



UNCONVERTED CONVERTS OR REAL SALVATION? - *by Shepherd Lambur*

Examining False Assurance, True Regeneration, and the Transforming Power of Messiah Yahshua

A Teaching Manual on the Difference Between a Profession of Faith and a Possessed Life

ACTS CHURCH @ WAY OF THE MASTER YAHSHUA

INTRODUCTION

THE GREATEST DANGER:

A PERSON WHO IS NOT SAVED BUT BELIEVES THEY ARE

One of the most serious warnings of Messiah Yahshua was not directed toward atheists, unbelievers, or people who rejected God.

It was directed toward religious people who believed they belonged to Him.

Matthew 7:21–23

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven..."

These people had:

- A confession**
- Religious activity**
- Spiritual experiences**
- Knowledge of Messiah**

Yet Yahshua declared:

"I never knew you."

The issue was not that they lacked religion.

The issue was that they lacked regeneration.

THE QUESTION OF THIS TEACHING

Is salvation merely a legal transaction?

A person says:

"I believe."

They are told:

"You are saved forever."

Then they continue:

- Living in bitterness
- Walking in sexual immorality
- Practicing greed
- Loving the world
- Refusing repentance
- Rejecting obedience

Yet they believe:

"I am guaranteed heaven."

The question Scripture forces us to ask is:

Has salvation actually happened if there is no evidence of transformation?

CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS TRUE SALVATION?

Many presentations of salvation have reduced the Gospel to:

- 1.Admit you are a sinner.**
- 2.Repeat a prayer.**

3. Believe Jesus died for you.

4. Receive assurance.

But the biblical Gospel is much deeper.

Salvation means:

1. Forgiveness of sins

Colossians 1:13–14

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

Notice:

Not only forgiveness.

Deliverance.

Not only pardon.

Transfer of kingdoms.

2. A new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Messiah, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The Gospel does not make the old person slightly better.

God creates something new.

3. A new heart

The promise of the New Covenant:

Jeremiah 31:33

"I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts."

The New Covenant changes the inside.

4. A new Spirit

Ezekiel 36:26–27

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you..."

Why?

"And cause you to walk in my statutes."

The Spirit produces obedience.

CHAPTER 2

THE NEW BIRTH

Salvation is not changing behavior first.

It is receiving a new life that produces new behavior.

Yahshua told Nicodemus:

John 3:3

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

A person cannot enter the Kingdom with only:

- Religious knowledge**
- Church attendance**
- Emotional experiences**
- Human effort**

They must be born from above.

THE TWO HUMANITIES

The first Adam

Produces:

- Sin
- Death
- Fleshly nature

Romans 5:12

"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin."

The Last Adam — Messiah Yahshua

Produces:

- Life
- Righteousness
- New creation

1 Corinthians 15:45

"The last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

CHAPTER 3

THE CROSS: MORE THAN FORGIVENESS

A shallow gospel says:

"The cross forgives my sins so I can continue."

The biblical Gospel says:

"The cross breaks the power of sin so I can live unto God."

Romans 6: THE CHAPTER THAT CHALLENGES FALSE ASSURANCE

Romans 6:1

"Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"

Paul answers:

Romans 6:2

"God forbid."

Why?

"How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

The believer's relationship with sin has changed.

CHAPTER 4

THE OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED

Romans 6:6

"Our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

The purpose:

"That henceforth we should not serve sin."

Not:

"That we may continue serving sin with forgiveness."

THE QUESTION OF SELF-EXAMINATION

Ask:

Is sin:

1. Something I hate and fight through the Spirit?

OR

1. Something I defend and refuse to surrender?

There is a difference between:

**A believer who falls and repents
and**

A person who practices sin and calls it grace

FOUNDATION STATEMENT

REAL SALVATION PRODUCES REAL TRANSFORMATION

The Gospel does not promise:

"God will forgive your old life while leaving you unchanged."

