

OBEDIENCE AND SALVATION

God has the right to bestow His physical blessings upon whomever He chooses -- conditionally (any conditions He chooses) or unconditionally

a. There are examples of God healing an afflicted person unconditionally.

- **Ac 3:1-8** -- "Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, 'Look at us.' 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.' 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them -- walking, leaping, and praising God."
- **Ac 4:5-10** -- "And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, 'By what power or by what name have you done this?' 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, **by Him this man stands here before you whole.**"

b. There are examples of God healing an afflicted person on the condition of faith.

• **faith of another person**

- **Lk 8:49-50** -- "While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, 'Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.' 50 But when Jesus heard *it*, He answered him, saying, 'Do not be afraid; **only believe**, and she will be made well.'"

• **his own faith**

- **Matt 9:27-30** -- "When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, 'Son of David, have mercy on us!' 28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said to Him, 'Yes, Lord.' 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith let it be to you.' 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

c. There are examples of God healing an afflicted person on the condition of obedience.

- **Jn 9:1-7** -- "And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?' 3 Jesus answered, 'It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, 7 and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which is translated, Sent). And so he went away and washed, and came back seeing."

Likewise, God has the right to bestow His spiritual blessings upon whomever He chooses -- conditionally (any conditions He chooses) or unconditionally.

a. But the Scriptures would indicate that God always bestows His spiritual blessings conditionally.

- In order to be saved from our past sins, and in order to be saved eternally, we must:
 - do His will
 - obey His commands
 - practice righteousness
 - walk in the light of His word

b. Of course, God is sovereign and at the judgment He can set aside any or all conditions of salvation if He chooses to -- but the Scriptures give no assurance that He will do that . . . and men certainly have no right to encourage people to believe that He will do that.

- **Gal 3:15 (NKJV)** -- "Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it."
- **Gal 3:15 (NASB)** -- "15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it."

SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL: FAITH and OBEDIENCE

FAITH

Jn 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jn 8:24

24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins.

Rom 5:1

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ac 16:30-31

30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Heb 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

But we must understand that "the faith that saves is the faith that obeys."

a. A faith that will not obey will not save.

- **Jn 12:42** -- "Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;"
- **Jas 2:17-20** -- "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"

In those verses where faith is the only condition of salvation mentioned, "faith" is being used in a broad comprehensive sense that includes 3 ele-

ments: (1) conviction, (2) trust, (3) obedience.

- a. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words** is helpful in giving us an accurate understanding of the word "faith" as it is used in New Testament passages where the doctrine of justification through faith is set forth: "the main elements in "faith" (pistis) in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from "faith" in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, pisteuo; they are (1) a firm **conviction**, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, e.g., 2 Thess. 2:11-12; (2) a **personal surrender** to Him, John 1:12; (3) a **conduct** inspired by such surrender, 2 Cor 5:7. Prominence is given to one or the other of these elements according to the context" (Vine's, p222).
- b. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon on the word "faith"** -- "used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e. a **conviction**, full of joyful **trust**, that Jesus is the Messiah - the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, conjoined with **obedience** to Christ" (Thayer's, p511).

OBEDIENCE

Matt 7:21, 24-27

21 Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will** of My Father in heaven.

24 Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and **does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and **does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Matt 12:50

50 For whoever **does the will** of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to **observe all things that I have commanded** you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Jn 15:14

14 You are My friends if you **do whatever I command** you.

Ac 5:32

32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who **obey** Him.

Ac 6:7

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were **obedient** to the faith.

Ac 10:34-35

34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and **works righteousness** is accepted by

Him.”

Rom 1:4-5

4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for **obedience** to the faith among all nations for His name,

NASB: 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the **obedience** of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name’s sake,”

NIV: 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through him and for his name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the **obedience** that comes from faith.”

Rom 6:16

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to **obey**, you are that one’s slaves whom you **obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of **obedience** leading to righteousness?

Rom 6:17-18

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Heb 5:8-9

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey** Him,

Heb 10:36

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have **done** the will of God, you may receive the promise:

1 Pet 1:1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for **obedience** and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Pet 1:22

22 Since you have purified your souls in **obeying** the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Jn 1:7

7 But if we **walk in the light** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Jn 2:3-5

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we **keep His commandments**.

4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not **keep His commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever **keeps His word**, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 Jn 2:17

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who **does the will** of God abides forever.

1 Jn 2:29

If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who **practices righteousness** is born of Him.

1 Jn 3:7

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who **practices righteousness** is righteous, just as He is righteous.

Rev 22:14

14 Blessed are those who **do His commandments**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

There are commands that must be obeyed in order to become a Christian.

Rom 6:17-18

17 But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

1 Pet 1:1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Pet 1:22

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Ac 2:37-38

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

Ac 22:16

16 "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Rom 6:3-4

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Col 2:11-12

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

But, we must have an attitude of humility with regard to doing His will and keeping His commandments, because we do not do His will perfectly.

Lk 17:7-10

7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come at once and sit down to eat"?

8 But will he not rather say to him, "Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink"?

9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do."

If we are not obedient to His will, we will be lost.

Rom 2:8

8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,

2 Th 1:7-9

7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

1 Pet 4:17

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

1 Jn 2:4

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

1 Jn 3:10

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

If salvation is by faith ONLY, then . . .

a. faith without love will save

- **But that would contradict 1 Cor 13:1-3** -- “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but **have not love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but **have not love**, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but **have not love**, it profits me nothing.”

b. faith without forgiveness will save

- **But that would contradict Matt 6:14-15** -- “For **if you forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But **if you do not forgive** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

c. faith without obedience will save

- **But that would contradict 1 Jn 2:4** -- “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and **does not keep His commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”
- **And it would contradict 2 Th 1:7-9** -- “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on **those who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

Gal 5:6 -- “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love**.”

NRSV: “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.”

Who is it that is “born again”? Who is it that is “born of God”?

- a. **1 Jn 5:1** -- “**Whoever believes** that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.”
- b. **1 Jn 4:7** -- “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and **everyone who loves** is born of God and knows God.”
- c. **1 Jn 2:29** -- “If you know that He is righteous, you know that **everyone who practices righteousness** is born of Him.”