confess all their sins. Otherwise, we would be there all day(s). Plus, who can remember them all? We are only told to confess Christ, who then wipes away the penalty for all our sins: past, present, and future.

And their sins and their lawless acts I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE [no longer holding their sins against them] (Hebrews 10:17 AMP).

He canceled the record of the charges against us and TOOK IT AWAY BY NAILING IT TO THE CROSS (Colossians 2:14 NLT).

5. THE STEPS TO RECEIVE SALVATION OR TO BE BORN AGAIN

A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner. We must let God know that we realize that we are sinners.
B. Repent. We must be willing to repent from our sins and turn to Christ.
C. Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.
D. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

6. THE SALVATION PRAYER

Are you willing to do those three things? If so, repeat the following prayer after me:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I am a sinner who needs a Savior. I repent of my sins and turn to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe He died and rose from the grave to save me. Holy Spirit, come into my heart and help me to be the person you want me to be, in Jesus' name.

Because you said this prayer, if you were to die tonight, Heaven will be your home. Welcome to the family of God.