The Gospel promises:

Titus 2:14

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

END OF PART 1

The next section will continue with:

PART 2 — THE INDWELLING SPIRIT AND THE DIVINE NATURE

- Romans 8:1–17
- Galatians 5
- Ezekiel 11:19
- Jeremiah 32:39–40
- 1 John 3
- Evidence of the new birth
- False conversion tests
- The difference between struggling with sin and living in sin

UNCONVERTED CONVERTS OR REAL SALVATION?

PART TWO — THE INDWELLING SPIRIT, THE DIVINE NATURE, AND THE EVIDENCE OF TRUE CONVERSION

A Complete Teaching Manual on Regeneration, Sanctification, and the Life Transformed by Messiah Yahshua

CHAPTER 5

THE INDWELLING SPIRIT:

THE PROOF THAT GOD HAS CHANGED THE PERSON

The New Covenant promise was not merely that God would forgive sins. The promise was that God would place His own Spirit inside His people.

A person cannot truly belong to Messiah Yahshua without the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:9

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of his."

The question is not merely:

"Did someone make a decision?"

The deeper question:

"Does the Spirit of God now dwell within this person and produce the life of Messiah?"

THE SPIRIT DOES NOT ONLY COMFORT — THE SPIRIT TRANSFORMS

Many people desire the blessings of salvation:

- Forgiveness
- Peace

- Heaven
- Protection

But Scripture reveals that salvation also includes:

- Death to the old nature
 - Victory over sin's dominion
 - A new heart
 - A new identity
 - A new way of living
-

The Spirit Gives Power Over the Flesh

Romans 8:13

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

Notice the two paths:

Living according to the flesh:

Death

Living by the Spirit:

Life

The Spirit does not empower the flesh.

The Spirit puts the flesh to death.

CHAPTER 6

THE DIVINE NATURE:

HAS THE SEED OF GOD BEEN PLANTED?

2 Peter 1:4

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..."

The believer receives something supernatural:

Not human improvement.

Not religious reform.

A new nature from God.

THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY

Before Messiah:

"I am a sinner trying to become righteous."

After regeneration:

"I am a new creation learning to walk in the righteousness Messiah has produced in me."

THE SEED OF GOD

1 John 3:9

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him..."

John is describing a person whose life is no longer controlled by sin.

The born-again person may face temptation.

The born-again person may stumble.

But the born-again person cannot be comfortable living under sin's authority.

CHAPTER 7

FALSE ASSURANCE:

WHEN A PERSON THINKS THEY ARE SAVED BUT HAS NEVER BEEN TRANSFORMED

The Bible gives many warnings about false confidence.

1. RELIGION WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP

Matthew 7:22

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord..."

They had:

- Ministry
- Miracles
- Religious language

But Yahshua said:

Matthew 7:23

"I never knew you."

Not:

"I knew you once and lost you."

But:

"I never knew you."

2. HEARING WITHOUT DOING

Matthew 7:24

"Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them..."

The wise person is not merely the hearer.

The wise person obeys.

3. PROFESSION WITHOUT FRUIT

Matthew 7:20

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Fruit does not earn salvation.

Fruit reveals the presence of life.

A tree does not become alive because it produces fruit.

It produces fruit because it is alive.

CHAPTER 8

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED:

EXAMINING THE DOCTRINE THROUGH ALL SCRIPTURE

The phrase "once saved always saved" is understood differently by different groups.

Some mean:

"If God truly regenerates a person, God will preserve them."

Others interpret it as:

"I prayed a prayer, therefore my eternal destiny cannot be questioned regardless of how I live."

The second view is where Scripture gives strong warnings.

GRACE DOES NOT CANCEL HOLINESS

Romans 6:14

"Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

Grace is not freedom to sin.

Grace is freedom from sin.

GRACE WITHOUT TRANSFORMATION IS FALSE GRACE

Jude 4

"Certain men crept in unawares... turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness..."

False grace says:

"God accepts me, so change is unnecessary."

True grace says:

"God accepted me, therefore He transforms me."

CHAPTER 9

SCRIPTURES THAT WARN AGAINST FALSE SALVATION

Hebrews 3:12

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief..."

The warning is given to believers.

Hebrews 10:26

"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth..."

This warns against deliberate rebellion.

