

A close-up photograph of a dark, textured book cover, likely leather or cloth. The words "Holy Bible" are embossed in a gold, gothic-style font. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and the gold lettering. In the bottom right corner, a portion of a wooden object with circular holes is visible, possibly a chair or a decorative element.

Holy Bible

Agents of Salvation

Agents of Salvation

- Salvation (soteria) “rescue or safety (physically or morally); deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.” (*Strongs 4991*)
- Rom. 10:9-10 - “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Agents of Salvation

- This word is used of the deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians (Ex. 14:13), and of deliverance generally from evil or danger. In the New Testament it is specially used with reference to the great deliverance from the guilt and the pollution of sin wrought by Jesus Christ, “the great salvation” (Heb. 2:3).

(Easton's Bible Dictionary)

Agents of Salvation

- Justification (dikaiosis) “the act of pronouncing righteous; acquittal” (*Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, by W. E. Vine).
- Rom. 5:16-18 - “And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.”

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- “Justification is the judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands. In addition to the pardon of sin, justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. It is the act of a judge and not of a sovereign. The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law.” (*Easton's Bible Dictionary*)

Agents of Salvation

- One of the best ways to understand salvation is to examine the agents of salvation.
- “Agents are the means or instrument by which a guiding intelligence achieves a result; one authorized to act for or in the place of another as a representative, emissary, or official.”
(Merriam-Webster)

God's Grace, The Free Agent

- God was moved by His love to give us His grace.
 - Rom. 3:23-26 - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

God's Grace, The Free Agent

- His grace renews and restores us.
 - Titus 2:11-14 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

God's Grace, The Free Agent

- His grace cannot be earned.
 - Eph. 2:8-10 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Christ, The Effective Agent

Holy Bible

- He brings salvation to us.
 - Rev. 3:20 - “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”
- He is the only One who can.
 - Acts 13:38-39 - “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Christ's Blood, The Cleansing Agent

- Jesus' blood brings about the remission of sins.
 - Rom. 5:6-10 - "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."

Christ's Blood, The Cleansing Agent

- Jesus' blood brings about the remission of sins.
 - Matt. 26:28 - "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
 - Acts 2:38 - "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."

The Name Of The Lord, The Authorizing Agent

- Jesus' name invokes His authority and power.
 - Acts 4:7-12 - “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. 11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

The Name Of The Lord, The Authorizing Agent

- Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth.
 - Matt. 28:18 - “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”
- Salvation is maintained by the authority of Jesus.
 - Col. 3:17 - “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

The Name Of The Lord, The Authorizing Agent

- The name of Jesus must precede salvation.
 - Acts 8:35-37 - “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? 37 Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Our Faith, The Linking Agent

- Faith makes the connection between God's revelation of salvation and our reception of salvation.
 - Rom. 5:1-2 - “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Our Faith, The Linking Agent

- There is no salvation in the absence of our faith.
 - Heb. 11:6 - “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.”

Our Obedience, The Activating Agent

- We can never earn or merit our salvation; however, God has required certain acts on our part in extrication from sin.
 - Titus 3:5-7 - “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Our Obedience, The Activating Agent

- Even belief itself is a work God has ordained.
 - John 6:29 - “Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”
- No works of obedience, no salvation.
 - James 2:14-26

Our Obedience, The Activating Agent

James 2:14-26 - "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 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. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Agents of Salvation

- All people stand condemned in their sins.
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- We cannot pronounce ourselves acquitted; only God can do this.
- In order to save us, God supplies His agents in salvation.
- In order to be saved, we must respond to God’s agents with faith and obedience.