

# Work Out Your Own Salvation

## What Is Salvation?

**Salvation:-** Saved from death by being **justified** before God.

**Justification:-** Declaration of being right (righteous) before God, on certain conditions laid down by God.

**Philippians 2:12-13** [NIV] *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

## Do I have to work out my salvation?

**I’ve been told all I have to do is to accept in faith what Jesus has done for me and I will be saved!**

**Acts 16:31** [Living Bible] *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you **will be saved...**”*

Belief in what God has done for us through the sacrifice of His only Son Jesus Christ is essential to salvation **but that was God’s initiative to start a process of salvation.**

**Romans 3:23** [NIV] *“...for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God...”*

**We have all sinned, our lives have fallen far short of the glory, that is purity and holiness of God.**

**Romans 3:24** [NIV] *“...and are **justified freely by his grace** through the **redemption** that came by Christ Jesus.”*

**We are made just.**

That is placed in a state of purity as if we had never sinned by God’s gracious act of love in sacrificing His only Son Jesus the Christ.

**We are also redeemed.**

**That is purchased from our slavery in sin and then become the purchased servant of Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 6:15-18** [NIV] *“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? **By no means! Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**”*

**We now have a new master Jesus Christ.**

This is why it said *“believe on the **Lord Jesus.**”*

**Romans 10:9-10** [NIV] *“That if you confess with your mouth, “**Jesus is Lord,**” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that **you confess and are saved.**”*

**Confession with our mouth and a lifestyle that is a personal witness that we are servants of Jesus Christ, is our part in our salvation.**

Paul then tells us very directly that we are to be witnessing to others to bring the Good News of salvation to them.

**Romans 10:13-15** [NIV] *“...for, **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, **“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”**”*

**We all have, as part of our salvation process, been given a job of work to do for our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**Will doing this job of work for our Lord and Saviour actually save us?**

**No!**

Our past sins can never be atoned for by anything we can do.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, **not by works, so that no one can boast.** For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

**The works are only the acceptable response for what God has done, and only He could do for us through Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.**”*

Laying down our lives as a “*living sacrifice*” is how we worship our Creator God and Saviour.

**Ideally a complete fulfilment of God’s Law would provide a basis for justification in God’s sight.**

**Romans 2:13** [NIV] *“For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.”*

If we kept the law perfectly God would declare us righteous [justified].

**But no such case has occurred in mere human experience, and therefore no-one can be justified by keeping the Law of God.**

**Matthew 5:17** [NIV] *“Do not think that I have come to abolish **the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.**”*

**It took the God/Man Jesus Christ to be the only being who will ever keep the Law of God perfectly.**

**Galatians 2:16** [NIV] *“...know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and **not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.**”*

**Galatians 3:10-11** [NIV] *“All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: **‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’** Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, **“The righteous will live by faith.”**”*

**Galatians 5:1-4** [NIV] *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. **Again I declare to every man who***

*lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”*

“Circumcision” was symbolic of the whole Law of God given to Israel through Moses.

**If we are looking to the keeping of The Law to justify us with God then we negate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as far as we personally are concerned.**

**What then is the purpose of God’s Law as far as our lives are concerned?**

**Romans 3:20 [NIV]** *“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”*

**Without the law we would not know of the existence of sin.**

**Until we know we are guilty and have only eternal death to look forward to, we will have no desire to be saved.**

From the rather negative presentation Paul goes on to show that through God’s Grace and Christ’s Redeeming Blood we are freely justified by God, by faith.

**Romans 3:21-31 [NIV]** *“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.** He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished, he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. **For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.** Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. **Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.”***

**This justification is a constant process, this is indicated by the present continuous tense of this scripture.**

**Romans 5:1 [NIV]** *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”*

There is a particular point in time that we were justified by God, all our past sins forgiven and forgotten.

This specific point of time is when we first repent, in faith accept Christ’s sacrifice in our stead and are baptised as an outward expression of what has happened within our mind and human spirit.

