

What does being “saved” actually mean?

-Written by Inner Session Ministry

God is called our Saviour, because He actually saves! Acts 5:31

Let's look at these various pictures of what being saved looks like...

A relationship with God, saves us from “THE WORLD”...

Jesus makes several references throughout the Bible about the world. Yet, He is not referring to earth, but a *spiritual condition* created by people who oppose God's standard.

Jesus asks us to be in the world, but not “of” the world. Why? Because this present day world is at odds with the standard by which He created everything good (Colossians 1:16).

Fact, God made the Earth, but Satan rules the world.

What's the difference between the earth and the world?

Earth means “Terra” or land, the physical planet. God created it and it's pure. It's innocent.

While the world is the “cosmos”: it is the non-physical nature of the collective “mind” and “will” of those who dwell on the earth. The world is ultimately created by:

Government systems

Powers of authority

Controlling systems

Systems that influence life on the planet

What people will do in the absence of God

The world, therefore: is the banking system, the economic system, the political systems and the medical industry. It is the social and cultural systems of man and their religions, apart from the sovereign God of creation.

The Bible doesn't say that God so loved the earth, but that God so loved the world, that He sent His only son (who is just like Him) into the world with a message. That whoever believes that message will not perish, but experience the fullness of life. Not just in this life, but beyond the grave: eternal life. “For God didn't send His Son into the world to judge it; but that the world should be saved through him.” John 3:16

A world in love with capital gains deserves capital punishment. So, God didn't send His son to deal with the earth, but to deal with the world. He also came to save it.

In Psalm 24, King David separates the earth from the world. He says, the earth is the Lord's, but that the world is the Lord's also, and they that dwell in it.

The problem on earth is the world. The world corrupts the earth, because of the systems that "man" controls outside of God's will. The redemptive work of Jesus' message is for us to raise our standard back up to God's.

Men -under the influence of evil- will use their systems to *withhold* the bounty of earth for the benefit of everyone.

While God supplied exceedingly and abundantly enough for everyone, the world systems redistribute the "wealth" to themselves.

Now let's read this passage with the new definition of the world: For what does it profit a man, to gain "the whole world" (a system cursed by Satan) , and forfeit his (own) soul?
Mark 8:36

So even though you might believe in God, "This world" is the strength of an atmosphere perpetuated by darkness both driving, yet testing, our deepest allegiance to either the spirit of God or His enemy, *Satan*. To be in it, is safe. To be "of" it is not.

"We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." 1 John 5:19

"The world" testifies of *itself* not of God. It is the character of Satan. The spirit of the world is idolatry: loving those things that God far surpasses. It loves Everything for itself. It wears money, power, and greed. It is a spiritual condition that lusts for everything physical, blind to the spirit of God and the good things ideal for life and godliness.

The hallmark of this world is the character of Satan (Lucifer: the “the fallen” one), and its driven by the spirit of evil.

Therefore, Jesus cautions us to take shelter in Him because “the world” is unseen spiritual darkness.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

For reasons God has, and only for a period of time... **“Satan is the god of this world”**
2 Corinthians 4:4

What Kind of Authority Does Satan Exercise? (Only as much as God gives him).
Jesus is still the “AUTHOR”-ity of creation and determines who will have the power, therein. Adversity forges *faith* and *character* in our call to become “sons of light”
John 12:36. **We are children of God maturing in *wisdom* and *stature* just like Christ did.**
Luke 2:52. **Faith comes from testing, and testing from an Adversary (Satan).**

We see this in the story of Job. Job was singled out by God as someone who "is blameless and honourable, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Yet Satan accuses Job for loving God only because of God's favor. Job was very wealthy for a man of His time.

