

Pam 1557  
103

# How May I Be Saved and Prove It?

THE HAND OF FAITH



W. W. HAMILTON  
Superintendent of Evangelism

Published by the Sunday School Board of the  
Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville,  
Tenn. For the special use of the Evangellistic  
Department of the Home Mission Board.

# How May I Be Saved and Prove It?

"Is that what God means," asks the eager heart, "When He says, 'Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely,' and 'the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord?' Am I to reach out my hand and take it? "

## A Physician Healed

"I am sick and I cannot cure myself, so I have sent for you and have turned my case over to you and am depending on you to make me well," said the Christian woman to the physician for whom she had so often prayed. Then she added, "You are sin sick, doctor. You can't cure yourself, but you can turn your case over to the Great Physician.' He will save you here and now." The doctor said, "Is that it? is that what it means to trust Christ for salvation?" For a few moments he sat in silence, and as though in deep thought, Then suddenly, as if he had made the discovery, he said, "That's it? I see it! I see it now! And I will trust Him. How simple! How simple! Just what I ask my patients to do."

## A Young Woman Assured

"I do really believe on Him," said a sad looking soul one day, "but yet, when asked if I am saved, I don't like to say 'yes,' for fear I should be telling a lie." It was market-day and her father, who was a butcher, had not yet returned from market. Said the friend. "Now, suppose when your father comes home and you ask him how many sheep he bought today, and he answers. 'Ten. After a while a man comes to the shop, and says, 'How many sheep did your father buy today?' and you reply 'I don't like to say, for fear I should be telling a lie'" The mother, who was standing by, said with indignation, "But that would be making your father a liar," This young woman was really MAKING GOD A LIAR, and so are you when you do not believe the record which He has given of His Son. (I John 5:10).

## A Child Believes

"How many of you believe that if I make you a promise I would keep it?" I said to a church full of children. They all raised their hands. "Well," said I, holding a twenty-five cent piece. "I am going to give this money to the first one who comes after it." They looked at each other and then at me. One and another would start and then sit down again. A boy of about eleven years started three or four times, but never did come, and whispered to his friend so that I heard him, saying, "I'm afraid he won't give it to me." Over and over, at the suggestion of the pastor, I repeated my promise, and after a long time of waiting a little lad came, and as I stepped toward him he REACHED OUT HIS HAND and RECEIVED the money. They all said they believed me, but they proved that they did not believe me, or that they did not want the money because they would not COME and TAKE it.

## The Hand of Faith

"Come and take salvation!" "Reach hither thy hand" and take God's offered GIFT, for He says, "him that cometh to ME I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), and "I GIVE unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28). Salvation is the GIFT of God (Eph. 2:8). "Stretch forth THY HAND," said Jesus to the man whose hand was withered, and in his desire and willingness and effort to do so the HAND was made whole (Matt. 12:13). Every finger is distinct, and yet they all belong together and are reached out at the same time. The word "f-a-i-t-h" is not complete if one letter be missing and the hand of faith is not complete if one finger be missing.

## Always a Gift

"The GIFT of God is eternal life." We cannot buy it, we cannot earn it, we cannot deserve it, but we can accept it. Jesus said, "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." The hand may be palsied, but at the command of Jesus reach it forth, and help and healing will be given, and the "thing which accompany salvation" will be sure to come.

### 1. Repent—Luke 13:3

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Then what is repentance? It is not tears or trembling or remorse or reformation or quitting bad habits or joining the church. Repentance is the WILLINGNESS and the DECISION by God's HELP to turn from every known sin because wrong in His sight to GET RIGHT with God and with our fellow men; to turn from sin to Christ; not to be saved by any dead work which we can do, but to be saved by grace (Heb. 6:1; Eph. 2:8). We cannot do this in our own strength, but "HE IS ABLE," and "if there first be a WILLING mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not" "If any man WILLETH to do His will, he shall know of the teaching" (John 7:17). We furnish the WILLINGNESS and JESUS furnishes the POWER.

