

The only requirement for salvation—Faith alone, not works

I'm going to be sharing some things that I believe will shock and make some people uncomfortable—especially the religious people. You want to put your seatbelt on, my friend.

What does it take to be born again? What do I have to do? Most people think or even believe that it is their good works and performance that produce salvation. However, the scriptures teach quite the opposite. Your giving, serving, and going to church can't bring salvation or an eternal relationship with God. God designed or provided one way through which one can receive salvation. Guess what? It is not what many churches teach.

If salvation came by works and performance, then there is not one way, and all the other religions, such as Islam, Buddhism, and so forth, could make it as well.

I was told a story of a young lady who went on a mission trip and ministered in the local church. She said there was a lady in the choir who, when she heard the message of the gospel of grace being ministered, came down to receive Jesus. There are many people serving God, yet they are not born again. Serving God is not synonymous to believing on Jesus. It does not produce salvation. You must believe on Jesus. Many will go straight to hell, having served God yet not believed in Jesus.

I would argue that some pastors need to be born again. Some men and women of God need to be born again. There is no proof they are.

Some or even many Kampala traffic preachers need to be born again. A bunch of them are phony. They are preaching for the money. They are making eye contact for one thing. Give me a water or soda. They are preaching to be given to.

If you are not certain that you are born again, you need to be. You need that assurance. You can receive Jesus and be sure.

Unlike all other religions, Christianity (not a religion) is not about performance and good deeds to earn salvation, favor, and the love of God. It teaches that no man can be good enough; all are in need of a savior. We can't perform or work ourselves into the love of God, not even the blessing of God or heaven, because we can't do it perfectly. Even if you are better than your neighbor and me, you still come short of the set standard of God. **God's standard is 100%; if you make 99.99%, you have failed, even if you are better than the guy with 70%. It's one standard. God doesn't grade on a curve. You either make 100% or you have failed (James 2:10). No man can make 100%, that's**

why Jesus (God) came to the earth and became a man to pay for all our shortcomings. He did it to fulfill the law, making 100% for us because we couldn't, and to deposit it into our individual account by ONLY believing and putting faith in Him.

Since only believing in Jesus is the way into relationship, salvation, or right standing with God. Every person can make it; good or bad, better or worse, 99.99% or 85%, if they only **believe** in Jesus as their Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10). Christianity is not a list of do's and don'ts like all other religions. Believing in Jesus is the greatest equalizer for those who are not as good as others. Bad and good, we can all believe, regardless of our good or bad works and performance!

The only way to receive salvation is **ONLY by faith**, not by works, good deeds, or good performance. Salvation is received only by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus, not faith plus works. There is overwhelming evidence of this in the Word.

Acts 16:31—Faith in Jesus is the only requirement for salvation (John 6:28-29; Acts 16:30-33, Mark 16:16, Acts 8:33, John 1:12, 3:15-16, 36, 20:31, Romans 5:1-2, 10:9-10, Galatians 3:22, 26, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:20-31). **Faith in what Jesus did for us is the only requirement for salvation and the only thing we can do to receive salvation.**

Although our actions are important, they cannot and do not produce salvation, right standing with God, and a relationship with God.

Our performances or actions are not the **root** of our salvation and right standing with God, but just the **fruit** of that relationship. All religions teach the very opposite of this. **We cannot work or perform our way into heaven. We can only believe our way into it.** Christianity is a relationship with God, not a set of rules.

Do good people go to heaven while bad people go to hell?

- a) Did you know that good people don't go to heaven, and bad people don't go to hell? It is forgiven people, or those who have a relationship with Jesus, or who believed on Him, who go to heaven. Those who have rejected Jesus, even if they are "*good*", they go straight to hell.
 - i) There will be bad people in heaven, because they humbled themselves and received Jesus, but there will also be good people who will be in hell because they rejected Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.
 - ii) Being a good man will keep you out of prison or jail in this life, but it will get you to hell if you reject Jesus. It will stop you from going to prison, but it will split hell wide open if you are not born again. You must be born again. Being a good person doesn't cut it. It's not enough. It's not sufficient.

Below are some scriptures about faith as the only requirement for salvation.