Satan was then *permitted by God* to challenge Job to the point he lost *everything*. His wealth, his children, his marriage, and his health. Satan bet God that he could get Job to *curse* God. But Job won “the bet” against Satan, and God restored everything he lost, tenfold! Leaders of faith, have to walk by faith. So God gives Satan a role in creating “the losses” that will produce our greater blessings. *Job was a model of faithfulness in his suffering.*

*For whatever is born of
God conquers the world.
And this is the victory
that conquers the world,
our faith. (1 John 5:4)*

Jesus refers to Satan as “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31), and Paul calls him “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) and “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4). John makes a further distinction when he says: “We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). These references leave us with the question: *In what sense does Satan “rule” the world?*

Again, the Bible frequently uses “the world” or “this world” to refer to the present evil system of opposition to God. Satan’s very name means “adversary” or “one who opposes,” so he’s described as our adversary in that he is God’s enemy.

So, the Bible never teaches that Satan actually rules over the entire earth, but that *he is ruler over the current system of sinful opposition to God*. In other words, he’s leading the rebellion against God.

The entire message of God’s plan (the Bible) is to prepare us for the next phase of our lives: to serve God in the millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-6). Not only are we to reign with Him in His future kingdom—we also reign with Christ now. We have dominion over ourselves and the entire earth. Genesis 1:26

To leave our authority and dominion in the hands of the enemy stirs up God’s emotion in our lack of unawareness of the gift he’s given us.

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” James 4:4 ESV

The reason that the Son of God took on flesh and blood was “that (through death) Jesus might render powerless *him* who had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14).

There are two forces at work in this world: God and The Adversary. Free-will determines *whose* you will emulate.

To get a glimpse of the depth of Jesus’ warnings:

“...to be in the world, but not “of” it, we have to be aware of who the primary influence is at this stage of our spiritual production: it’s “the world” conditioning you in the likeness of itself, ruled by “an adversary”. Remember, we’ve only just begun our talent show of life on earth. The first level of glory we strive for is to *overcome the world*. 1 John 16:33

A world which identifies the ‘*spirit*’ of it as Satan, The Adversary.

“Do not be conformed to this world (its spiritual condition), but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (God’s word), that by testing (yes, God tests us!) you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

God purifies and proves His people (Ezekiel 22:18-22; Isaiah 32:9).

We are called to be heirs of God! ...and co-heirs in our inheritance with Christ, having lives emulating all of the *word of God*, not just the parts we think are the best. See Romans 8:16-17

You have no idea where God wants to take you and how just how high he'll take you, until you share in His light.

When God says you'll inherit His Kingdom, you don't go as you are now. You're changed. You're given new clothes for the new role: **Clothes made of light** Revelation 19:8. **He changes us from darkness to light.** Ephesians 4:25, 5:2

We have to wear God's holiness to enter His house.

Know that one day...Jesus will accomplish the final victory over Satan, when he will be "thrown into the lake of fire" and "tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

Yet for now, he uses *Satan's rebellion* to strengthen us in character and conduct. Inheriting the Kingdom of God means we're royalty in the making 1 Peter 2:9. But a "king" has to fight in the "battle" (*overcome the world*), before he can wear the crown.

... "See, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction." Isaiah 48:10

Today you have a choice to pick up your dominion and authority. Jesus produces our faith! ... and by the power of faith in God's word, you have the power to add or subtract the math of your afflictions.
Cf. Luke 10:19

A relationship with God, saves us from "DEATH"...

Here Jesus makes reference to death as **sin**, or "**lawlessness**": being a law to your own self, making the law that Jesus writes on our hearts of no effect.
1 John 3:4

In a picture of words and stories, the entire Bible narrates the truth about life and death; where God Himself both challenges and warns us that we are responsible to choose one for ourselves Deuteronomy 30:19. God summarizes the end result of those who choose "life", and those who choose "death".

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

"The wages of sin is death": What does this mean?

