

Salvation, the Soul and the New Birth

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A. A Paradigm shift needed!

The Navy Captain at sea and the change in his thinking!

C.S. Lewis rightfully declared, “Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered.”

B. What is the composition of man, of being human?

1. Creation of man: "Then the Lord God formed man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

2. Created in the image of God: "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26)

The main idea: To be made *similar to* and *to represent* God.

This includes intellectual ability, moral awareness, and an immaterial soul.

3. A physical body and an immaterial soul/spirit.¹

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul..." (Matt 10:28)

4. Evidence for an immaterial conscious soul/spirit

Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration (Matt 17:1-3ff)

Samuel the prophet appears from the dead to King Saul (1 Samuel 28:15-19)

The Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

Apostle Paul's revelation experience (2 Corinthians 12:1-3)

God is a spirit, i.e. no physical substance, yet has a mind and consciousness. We are made in the likeness of God and this includes a non-material substance which contains continuous consciousness and rational being.

“And He was transfigured before them; ...and behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (Matthew 17:2-3)

“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a man was caught up to the third heaven.” (2 Corinthians 12:2)

“We are of good courage, I say, and prefer to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8)

“Who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.”²

¹ Soul and spirit are interchangeable. Man is composed of material and immaterial substance, i.e. two parts. For more discussion on this topic see Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem, chapter 23.

² 1 Thessalonians 5:10, NASB

5. How much do your thoughts weight in grams?

<u>Thoughts</u>	<u>Matter</u>
Conscious	Non-conscious
Information	Order but no information
Is and about something	Is something only
Intentionality	No Intentionality
Cannot be seen	Can be seen
Weightless	Has weight
Does not occupy space	Occupies space
No extension	Extension
New thoughts can exist	No new matter can come to exist

C. How does a Person obtain Salvation? How is one saved?

1. Not by the Law nor by works!

“Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)

“For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.” (Gal 2:19)

Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.” (Gal 3:21-22)

“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.” (Isaiah 64:6)

“But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.” (Romans 11:6)

2. But by grace through faith!

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law” (Rm 3:28)

“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:24)

“But to the one who does not work, but believes Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.” (Romans 4:5)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

What do I mean when I say with intensity, “I really believe in doctors!”
I mean that I am willing to entrust my life to them. The same is true with Christ.
Belief or faith involves the intellect, the emotions and the will.

What does each component involve?

- a. Intellect: Believing the facts about the person.
- b. Emotions: Desiring the relationship with the person
- c. Will: Trust in the Person of Jesus Christ

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? They said, believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (Acts 16:30-31)

“For by grace you haven been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)

Grace = unmerited favor, undeserved gift, getting something good you do not deserve

Saved = rescued from something bad. In this case from the death penalty, relational divorce from God, spiritual separation.

Faith = trust, reliance, dependence, adherence, confidence.

“Nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law; since by works of the Law no flesh will be justified.” (Gal 2:16)

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Salvation involves trusting the Right Object, for the Right Reason!!

1. Right Object = Jesus Christ, God incarnate who died and rose bodily! (Rm 4:25)
2. Right Reason = to fully pay the penalty of our sin, the death penalty! (Rm 5:8)

Salvation involves a “Trust Transfer!” Trusting a person not simply a proposition!

D. What happens when we are Saved?

1. Justified = to declare one righteous. A legal or forensic term. (Rm 5:1; 3:26)
2. Redeemed (Col 1:13-14; Eph 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rm 3:24)
3. Forgiven (Col 1:13-14; Eph 1:7; Is 43:25; Ps 103:12)
4. Entrance into God’s Kingdom (Col 1:13-14)
5. Rescued from Satan’s Kingdom (Col 1:13-14)
6. Made Righteous (2 Cor 5:21; Rm 5:17)
7. Placed under a System of Grace (Rm 6:14)
8. No Condemnation (Rm 8:1; John 5:24; John 3:18)
9. Lavished with Grace (Eph 1:7-8)

