

“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

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation...”

1 Peter 1:3-5

### Praise for Salvation

Father, we praise you with tears of gratitude, welled up from deep within, by the wondrous grace, mercy and saving truth that you have provided. With every breath, every beat of our heart may our thoughts be of overwhelming thanksgiving and praise for your gift of Salvation. You have made a way for sinful man, through faith alone by the substitutionary atonement, the perfect sinless sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, to be reconciled to God. We are grateful for the bread and the cup of Communion that keeps our focus on the price paid for our redemption, welcoming the bright rays of grace and peace that followed that storm of suffering, as welcomed and appreciated as the rainbow for those who acknowledge the cost, the justice of God, judged righteously, which demanded the penalty of death for our sins allowing for the heart of the Gospel, the forgiveness of sins. We have been delivered, yes rescued, our eyes opened to the impending danger, lusts and deceptions of this passing world's system, in which so many are unknowingly trapped. We are redeemed from sin's dominance in our lives because by faith we have been forgiven, transformed and saved - now and forever, blessed with the Holy Spirit as a compass to guide and direct us throughout our lives. Lord, we are pleased, and so grateful, that your Word has shown that Jesus came into this world to save sinners of which we all are. It is the extent of your grace and mercy which abounds beyond our worst sins for which we give you glory. No one is beyond your merciful redemption except the one who continues to reject God's Gospel message and continue down the broad road to destruction, not realizing their eternal destiny, separated from your light and love, exiled to darkness and despair forever, the consequences of their inherited sinful nature without the forgiveness of God, left to travel through this life on their own. Your word of truth has settled in our hearts, assuring us of our security as opposed to being lost, purposeless, living a life of shifting sands without the guidance, safety and security of the Rock. Yes Lord, we have settled on your truth and now stand established, secured and anchored, moving forward with confidence down life's many roads, knowing our future destination, our home, is not of this world. Father, we thank you for your marvelous plan of Salvation. Though once dead in sin, through Christ, we have been allowed to return to you as sons and daughters, heirs of salvation, co-heirs with Christ. Jesus, we praise you for loving us, and in obedience through suffering, sacrificing yourself for the joy of eternal fellowship with your own. You have given us assurance we shall never be subject to condemnation for our sins for your life-giving Spirit has freed us from God's wrath that is sure for those who refuse the many opportunities to seek you and accept the precious gift offered. Lord, we ask to be used as your instruments, assisting all in understanding Salvation, reconciliation of man to God through repentance of sin and seeking forgiveness for those sins, and Salvation's cost, the suffering, sacrificial death of Jesus, God the Son, crucified on the cross in our place with His Resurrection showing the sacrifice was accepted. Understanding that Salvation brought God's grace to us all, including joy, peace, the imputed righteousness of Christ, having our sins forgiven, a totally transformed life, our guilt removed, washed clean with a clear conscience, with hope (expectation) of heaven, and the mind of Christ which gives us the true perspective of this gift of life we have been given. Through prayer we have been allowed and encouraged to come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy (not getting what we do deserve) and find grace (getting what we do not deserve) in order to obtain help in time of need, available only through Jesus Christ our Redeemer to whom we give all Praise.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.”

Jude 1:24, 25