It means: If we go about life without God, we become eternally separated from Him. Sin brings death—spiritually, physically and eternally (Romans 6:23). We're born dead in our sins (Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1). We will all die physically. And for those who don't have their sins forgiven, they will also die eternally. Hell is called the second death (Revelation 20:14). Though the human soul exists forever, it does not live. "Life" is described as *in the presence of God*. He gives eternal life. Eternal death awaits those who have failed to "know" God and place their belief and trust in Christ for a new life after this one.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6

Knowing God is matter of heaven and hell. 2 Thessalonians 1:8 & 9, John 3:36

In summary: *The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life* (John 12:23–25, CSB).

Through John's text in John 12: Jesus divides *physical and eternal life*. A person who favours physical life over a reality of faith in God's gift of eternal life, will forfeit everything. In Romans 6:23, the author of this scripture, Paul, compares the two types of lives he has been describing:

Death row or eternity with God.

Without Christ we are slaves to sin. Workers of sinfulness earn a paycheque ("their wages") of death. In other words, they earn eternal death: eternal separation from God. We can't enter the Kingdom of God wearing "the world".

"He who loves his life will lose it." What does this mean? We cannot "love" our lives, and be truly proficient at faith in God's reality. Being double-minded is a house divided. Our lives spent on the cares of this world will wither and die without an inheritance to make "life" last. Christ is giving this to us! The spirit that transforms death to life.

We cannot serve both God and the love of money or "the god of this world". (Matthew 6:24). If we spend our lives grasping for the things of this world, we will ultimately lose it all. After pursuing all this world has to offer, in the end we will discover that "everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:11). When God weighs the value of our lives on his scales, nothing is more precious than the "rich fulfillment" in our *refinement* like silver is tried in the heat. Psalm 66:10 He wants us just like Him.

"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. For you are just a *vapor* that appears for a little while, and then vanishes away."

James 4:14

The word Vapor in Hebrew is 'hebel': emphasizing the idea of our lives *compared to eternity* being temporary, fleeting, and futile.

If our lives are a vapour that appears for a little while and then vanishes away, it still carries a huge weight of importance and a mystery in why God gave you life: to embody His nature as "light" 1 John 1:5. The challenge? Use the *spirit of God* "true life", as the power needed to *overcome the world*. When He says, "choose life", he is ultimately saying "choose me, who gives you life." Don't just stop at the temporal one, and call it a life.

We have to remember that we are made by God, for God. He made us to reveal His light! Earth is the first odyssey in who we're supposed to become. Earlier we identified that *overcoming the world* is the truly just the beginning.

Next, God leads us to know what life *in the spirit* is all about. You'll never know unless you allow Him to change you. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

The rejection of this is spiritual death, we forfeit the benefits of God. God designed us to become 'one' in Christ Jesus. The moment we are given God's spirit, we are lifted from eternal death to life: we are no longer separate from God. Jesus is "the way" because He was God wrapped in flesh, and teaches us the way beyond the experience of it alone (the flesh/"self"). Christ is our reward! He is the gift who frees us from spiritual "death": a lack of knowing who He is, to the life that you are in His image.

Ezekiel 18:32 gives us a clue how we escape death "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

Turn, means to "repent". To "change your mind" and *turn* away from any standard that falls below the one God is calling us to: the likeness of Christ, who was blameless.

When Jesus says that He is "The Way, The Truth, and The Life (no one comes to the Father, except through me)" John 14:6: He means that He, (not us) is the source and sustainer of everything in the universe. He is the reality of faith, rewards and perfection; so why would we stop at imperfection?

An effective life is using our physical one to grasp the rewards and the benefits of God as gifts to those who wait on His perfect timing. The requirement? Christ is our only source. He alone reveals the way to heaven and makes it available to us, through Him.

**God broke the power of death in Christ's resurrection.
The same power that raised Jesus from death,
God wants to put in you.**

A relationship with God, saves us from “HIS WRATH”...

About 600 scriptures in the Old Testament pertain to God’s wrath. All of them account for one common reason: Separation from God. People without a relationship with Christ, who rebel against Him, and who are both *without* and *suppress* the knowledge and the truth of who He is: Our maker.