10. Given Eternal Life (1 John 5:10-13; John 10:27-29)
11. Placed in the Body of Christ (Gal 3:27)
12. Blessed with Spiritual Blessings (Eph 1:3)
13. Given everything related to Life & Godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4)
14. Made Complete in Christ (Col 2:10)
15. Transferred from Death to Life (John 5:24)
16. Given Security (John 10:27-29; Rm 8:38-39; Hebrews 13:5)
17. Warm Relationship with God (Rm 8:15)
18. Adopted into God's Family (Rm 8:14-15; John 1:12; Eph 1:5)
19. Given an Inheritance (Eph 1:11)
20. God reveals His Mystery to Us (Eph 1:9)
21. Indwelt with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14; Rm 8:9)
22. Reconciled to God: Enemy to Friend (Rm 5:10-11)
23. Baptized with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13; Rm 6:3; Col 2:12; Gal 3:14)
24. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14; 2 Cor 5:5; 2 Cor 1:21-22; Eph 4:30)
25. Regenerated by the Holy Spirit/Born Again (Titus 3:5-8; John 3:5-8)

E. The New Birth – Born Again -- Regeneration

1. Regeneration: Being made alive to God

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the *washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit*, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” (Titus 3:4-6, emphasis added)

Regeneration = again birth. (Greek: palin = again; genesis = birth)

“Regeneration involves something new, a whole reversal of the person's natural tendencies.”³

“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God **made you alive with Christ**. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.” (Col 2:13-14)

³ Christian Theology, Millard Erickson. Baker Book House: Grand Rapids, MI. 1983, 944.

“If Christ is in you, though the body is dead is dead because of sin, yet the **spirit is alive** because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.” (Romans 8:10-11)

2. Born Again: Experiencing a spiritual birth (John 3:1-8)

“Do not be amazed that I said to you, You must be born again.” (John 3:7)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

“For you have been born again not of seed which perishable but imperishable, that is through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

“The New Birth is the restoration of human nature to what is originally was intended to be and what it in fact was before sin entered the human race at the time of the fall. It is simultaneously the beginning of a new life...”⁴

“The new birth and regeneration do not represent successive stages in spiritual experience, they refer to the same event but view it in different aspects. The new birth stresses the communication of spiritual life in contrast to antecedent spiritual death; regeneration stresses the inception of a new state of things in contrast with the old...”⁵

3. Being made New! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”⁶

F. HOW CAN WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED?

1. The decision to place faith in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:13)

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you **may know** that you **have eternal life**.” (1 John 5:11-13)

1. **May know** (perfect, active, subjunctive)

2. **Have** eternal life (present, active, indicative)

2. The testimony of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16)

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God”

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Vines Expository Dictionary, W.E. Vine. Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville, 1985, 517.

⁶ Galatians 5:24, NASB

3. The evidence of a changed life

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creature, the old things passed away, behold new things have come.” (2 Cor 5:17)

“By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in him ought himself to walk in the same manner as he walked.” (1 John 2:5b-6)

4. The authority of the Word of God (1 John 5:13; John 10:27-28)

5. The character and promise of God (John 10:27-29; Heb 13:5; Num 23:19)

G. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)

1. **Has** eternal life (present, active, indicative)

- a. Presently possesses eternal life not will possess.
- b. How long does eternal life last?
- c. If one had it and then lost it, was it eternal?

2. **Does not** come into judgment!

- a. Come (present, middle, indicative)
- b. No judgment! None. Ever!

3. **Has passed** out of death. (perfect, active, indicative)

Perfect tense means a past completed action with the results continuing into the future without cessation or duration.

Indicative = a statement of fact

4. **Into Life!**

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. (John 10:27-29)

1. What things has Jesus promised us in this passage?

- a. We have Eternal Life. How long is eternal life?
- b. We will never perish. How long is never?
- c. No one will take us from Jesus’ hand.
- d. No one, even oneself, is able to take us from God’s hand.

2. According to Numbers 23:19, does God lie, repent or break promises?

3. According to the phrase, “no one will snatch them out of My hand,” who is holding on to whom? Thus, who is responsible for maintaining the security of the relationship?

“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me *I lose nothing*, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:39-40)

1. Jesus does not lose anyone that comes to Him in faith.
2. Eternal life is the result of coming to believe in Jesus.
3. The future “will have” is talking about those yet to come to faith in Jesus.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rm 8:38-39)

“Make sure your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He himself has said, I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.” (Heb 13:5)

1. This is a promise from the Lord.
2. It contains a double and triple negative for emphasis.

“From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.” (Rm 11:28-29)

1. The calling is referring to God calling the Jews as his chosen people.
2. One of the gifts is the gospel which is dealing with salvation.
3. Salvation, which is a gift, is irrevocable, i.e. unable to be reversed. Thus, salvation is like frying an egg not a bowl of jello.

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you **may know** that you **have eternal life**.” (1 John 5:11-13)

1. **May know** (perfect, active, subjunctive)
2. **Have** eternal life (present, active, indicative)

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