

## 1. What does it mean to be saved? The Christian doctrine of salvation.

When Paul told the Philippian jailer what he must do to be saved, he was referring to the jailer's eternal destiny ([Acts 16:30-31](#)). Jesus equated being saved with entering the kingdom of God ([Matthew 19:24-25](#)).

What are we saved *from*? In the Christian doctrine of salvation, we are saved from "wrath," that is, from God's judgment of sin ([Romans 5:9](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:9](#)). Our sin has separated us from God, and the consequence of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)). Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequence of sin and therefore involves the removal of sin.

Who does the saving? Only God can remove sin and deliver us from sin's penalty ([2 Timothy 1:9](#); [Titus 3:5](#)).

How does God save? In the Christian doctrine of salvation, God has rescued us through Christ ([John 3:17](#)). Specifically, it was Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection that achieved our salvation ([Romans 5:10](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#)). Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God ([Ephesians 2:5, 8](#)) and is only available through faith in Jesus Christ ([Acts 4:12](#)).

How do we receive salvation? We are saved by *faith*. First, we must *hear* the gospel—the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection ([Ephesians 1:13](#)). Then, we must *believe*—fully trust the Lord Jesus ([Romans 1:16](#)). This involves repentance, a changing of mind about sin and Christ ([Acts 3:19](#)), and calling on the name of the Lord ([Romans 10:9-10, 13](#)).

A definition of the Christian doctrine of salvation would be "The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus."

Salvation is available in Jesus alone ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#)) and is dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Is it possible to sell your soul to the devil?

The Bible has no instance of a person "selling his soul" to Satan, and it never implies that making a bargain with the devil is possible. Here is some of what Scripture does reveal about Satan:

1) Satan has power enough to oppose even the angels ([Jude 9](#); [Daniel 10:12-13](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-doctrine-salvation.html>

2) Satan seeks to deceive by masquerading as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

3) God has provided the means of defending ourselves against Satan's attacks (Ephesians 6:11-12).

4) Satan's power is limited by God's will (Job 1:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

5) As "the god of this world," Satan has dominion over those who live without Christ in the world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Surely, there are those who suffer under direct satanic control, such as the young medium of Philippi (Acts 16:16-19). And there are those who have devoted themselves to the devil's work, such as the sorcerers Simon (Acts 8:9-11) and Elymas (Acts 13:8). However, in each of these three examples, the power of God prevails over Satan's slavery. In fact, Simon is offered a chance to repent (Acts 8:22). Obviously, there had been no irrevocable "selling" of Simon's soul.

Without Christ, we are all under condemnation of death (Romans 3:23). Before we are saved, we are all in bondage to the devil, as 1 John 5:19 says, "The whole world lies in the power of the evil one." Praise the Lord, we have a new Master, One who can break the chains of any sin and set us free (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Mark 5:1-15).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/sell-soul-devil.html>