1 Corinthians 6:9–10

"The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Paul lists:

- Sexual immorality**
- Idolatry**
- Greed**
- Drunkenness**
- Wickedness**

Then:

1 Corinthians 6:11

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed..."

The Gospel changes identity.

CHAPTER 10

FAITH THAT SAVES:

A FAITH THAT OBEYS

Many separate faith and obedience.

Scripture does not.

James 2:17

"Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Works do not save.

But saving faith produces works.

John 14:15

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Love produces obedience.

Hebrews 5:9

"He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

CHAPTER 11

HOLINESS:

THE MARK OF THOSE WHO BELONG TO YAHSHUA

Hebrews 12:14

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Holiness is not legalism.

Holiness is the evidence that God's nature is working inside a person.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22–23

The Spirit produces:

- Love**
- Joy**
- Peace**
- Patience**
- Gentleness**
- Goodness**
- Faithfulness**
- Meekness**
- Self-control**

A changed heart produces changed living.

CHAPTER 12

EXAMINE YOURSELF:

THE CALL TO TRUE CONVERSION

2 Corinthians 13:5

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith."

Questions every believer should ask:

1. HAS MY HEART CHANGED?

Do I love what God loves?

Do I hate what destroys my relationship with Him?

2. HAS SIN LOST ITS CONTROL?

Romans 6:12

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body..."

3. DOES THE SPIRIT BEAR WITNESS?

Romans 8:16

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

4. IS THERE FRUIT?

Matthew 7:17

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit..."

FINAL CHAPTERS

REAL SALVATION:

NOT FIRE INSURANCE — BUT A NEW CREATION

The Gospel of Messiah Yahshua is not:

"Escape hell while keeping your old life."

The Gospel is:

"Die with Messiah and rise into newness of life."

Galatians 2:20

"I am crucified with Messiah: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Messiah liveth in me."

Romans 8:29

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son."

God's goal is not merely getting people into heaven.

God's goal is creating a people who look like His Son.

FINAL DECLARATION

A counterfeit salvation says:

"I accepted Yahshua, but nothing changed."

A real salvation says:

"I encountered Yahshua, and everything changed."

A counterfeit salvation says:

"Grace allows me to remain the same."

Real salvation says:

"Grace has made me new."

A counterfeit salvation says:

"I belong to Him because I made a decision."

Real salvation says:

"I belong to Him because He has made me alive."

KEY VERSE TO CLOSE THE STUDY

Titus 2:11–14

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly... who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

THE INDWELLING SPIRIT:

THE EVIDENCE THAT GOD HAS TRULY CHANGED A PERSON

The greatest evidence of true salvation is not simply a confession of faith, an emotional experience, or a moment in time when someone made a decision.

The evidence is:

The Spirit of God has taken residence within the person and is producing the life of Messiah Yahshua.

THE PROMISE OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

Under the Old Covenant, God's Spirit would come upon certain individuals for specific purposes.

**But the New Covenant promised something greater:
God would dwell inside His people.**

Ezekiel 36:27

"And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

The purpose of the Spirit:

Not only spiritual experiences.

Not only gifts.

But transformation and obedience.

THE SPIRIT IDENTIFIES WHO BELONGS TO MESSIAH

Romans 8:9

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of his."

This is a serious examination.

The question is:

Does the Spirit merely visit the person?

Or does the Spirit dwell within and transform the person?

THE SPIRIT PRODUCES A NEW WALK

Romans 8:4

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Notice:

The believer does not fulfill God's purpose through human effort.

The Spirit produces the life God desires.

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH ARE AT WAR

Galatians 5:16–17

"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh..."

The presence of a battle does not mean there is no salvation.

The question is:

Who is winning?

Is the flesh controlling the person?

Or is the Spirit bringing the flesh under submission?

THE SPIRIT PRODUCES FRUIT

Galatians 5:22–23

The evidence of God's life:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Gentleness
- Goodness
- Faith
- Meekness
- Temperance

A person may have spiritual gifts and still lack spiritual maturity.

But the Spirit always produces fruit.

CHAPTER 6

THE DIVINE NATURE:

THE SEED OF GOD WITHIN THE BELIEVER

The Gospel does not only change our destination.

