

THREE PHASES OF SALVATION

John 3:16

Introduction: Salvation is something from the mind and heart of God and God is completely able to handle Salvation in His manner, however people are always trying to add to, help out, change, correct the way God does things, even salvation. God's salvation for man has three phases, man wants to add more.

I. SALVATION IS A DEFINITE ACT

1. The initiative act: *Luke 7:50* - perfect tense, a completed act, continuous, and timeless.
Luke 19:9 - aorist tense, a completed act, done with, finished
Ephesians 2:8 - perfect tense, a completed act.
2. Salvation is a definite act - *Titus 3:5* - aorist tense.
3. The Christian life begins in a definite transaction. This transaction is an act of God.
4. A Christian is one saved at a definite time in the past or one who has been saved at some past time.

II. SALVATION AS A PROCESS (*Romans 5:2*)

1. God's saving activity doesn't end with one being saved:
 - Salvation begins with God's action.
 - Salvation is sustained and continues ALSO by God's activities.
2. The sinner is not able to save him/herself, NOR after being saved is he/she able to KEEP him/herself saved.
 - There is no stage in the Christian's life that is SELF-SUSTAINING.
3. The Christian lives and stands in the Grace in which he/she was saved.
4. *Ephesians 2:8* - perfect passive - Something done in the past but the effect continues to the present.
 - Saved in the past and continues to be saved to the present.
 - The Continuance of being saved is as much God's work as being saved in the beginning was.
5. The Christian life also needs to grow and increase.
 - God saves. God sustains, and God gives growth to the Christian.
 - *1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15; Hebrews 5:11*
 - The Christian is in a process of being saved and growth is also a part.

III. SALVATION AS A CONSUMATION (*Romans 13:11-14*)

1. The Christian life is constantly moving toward a fulfillment of a glorious consumation.
2. *1 Corinthians 15* - The hope of the resurrection.
3. The Christian looks forward to his/her final deliverance. (*Romans 8:23*)
4. The Christian's assurance of final delivery is in the INDWELLING of the Holy Spirit
 - The firstfruits of the coming fulfillment.
 - The Holy Spirit is God's pledge to the Christian.
5. The Holy Spirit is the Christian's seal, guarantee. (*2 Corinthians 1:22*)
6. *1 Peter 1:5* - The Christian is kept by God's power.
7. Salvation is begun HERE, but completed in the future. (*Philippians 1:6*)

CONCLUSION:

1. God doesn't begin something for us then quit.
2. We only see a little of God's divine plan for us.
3. Those who believe God and Jesus Christ will one day be as Jesus Christ.