

SUREFOOTED MINISTRIES

Salvation Is Free but Maintenance Is Needed to Be Effective

A Bible Teaching on the Gift of Salvation and the Responsibility of Christian Living

Foundation Truth

Salvation is a gift from God. We do not work to earn our way into heaven. However, after receiving salvation, we have a responsibility to grow spiritually, obey God's Word, develop godly character, and live in a way that honors Him.

The point is not to work for salvation, but to work out the salvation we have received so that we can become effective in our Christian walk.

Lesson Objective

To help believers understand both sides of the Christian life: the blessings we receive through Christ and the responsibilities that accompany following Him.

1. Present the Full Truth About Salvation

Sometimes people present accepting Jesus as though it means a life of happiness without struggles, responsibilities, or difficulties. Although there is joy in Christ, the Bible also teaches us about sacrifice, perseverance, temptation, and spiritual growth.

We must not give people only one side of the truth.

We do not work to earn salvation. We respond to God's gift by learning to live according to His Word.

Consider the difference between receiving something and maintaining it. Receiving a gift may be free, but using that gift effectively may require attention, responsibility, and continued effort.

The same principle helps us understand the Christian walk. We receive salvation through Christ, but we must continue growing in our relationship and fellowship with Him.

Key teaching: Receiving salvation is the beginning of our Christian walk, not the end of our spiritual development.

2. Understand Both Sides of the Coin

Scripture: Romans 8:16–18 (AMP)

Paul reveals both the blessings and the realities of belonging to Christ.

The blessing:

- We are children of God.
- We are heirs of God.
- We are fellow heirs with Christ.
- We have a glorious inheritance in Him.

The responsibility and reality:

- We must be prepared to share in Christ's sufferings.
- Our present difficulties do not compare with the glory that will be revealed.

Notice that Paul does not present our inheritance without acknowledging suffering.

Being a child of God does not mean we will never experience difficulties. Instead, our relationship with God gives us a foundation of hope as we face them.

Teaching point: We must teach people to appreciate what they have received in Christ while preparing them for the realities of following Him.

3. Following Jesus Requires Daily Commitment

Scripture: Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

Jesus said:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”

Jesus did not describe discipleship as a one-time decision followed by living exactly as we did before.

He spoke about a daily commitment.

To deny ourselves means that we must be willing to put aside our own desires when they conflict with following Jesus. Taking up our cross daily reminds us that following Him requires continued commitment.

We cannot expect to become effective disciples while refusing to allow God's Word to influence our decisions, attitudes, and actions.

Ask yourself: Am I allowing Jesus to direct my life daily, or have I simply made a decision to follow Him without continuing to grow?

Teaching point: Salvation begins our relationship with Christ; daily discipleship develops our walk with Him.

4. Spiritual Growth Requires Dying to Self

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:31 (AMP)

Paul describes his experience as one of dying daily to self.

This principle reminds us that Christian growth involves more than knowing what the Bible says. We must also learn to respond to God's Word in our daily lives.

There will be times when our desires, reactions, and habits must change.

We may need to surrender pride, resist temptation, acknowledge our weaknesses, or repent when we have done wrong.

These experiences are part of learning to live faithfully before God.

We should not interpret every struggle as proof that we have failed as Christians. Instead, we should allow difficulties to teach us where we need to grow and depend on Jesus to help us move forward.

Teaching point: Spiritual maturity develops as we continually surrender ourselves to God's direction.

5. Work Out Your Salvation

Scripture: Philippians 2:12 (AMP)

Paul instructs believers to work out their own salvation with reverence and awe.

This verse must be understood alongside the truth that salvation is God's gift. Working out our salvation does not mean earning it through our own efforts. It means taking our Christian walk seriously and allowing what God has done in us to be expressed in how we live.

This involves:

- Cultivating obedience to God's Word.
- Developing watchfulness against temptation.
- Taking responsibility for our decisions.
- Recognizing our weaknesses.
- Repenting when we sin.
- Learning to honor God in our conduct.

We must not confuse receiving salvation with completing our spiritual development.

A person can sincerely begin following Jesus and still have areas that need instruction, correction, and growth.

That is why we need to remain teachable and continue applying God's Word.

Teaching point: Do not treat salvation as permission to continue living as you did before. Treat it as the beginning of a transformed life.

6. Expect Trials, but Depend on Jesus

The Christian life includes pressures, trials, temptations, and moments when our weaknesses become evident.

We must teach this truth honestly.

If people expect that accepting Jesus will remove every difficulty, they may become discouraged when challenges arise.

However, difficulties do not mean that Jesus has abandoned us. We have Him to help us through the obstacles we encounter.

When we fail, we must not simply excuse our behavior or give up. We should recognize what went wrong, repent where necessary, receive instruction from God's Word, and continue moving forward with His help.

The goal is not to pretend that we never struggle. The goal is to learn how to respond faithfully when struggles come.

Teaching point: Prepare believers not only to enjoy the blessings of Christ, but also to stand firm and grow when life becomes difficult.

7. Get Grounded in God's Word

New believers especially need to become grounded in God's Word as soon as possible.

A new believer needs more than the excitement of making a decision for Christ. He or she needs instruction, understanding, and practical guidance for daily living.

God's Word helps believers learn what is true, recognize what needs to change, and understand how to live as followers of Jesus.

This is why teaching and discipleship are essential. We should not leave people to discover everything through trial and error when they can receive biblical instruction and encouragement.

The responsibility of a pastor and teacher is not merely to present a happy picture of Christianity. It is to help people understand the truth and become equipped to live it.

Teaching point: Help new believers establish a strong foundation in God's Word so they can continue growing in faith and effectiveness.

8. The Responsibility of the Teacher

As pastors and teachers, we must present the **full truth** of the Christian life.

Yes, there is happiness in Christ. There are blessings, promises, hope, and the assurance of belonging to God.

But there are also battles, temptations, failures, repentance, and areas of weakness that require attention.

If we teach only the blessings and leave out the responsibilities, we have not given people a complete picture of discipleship.

Our purpose is not to discourage people. It is to prepare them.

We want believers to understand what they have received, recognize the responsibility of following Jesus, and learn how to live effectively in their faith.

Surefooted Ministries seeks to assist believers as they establish and strengthen their walk with Christ.

Supporting Resources

1. [Click here.](#) How to Build Your Life — Car Analogy
2. [Click here.](#) Jesus Will Take Us Through
3. [Click here.](#) When Various Trials Come

These resources can be used to reinforce the teaching and help believers apply its principles.

Review and Application

1. What is the difference between receiving salvation and growing in our Christian walk?
2. According to Romans 8:16–18, what blessings do we receive, and what reality must we also recognize?
3. What does it mean to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus?
4. How does dying to self help us grow spiritually?
5. What does it mean to work out our salvation without trying to earn it?
6. Why is it important to prepare believers for trials and temptations?
7. Why should new believers become grounded in God's Word as soon as possible?
8. How can we present the full truth of Christianity without discouraging people?

Conclusion: Teach the Whole Truth

Salvation is God's gift, but our Christian walk requires continued growth, obedience, and commitment.

We must never suggest that we earn salvation through our works. At the same time, we must not teach people that receiving salvation removes their responsibility to follow Jesus and grow in His Word.

We have received a precious gift. Now we must learn to live in a way that honors the One who gave it.

Remember: We do not work to earn salvation. We take responsibility for growing in the salvation we have received so that our lives become increasingly effective and bring honor to God.

Final challenge: Do not stop at receiving the gift. Continue growing in the truth, applying God's Word, and following Jesus daily.

[Click here.](#) Main resource.



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