While God carefully measures His response to sin in wrath; His nature is still love. His wrath is a response to something external to Himself. It’s linked to human sin, and also expressed to demonic beings and fallen angels. Against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. God’s wrath meets those engaged in dark spiritual powers both human and “worldly”.

The word “wrath” in the Bible simply refers to God’s hatred of sin.

Without the work of Christ displayed in our lives; we’re all by nature, “children of wrath”. Ephesians 2. Indulging in the lusts of the mind and of life. Were independent beings that want to live autonomously. Living in the natural world for ourselves. We’re by nature a product of the world which has no love for God. But God, ...*from* great love and *with* love for us!... made us alive together with Christ. He overpowered death, by becoming life.

... and yet there are some who prefer the dark.

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.” John 3:19

**GOD’S WRATH IS NOT A RECKLESS RAGE, AN UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER, A SENSELESS FURY,
OR AN UNJUST VENGEANCE.
THE WRATH OF GOD IS PRECISE AND CHOSEN.
A CAREFULLY WEIGHED RESPONSE TO COMPLETE APATHY OF HIS HOLINESS.**

If God gives eternal life, is there also eternal wrath? Yes. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

When we worship and live for the created, rather than our Creator, we're separate from God. Without sin, there would be no wrath.

In sin, we have seized the life that God gave us (ultimately to reveal His glory!), in exchange to live for ourselves.

There are several different types of wrath that can be attributed to God in the pages of Scripture. Below are the different types:

Eschatological Wrath: The wrath of God that will be poured out at the end of time – on what is known as the Day of the Lord – when the world will receive the fury of the wrath of the Lamb. People will run into the hills – into the caves to seek refuge from God – and yet they will cry out for the rocks to fall on them because they will not want to receive the tormenting wrath of God (Rev. 6:16-17).

Cataclysmic Wrath: This is the wrath of God unleashed through natural disasters, hurricanes, tornados, mudslides, forest fires, sink holes, and various other disasters like that of tsunamis. The rebellion of Korah in Numbers 16:31-35 is an example of this type of wrath.

Consequential Wrath: This is the wrath of God that is experienced in this life through the “reaping and sowing” aspects of life that God has made known to us. We reap what we sow. We reap more than we sow. We reap later than we sow. The death of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 is an example of this type of wrath.

Abandonment Wrath: This is a terrifying reality of God's wrath when he finally and forever turns away from a person or a nation — leaving them in their sin — and removing his restraining grace from them. We see this type of wrath put on display at the end of Romans 1.

Eternal Wrath: This is the final wrath of God unleashed upon those who die without grace when they are sent to an everlasting hell. We see this in Revelation 20:11-15 and in other places such as Revelation 14:11, Matthew 25:41-46, Mark 9:42-48, and Luke 16:19-31.

Redemptive Wrath: This is the wrath of God poured out upon his Son—Jesus Christ as he suffered and died on the cross to save his people from their sins. We see this described in 1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 3:13, and John 3:16. The prophet Isaiah stated clearly in Isaiah 53:10 that it pleased the Father to crush him (Jesus). *-sectional excerpt from The Wrath of God, Josh Buice, G3 Ministries*

The fantasies of men cannot even fathom God's ultimate vision for man.

The same God who stands against us in wrath over our sin, is the same God who stands over us in love; because of who He is.

The world will one day be perfected through Christ. We are invited to raise our standard to God's, before the world is forced to raise it's.

Closing Prayer: Father God, Adonai: The heavens declare Your glory; and the skies proclaim the work of Your hands. I can only imagine what You can do in me. Sculpt me as a pillar in Your kingdom; and build *in me* a house of wisdom (Proverbs 9); that I may dwell in the Fear of the Lord . Create in me a clean heart, and a steadfast spirit (Psalm 51). A heart that can see beyond "the world" and come into the Light of Yours. Change in me, what needs to be changed: in character, trust and truth in Christ Jesus.