All our sins are atoned by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The word “*atoned*” means a covering.

The mercy seat in the Tabernacle of the Old Covenant was a slab of pure gold that covered the chest where the two tables of stone were stored on which the law was written by the Hand of God.

If we are not justified by the humanly impossible task of keeping the law perfectly.

How is the law “*upheld*”?

**Romans 13:8-10** [NIV] *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore **love is the fulfilment of the law.**”*

**Each of the Ten Commandments points towards love for either our Creator God or our fellow human beings.**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-2** [NIV] *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.**”*

**Any religious teaching or works that do not promote love is of no value whatsoever.**

**1 Timothy 1:3-5** [NIV] *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God’s work, which is by faith. **The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**”*

**The goal, end object of the commands, both of Old Covenant and New Covenant, is love.**

**1 Timothy 1:8** [NIV] *“We know that the **law is good if one uses it properly.**”*

The law promotes what is good, that is love, if it is used as it was intended to be used.

How then should we use the law?

**Romans 7:7-13** [NIV] *“What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! **Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law.** For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. **So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.** Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! **But in order that sin might be recognised as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.**”*

**1 Timothy 1:9-10** [NIV] *“We also know that **law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers, and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine...**”*

Here we have a list of people who have **not** yet repented of sin, who mostly have **not** understood they are sinning.

**The Law of God is for such people, to open their eyes to understand why there is so much pain, violence, oppression in this world and in their own lives.**

**Why is the Law not for the righteous?**

If we have accepted the love gift from God of the sacrifice of His Only Son Jesus Christ, who died and shed His Blood that we don’t have to die.

**The law as far as we are concerned has fulfilled its task.**

**How we continue to uphold this law is to return the love we have received from God to God and other people in works of righteousness.**

**Romans 8:1-4 [NIV]** *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”*

**Our part in fulfilling the requirements of the law is by walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh.**

**Romans 8:5-17 [NIV]** *“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”*

**This is a description of a life that is walking in the Spirit.**

**Matthew 5:17-18 [NIV]** *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

Jesus Christ came to fulfil the law and He did this perfectly both the moral and sacrificial parts of God’s Law given to us through Moses.

**Jesus during His lifetime on earth kept the moral law perfectly.**

**Hebrews 4:15 [NIV]** *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin.”*

Christ our now High Priest was without sin as a human being.

**Jesus by His death fulfilled the sacrificial law that satisfies the righteous Wrath of God, allowing God to remain Holy and yet extend mercy to sinners and enter into a relationship with us.**

**John 14:15-18 [NIV]** *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

When we seek to live lives that do not grieve the Holy Spirit, He will direct our lives and by doing this, as this scripture states, Jesus Christ will again be living His perfect life in us.

[If you haven't read them download our articles listed under "*Holy Spirit*" '*The Working of God's Holy Spirit In Us*' and '*Are We Resisting The Work Of The Holy Spirit*']

**Jeremiah 17:5-8** [NIV] *"This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

This is a basic theme that is found throughout the Old and New Covenants as well as the covenants made with individuals before Moses.

**If we look to our own strength we will not be fruitful and will eventually depart from the presence of God.**

**By looking to our own strength we are neglecting what Christ has done for us and what is available to us as a result of His Life, Death and Resurrection.**

**Matthew 25:14-30** [NIV] *"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

**We all know the story of the parable, but have we ever considered what that one talent was? I believe it was the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives!**

This is one gift that is available to all who have repented and accepted in faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, additional talents [spiritual gifts] are given in differing measure to some as the Sovereign Creator God willed.

**Luke 11:11-13** [NIV] *"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

We have to ask for the indwelling of Holy Spirit, I feel on a daily basis, this shows God our dependence on Him.

The one talent man in the parable buried the Holy Spirit and he forgot about Him until the return of his Master.

The “*foolish virgins*” had a similar problem, they forgot to keep well supplied with oil depicting the Holy Spirit.