It changes our nature.

PARTAKERS OF GOD'S NATURE

2 Peter 1:3–4

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness..."

Why?

"That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..."

This means God places His own life within the believer.

THE NEW LIFE CANNOT LOVE THE OLD LIFE

A person who has truly received the life of God will begin to experience:

- Conviction of sin**
 - Hunger for righteousness**
 - Desire for God's presence**
 - Love for truth**
 - Desire to obey**
-

THE SEED OF GOD REMAINS

1 John 3:9

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him..."

John is describing the pattern of life.

He is not teaching that a believer never struggles.

He is teaching that a person born of God cannot make sin their settled identity.

THE QUESTION OF THE HEART

A false convert asks:

"How close can I get to sin and still be saved?"

A transformed believer asks:

"How close can I walk with Messiah?"

CHAPTER 7

FALSE ASSURANCE:

WHEN SOMEONE THINKS THEY ARE SAVED BUT HAS NEVER BEEN CHANGED

Scripture warns repeatedly about people who have outward religion but lack inward transformation.

WARNING ONE:

RELIGION WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP

Matthew 7:21–23

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven..."

These people had impressive religious activity:

- Prophecy**
- Deliverance ministry**
- Miracles**

Yet Yahshua said:

"I never knew you."

The issue:

They had works.

But they did not have the life of God.

WARNING TWO:

RECEIVING THE WORD WITHOUT ROOT

Matthew 13:20–21

The seed on rocky ground receives the word with joy but has no root.

When trouble comes, it falls away.

A temporary emotional response is not the same as regeneration.

WARNING THREE:

A FORM OF GODLINESS WITHOUT POWER

2 Timothy 3:5

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..."

A person can look religious while resisting the transforming power of God.

WARNING FOUR:

PROFESSING GOD BUT DENYING HIM BY THEIR LIFE

Titus 1:16

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him..."

The mouth says one thing.

The life says another.

THE QUESTION OF TRUE CONVERSION

Not:

"Did I have an experience?"

But:

"Has the experience produced a new creation?"

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED:

EXAMINING THE DOCTRINE THROUGH THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF SCRIPTURE

The phrase "once saved always saved" is interpreted differently among Christians.

Some mean:

"If God truly saves someone, God will preserve them."

Others understand it as:

"Once I made a decision, my future is secure regardless of whether I continue walking in rebellion."

The second understanding must be examined carefully through Scripture.

THE SCRIPTURE DOES TEACH GOD KEEPS HIS PEOPLE

John 10:28

"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish..."

Philippians 1:6

"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Yahshua Messiah."

God is faithful.

BUT SCRIPTURE ALSO WARNS AGAINST FALSE CONFIDENCE

Matthew 24:13

"He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Hebrews 3:14

"For we are made partakers of Messiah, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."

The Bible gives both:

- God's preserving power**
 - The believer's call to continue in faith**
-

SALVATION IS NOT A LICENSE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED

Romans 6:14

"Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

Grace does not say:

"You may remain enslaved."

Grace says:

"You have been delivered."

THE WARNING OF FALSE SECURITY

1 Corinthians 10:12

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

The danger:

A person trusting in a past experience while ignoring their present condition.

THE TRUE TEST

The question is not:

"Did I once believe?"

The question is:

"Am I abiding in Messiah?"

John 15:5–6

"He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit..."

A branch connected to the vine produces life.

SUMMARY

A REAL CONVERT:

- ✓ Has the Spirit dwelling within**
- ✓ Receives a new heart**
- ✓ Has a changed relationship with sin**
- ✓ Produces spiritual fruit**
- ✓ Desires obedience**
- ✓ Continues walking with Messiah**

AN UNCONVERTED CONVERT:

- ✗ Has only outward religion**
- ✗ Depends on a past decision**
- ✗ Uses grace as permission to sin**
- ✗ Rejects conviction**
- ✗ Produces no lasting fruit**
- ✗ Has no transformed life**

by Shepherd Lambur – OOPI LLC – All Rights Reserved - 2026