### 2. Believe—Rom. 10:4

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." What am I to believe? Believe that the Son of God BORE MY SINS in His own body on the cross (I Pet. 2:24). and that, though I have gone astray and have turned to my own way, the Lord has LAID on JESUS my iniquity, that HE was wounded for MY transgressions, and that it is by His STRIPES I am healed (Isa. 53:3; 5:6). I as walking with my back to the sun, and with my shadow before me. I decide to turn my back on my shadow and in doing so I turn my face to the sun; or if I turn my face to the sun. I also turn my back on my shadow. He who repents, turns to Christ, and he who turns to Christ, repents.

### 3. Receive—John 2:22

"As many as RECEIVED Him (Jesus), to them even to them that BELIEVE on his name." You gave He the right to become children of God, say, "I do believe, but I don't think I am saved. How can that be?" No, you believe things ABOUT Jesus, but not ON Him. You believe the boat to be a good one, that it will take people across the sea in safety to their desired haven, but you have not gotten on board and trusted YOUR

life to it RISKED ALL. The PERSONAL TRUST in a PERSONAL SAVIOUR is what is lacking. Do it now, and say to Him, "Lord Jesus, I do NOW accept Thee as MY OWN SAVIOUR;" "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

#### 4. Confess—Matt. 10:32

"Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." When the hand of faith is reached out to Christ I will with lips and life tell my mother and my father, my husband or wife, my neighbors and friends and the church about it. She is not much of a bride who says, "I love you, but I don't want anybody to know it, and I will never stand at the marriage altar with you to confess it." He who RECEIVES CHRIST as Saviour CONFESSES Him as Lord, "because if thou shalt CONFESS with thy mouth JESUS AS LORD, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom 10:9).

#### 5. Obey—John 14:15

"If ye love me, YE WILL keep my commandments." "He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). How may I know and how may I show that I am His? God says, "And hereby we do KNOW that we KNOW HIM, if we keep his commandments." "By their fruits ye shall know them," says the Saviour. It is the tree that makes the fruit and not the fruit that makes the tree. Children obey their parents, not in order to become their children, but because they are their children. Jesus says again, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Not that keeping commands will make us His friends, but that if we are His friends we will show it by doing what He says do.

Let us then make our faith manifest by the spirit of obedience. Begin by CONFESSING Jesus as Saviour and Lord (Rom. 10:9); be BURIED with Him by Baptism (Rom. 6:4); WORSHIP with His people (Heb. 10:25); study the BIBLE (11 Tim. 3:16); have a time and place for PRAYER (Matt. 6:6); WORK for Him as the way opens (James 1:22); ASK FORGIVENESS when wrong is discovered (I John 1:9); be a LABORER together with God in SAVING OTHERS (I Cor. 3:9 John 20:21); and go ONWARD and UPWARD (Phil. 3:14); As we Repent, Believe, Receive, Confess, Obey, we will more and more come to know the PEACE of God in our HEARTS (Phil. 4:7), and the POWER of God in our LIVES (I Cor. 10:13).

### The Engine Pulls the Train

What is it that pull the cars? Is it the coupling? No. no! it is the engine that does the pulling, and the coupling only links the cars up to the engine. Baptism and church-membership and culture and morality and money and all the false religions can never save. Faith in these things cannot bring salvation, just as a train linked up to a post can make no progress. JESUS AND JESUS ONLY CAN SAVE and our faith is saving faith only when we are trusting Him.

### Steam Enough to Start

The conductor gives the signal, but the train remains at a standstill. A second and a third time he pulls the bell-cord, but the engineer gives no heed. The conductor hurries down to the engine and says to the man at the throttle, "Didn't you hear the signal?" "Yes." "Well, why don't you pull out?" The engineer replies, "Because I haven't steam enough to take me through to the end of the run." Now we know that if he did have enough to make the entire run it would blow his engine to pieces. What he needs is STEAM ENOUGH TO START, and he will make more as he goes, and will find needed supplies at coal chutes and water tanks along the way. What you need, lost soul, is FAITH ENOUGH TO START. Start now, and say "I BELIEVED What God says about Jesus, and I ACCEPT His finished work on the cross as a full atonement for my sins, and I WILL at once confess this fact before men."