All of God’s servants have the gift of Holy Spirit, some as in the parable had additional spiritual gifts such as listed in 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14.

But as we are told in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 these gifts are of no value unless accompanied with love, a fruit of the Holy Spirit being active in us.

**John 15:1-8** [NIV] *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.** If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. **This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**”*

God expects us to use the Holy Spirit’s presence to produce fruits in our lives, everlasting fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**John 15:9-17** [NIV] *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.** You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to **go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.**”*

**Galatians 5:22** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...”*

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are eternal.

They depict the character of God.

The first and foremost is love.

**Romans 13:8-10** [NIV] *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” **Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.**”*

Loving our fellow human beings is fulfilling the law.

The type of love being referred to in this passage of scripture, the Greek word *agapé*, is **not** human generated love.

Agapé love is an unconditional love, a love that continues to demand that we lay down our lives for the welfare of the object of our love irrespective of the response we receive from that person.

**This is the love of God and can only be ours through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.**

**Matthew 22:35-40** [NIV] *“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

**If the law and the prophets “hang on” the two commandments of Jesus Christ these commands must have been in effect before Moses and the giving of the law at Sinai.**

**1 John 3:10-12** [NIV] *“This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.”*

**When John uses the word “beginning” he is always referring to Genesis.**

**John is referring to Abel’s righteous works.**

**Hebrews 11:4** [NIV] *“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”*

**Abel’s sacrifice of an animal, pouring out its life blood before God was made in faith.**

**Romans 10:17** [NIV] *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

**Faith comes from hearing and doing God’s Word.**

**God must have informed Abel and Cain about the need for the propitiation of the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ and that only through faith in that sacrifice could they be righteous before God.**

**Matthew 23:35** [NIV] *“And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.”*

**Abel is referred to as righteous by Jesus Christ.**

**2 Corinthians 5:10** [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

**Jesus Christ has already told us of His judgement of Abel, he is righteous in God’s Sight.**

How can we be assured of the same judgement when we have to face Jesus Christ?

**Ecclesiastes 12:14** [NIV] *“For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*

Nothing is hid from the eyes of God, everything we do in this life will be brought to judgement.

**Psalms 139:1-18** [NIV] *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.”*

**True we must stand before the judgement seat of God in naked loneliness, nothing we have done or said in our life will be hidden.**

But if we have lived with Christ in our life we will also stand with Him in death, and before God He will be the advocate to plead our cause.

**1 John 2:1-2** [NIV] *“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

The Greek word translated “one who speaks in our defence” is “*paraklētōs*” and is also translated “*counsellor*”.

**John 14:16-17, 26** [NIV] *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” ... “But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

**If the Holy Spirit is dwelling with and in us this is the same as Christ dwelling in us.**

**John 15:26-27** [NIV] *“When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.”*

**Note “you also must testify”.**

**We receive the Holy Spirit to testify to the world what Christ has done for the world.**

**John 16:7-10** [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;”*

**How will the Holy Spirit do this work?**

**Through us within whom He dwells.**

**John 14:17** [NIV] *“...the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

**The world will only see, or have contact with, the redemptive work of the Holy Spirit through us.**

**So when we stand before the judgement seat of God we will be asked the question: ‘What did you do with the atoning blood of My Son and the Holy Spirit that He asked Me to send to dwell with and in you?’**

**How will we answer?**

**Matthew 22:1-14 [NIV]** *“Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: **“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ “But they paid no attention and went off, one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”**”*

**Will we be like this man without a wedding garment?**

Speechless!! And **not** chosen.

**How then do we receive our wedding garment?**

**Philippians 2:12-16 [NIV]** *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to **work out** your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who **works in** you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become **blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life, in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour for nothing.**”*

**We have to “work out” what God has “worked in”.**

**It is the active un-grieved Holy Spirit in us that has to be worked out in acts of loving kindness that will be the testimony we give to this evil world that lives in the darkness of ignorance of things spiritual, thing of God.**

**John 7:37-39 [NIV]** *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**”*

**The Holy Spirit can never be stagnant, it always flows in and out of us, this is how we “work out” what God “works in”.**

**Revelation 19:7-9 [NIV]** *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! **For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.**” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, **“Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’”** And he added, **“These are the true words of God.”**”*

The bride of Christ has made herself ready, by the righteous wedding garment she wears to cover her nakedness.

