

Complete and real salvation must include the following:

A. Repentance

1. Repentance means “a change of mind,” “to think differently,” “reconsider.”

When an unbeliever has a change of mind wrought in them by God, so that they do no longer trust in their own works, religion, efforts, merit, etc., for their salvation, but trust completely in Christ only and His finished work on Calvary for their salvation. This is a change of mind that is repentance. “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,” (Hebrews 6:1).

2. Repentance at salvation is not turning from all of our sins – for that would be works.

No unbeliever has the power to turn from their sins. No unbeliever can possibly know all of their sins so they can turn from them. “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” (Romans 7:14). “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23). “For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20). “Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.” (Psalms 39:5).

3. God repents, therefore repentance is not turning from our sins, for God has never sinned.

“And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” (Genesis 6:6). “And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.” (Exodus 32:14). “And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.” (Judges 2:18). “And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.” (1 Samuel 15:35). “And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.” (2 Samuel 24:16).

4. Repentance is from ignorance of God’s righteousness.

“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” (Romans 10:3). See Acts 17:30, then read it in its context: Acts 17:22-31. God’s command to repent dealt with their false religion and their ignorance

5. Repentance will result in a changed life.

It should be noted that a changed life is not repentance, just the product of it. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...” (Proverbs 23:7). Repentance is a change of mind and a man’s thinking will change his being. An evidence of repentance is a transformed life, but a transformed life is not repentance. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

6. Sorrow for sin will work true repentance in an unbeliever at true salvation.

This often results in an immediate turning from some sins. Other sins seem to be struggles all life long. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (2 Corinthians 7:10). This is the work of the Holy Ghost. “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me;” (John 16:8-9). What sin? The sin of rejecting Christ!

Note: Turning from sin is a good work of someone who is already saved. “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit do mortify** the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” (Romans 8:13). This is the work of progressive sanctification in the believer. Sometimes sorrow for sins at salvation is so great it results in an immediate change in certain areas of that person’s life. That is a product of repentance. It is more correctly called sanctification.

B. Faith

1. Faith is a gift of God whereby He enables us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and trust wholly and completely in Him for salvation.

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**” (Romans 12:3).

2. Faith is not mental assent or the acknowledging of facts.

The devils also believe and tremble (read James 2:19). For example, the faith given at salvation is not saying you believe in Jesus Christ like a person would believe in George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. The faith given at salvation is perfect and complete trust, like a little girl who jumps into her father’s arms to protect her from an attacking dog. Her faith is completely in him.

Another example is jumping out of an airplane. A person with a parachute puts 100% of his faith in the parachute to take him safely to his destination.

3. The agent that brings faith to us is the Word of God.

“So then **faith cometh** by hearing, and hearing **by the word of God.**” (Romans 10:17). “Wherefore **the law was** our schoolmaster **to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” (Galatians 3:24-25). Faith is “belief, trust, dependence, or confidence in someone else and their words.”

At salvation a person believes “**in**” Jesus Christ and “**on**” Jesus Christ. “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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed **in** the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18).

By “**in**” Jesus Christ we mean in who He is. **He is Lord.** Do not confuse this with “Lordship Salvation.” What we mean is that a person who denies that Jesus Christ is Lord cannot be saved. Jesus said, “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **I am he**, ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh. He is the Son of God and God the Son.

“Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He

saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, **The Lord said unto my Lord**, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? **If David then call him Lord**, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.” (Matthew 22:42-46).

Here are a few other verses on the deity of Jesus Christ:

“For unto us a **child** is born, unto us a **son** is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and **his name shall be called** Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

“I and my Father are one.” (John 10:30).

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16).

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**” (Titus 2:13).

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of **God**, which he hath **purchased with his own blood.**” (Acts 20:28).

“Hereby perceive we the love of **God**, because he **laid down his life for us:** and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16).

But a person can believe “**in**” Jesus Christ and still go to Hell. They must also believe “**on**” Him. “And they said, Believe **on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:31).

By believing “**on**” the Lord Jesus Christ we mean dependance upon what He has done for us. When we believe the gospel we are saved. The Gospel is all about what Christ has done for us and not what we can do for ourselves.

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; And that he **was buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

So a person must believe “**in**” Jesus Christ (who He is) and “**on**” Jesus Christ (what He has done) to be saved. That is the saving faith that God puts in us the moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour.