

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”  
1 Peter 1:8,9

### Salvation

Father, we pray that all may understand salvation lies alone in the sovereign will of God the Father by the infinite power of the blood of Jesus—God the Son and in the divine influence of God the Holy Spirit. We understand in the words of our Savior that we are your elect, we have been chosen by you. Through belief and trust in the atoning work of Christ alone, for the payment for our sins, we show ourselves to be predestined by the grace of God for redemption as precious sons. We hold the Holy Spirit in sacred awe for He is the leader of all that precedes salvation and softens the soul, allowing the Gospel message to penetrate the ears and intellect, settling in a tender, fertile heart. We have been told we must be born again of the Spirit from above. A dead spirit made alive to the Word of God, illuminating our understanding that it is always the work of God and not any works we may do, that leads to salvation. The Holy Spirit brings along a power which brings a sinner to his knees, to break us of our natural inclinations – pride, selfishness, self-righteousness and self-sufficiency. One cannot understand what this means until the Spirit has come into his life and done His work. When the work of the Spirit has been initiated, one strives so hard to follow God’s law. It is only when he realizes he cannot that he understands the need for God’s grace and mercy. A broken heart, marked by repentance, then overwhelms the sinner and in humility, feeling the guilt of a previous life, sees boasting fade from his thoughts. King David understood and was grateful when God penned, through his hand, “a broken and contrite heart – these, O God, thou will not despise.” One’s wounded heart, broken, faint and ailing is then revived, yes healed, at the first drop of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, now restored with purpose. We who are yours Lord know from experience that though we are aware that our sins have been forgiven, it is often a hard task to forgive ourselves. However, as you have forgiven us we must forgive ourselves and learn from the past and look towards the future with a new heart and tender conscience. With our life now consecrated and sanctified for the Lord, we develop our faith, purified through perseverance and endurance, having a growing love for our brethren, and a pull to our fellow man to show them God’s great love that is theirs to receive. We desire that they see the blessings of a redeemed life, a clear, lighted path, walked with a calm spirit, a vision and anticipation of a glorious future of which it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him—but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.” Lord we are so grateful for this life you have given us though we know death lies ahead at the time you have appointed. Yet we who are yours walk through the concluding days of our lives with confidence knowing death is not to be feared for it holds the key that unlocks the gates to Paradise and that victory of our resurrection lies on the other side. Those who have lived a life of faith shall finally see you, the One who is the reason for all we have ever known and loved. Through prayer, which includes praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication, we seek communion with you through a personal, intimate relationship, by which we seek to live as you have shown us, in obedience, rejoicing always for the love, grace and mercy you have shown. Lord may we always appreciate the magnitude of the wondrous effect you have made in our lives.

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory.”  
Ephesians 1:13,14