- A. Romans 4:2-5 "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God. For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."
- a) Abraham did not work for God to become righteous. He believed God and was declared righteous.
 - b) To be justified, to be made righteous with God, to be born again, to come into a relationship with God through Jesus, you must only believe and not work (perform) or trust in your good deeds.
- B. John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
- a) All who believe or believed in Christ Jesus have been given the power to become the sons of God.
 - b) Notice it says those who believe, not those who perform. Salvation (healing, peace, deliverance, and wholeness) comes only by believing.
 - i) Receiving Jesus = Believing on His name. Those who have not believed on Him have not received Him.
- C. John 3:16 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. Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- a) This promise is to those who believe, in other words, believers. Salvation comes by believing, not doing. We are saved (Born again) through faith in Jesus, not through our works or performance. Circumcision, water baptism, tithing, giving alms, going to church, etc., do not produce salvation. **We MUST believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- D. John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
- a) He that believes in the Son (Jesus) has everlasting life. It does not say he who works, keeps the law, and does all these good deeds. Again, good deeds and good works are important in this life, but not for the purpose of Salvation or relationship with God. It takes only **believing** to enter into a relationship with God and receive salvation.

- E. John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.
- a) These men sincerely wanted to know what they could DO to be saved. This verse revealed to them what they had to DO. It was to believe in Him. That's the work that one should do.
 - i) Do = work of believing, not doing.
 - b) According to Colossians 2:6, we received Jesus by faith, and we continue to walk with Him and receive from Him by faith.
- F. John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.
- a) Believing in Jesus produces life. Again, it is talking about only believing, not performing, or our good works and deeds.
- G. Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- a) Salvation comes only by faith in the name of Jesus, not in the name of Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed, and so forth.
- H. Romans 3:20-26 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*
- a) Deeds of the law are actions done to earn right standing with God; giving, praying, going to church, and reading the bible.
 - b) There is no good act or work that can make any man righteous before God. If our performance could justify us, there would be no need for Jesus. Jesus came because our deeds, actions, and performances could not produce the righteousness of God.
 - c) The righteousness of God is by or comes by faith of and in Jesus to all who believe.

- I. Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
- a) We are justified by faith—Not by the law, works, or performance.
 - b) (Galatians 3:11 *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith*)
 - i) The unjust shall die by works.
- J. Rom 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- a) Notice this says to believe in your heart, not to work for it. Righteousness comes by believing, not by working, keeping the law, or performing.
- K. Galatians 3:11 *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*
- a) This verse says that **NO MAN** is justified or made righteous by the law (works, their good deeds, performance) in the sight of God.
- L. Galatians 3:22 *But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*
- a) The promise is for those who believe, not those who work or trust in their good deeds and performance.
 - b) We become children of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- M. Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- a) Salvation is not received by works. It's not about performance. No one can boast. It's by grace through faith. We put faith in God's grace (Jesus and His finished work on the cross)
- N. Act 16:30-32 *"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."*
- a) When these men asked how to be saved, Paul gave the answer that further verifies what I have been saying in this teaching. He did not say be good, do good, keep the

law, do good works and deeds, and so forth. He said, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”**

- b) We learn that Paul preached that it took only faith in the Lord Jesus to be saved, period. Nothing more to it and nothing less! So, when these men believed on the Lord, they were then baptized in water.

O. 1 Timothy 4:10

Notice it says the living God is the savior of all men, but to be specific, not all men, but those who believe. Men must believe to be saved. They have a part to play, but it's not one of works as many have believed.

Notice also, it does not say all who perform or do all these things perfectly.

P. Purify your souls by obeying the truth

- a) 1 Peter 1:22 *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*
 - i) Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
 - ii) God's Word is truth (John 17:17)

Obeying the truth is believing = Jesus and His Word.

In conclusion, Jesus said some profound statements that have to be discussed.

- b) John 15:23 *He that hateth me hateth my Father also.*
 - i) Hating Jesus = Hating the Father. This is a strong statement. How many people have we heard that claim to love God, but can't stand Jesus! This is the greatest equalizer. Those who hate Jesus also hate the Father. There is nothing like I love God, but hate Jesus. It simply means you hate God the Father.
 - ii) Also, notice the order. This does not say, "He that hates the Father, hates Jesus also."
 - iii) What is hate Jesus? Not believing on Him.
- c) Receives me receives the Father also.

John 14:6-9 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

- i) I'm the way, the truth, and the life.
- ii) No man cometh to the Father but by me. Jesus is the door to the Father. He is the entrance to the Father.
- iii) If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father.

Psalm 27:13 *I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

- a) Denies me, has denied the Father also.

John 5:23 *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

- a) All men should honor the Son as they do the Father.

John 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*