### **What kind of righteousness is this?**

**Romans 4:1-5** [NIV] *“What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about, but not before God. What does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”** Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”*

The Greek word used is “*dikaiōs*” meaning righteousness of God that is credited to us as a result of faith.

### **We receive the righteous character of God.**

**Revelation 19:8** [NIV] *“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”*

“*Righteous acts*” the Greek word used is “*dikaiōma*” an equitable deed or decision, something that is performed, these are the result of walking in the light, directed by the Holy Spirit and prompted by the grace God has extended to us.

### **A naturally loving character is being developed in us through our constant contact with the Holy Spirit.**

**Philippians 2:19-20** [NIV] *“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. **I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.**”*

The King James uses the word “*naturally*” instead of “*genuine*” showing that love for the brethren had become the character or natural response Timothy had for others needs.

### **Paul shows us in Romans guidelines as to how God judges us.**

**Romans 2:1** [NIV] *“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgement on someone else, **for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgement do the same things.**”*

**Remember we are not the one who judges people, only an all knowing God can do this, [Psalms 139:1-16].**

**Romans 2:2** [NIV] *“Now we know that **God’s judgement** against those who do such things is **based on truth.**”*

### **All of God’s judgement is based on His Word, The Christian Bible.**

**John 17:17** [NIV] *“Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.**”*

**John 8:32** [NIV] *“Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”*

As we live by His Word this will set us **free**, free from error, free from guilt and free to enjoy a **relationship** with our Creator God.

**Romans 2:6** [NIV] *“God **“will give to each person according to what he has done.”***

**Judged by God according to what we have done in our lives, whether we build-up or tear-down other people.**

**Matthew 25:31-46 [NIV]** *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘**I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.**’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘**I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.**’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*

**Serving others, laying down their own lives for others had become a natural response when they saw a need.**

**Although these acts of mercy were done for other people, God looked on them as having been done to and for Him.**

**James 2:14-22 [NIV]** *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.** But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and **I will show you my faith by what I do.** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.”*

**Faith in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ will result in our being given a place in the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**But any reward we receive will be the prize for what we do in this life as instruments of love in God’s hands.**

**Romans 2:11 [NIV]** *“For God does not show favouritism.”*

**There is no partiality with God, all are judged equally.**

**Luke 12:46-48 [NIV]** *“The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. “That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. **From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.**”*

**The more gifts we are given the more is going to be expected of us by God for the same reward.**

**Every opportunity to serve and witness to others of God's Grace that we fail to grasp will depreciate the reward we receive.**

**We must not do acts of kindness purely reward-motivated.**

**Love for God and other human beings must be the motivation of the life we live.**

**The knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Word is of no value unless it is producing fruit in our lives and the lives of others as a result of our actions.**

**Philippians 2:12-13 [NIV]** *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, **continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.**”*

“*Work out*” in love to God and our neighbour as God “*works in*” and through us by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

**First we** accept the gift of salvation from God in faith [that is the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ].

**Next we** in faith ask for Christ's righteous life to be credited to us.

**Then we**, now a prepared temple of God, cleansed and made Holy, ask for the special presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**The presence of the Holy Spirit will accomplish in and through us two things:-**

- a) **Through our fellowship with the Holy Spirit**, His Godly characteristics will begin to “*rub off*” on us: love, joy, faithfulness, etc.
- b) **The love generated in us by the Holy Spirit will flow out from us in acts of righteousness**, thus clothing us with our wedding garment ready for our union with Jesus Christ at His return.

**John 13:17 [NIV]** *“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”*