



**EXPLORING  
DEEP CONCEPTS  
&  
MYSTERIES  
OF THE BIBLE**

**EXPLANATIONS OF COMPLEX  
BIBLICAL ISSUES**

**by NEAL FOX**

**About the cover:**

“Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, the wonders of One complete in knowledge?”

“Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?” -- Job 37:16; 38:34

"These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God." -- 1 Corinthians 2:10

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*Exploring Deep Concepts & Mysteries of the Bible: Explanations of Complex Biblical Issues*

by Neal Fox

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**“The Future Times: Biblical Prophecies About the Remainder of History & Beyond” 2017**

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## Introduction

This book explains some of the most important yet misunderstood concepts, principles and doctrines of the Bible. This will not be an easy study. If it were, such a study would be misguided and therefore useless. The Bible can be read and understood at many levels, from a cursory level to the deep concepts explaining the person of God Himself. Unfortunately, many Bible scholars have used the words "inscrutable" and "unknowable" about deep concepts of the Bible, believing many issues could not be understood this side of heaven. They were mistaken. Everything revealed through the Bible was meant to be understood, including the deepest subjects. Because "The Word of God is alive and powerful" and "all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" it is therefore critical to the spiritual life of believers to understand what the Bible says, not just at a top level but also at the deep levels. It is the instruction manual for the Christian way of life. The deeper levels of the Bible are by definition hard to fathom, and it should be no surprise to the believer in Jesus Christ that God is a deep thinker. But God wants His believers to understand Him, and we can only know Him through His Word, and the deeper the level of spiritual knowledge a believer has, the closer that person comes to knowing and understanding God Himself. This book explores deep truths from God's Word, the information which transforms our thinking and renovates our minds, making our relationship with God deeper, stronger and more personal. In other words, it increases our faith, and faith is what we must live by.

The difficulty of understanding the deep concepts of the Bible is twofold, first the task of sorting out those deep subject areas God has woven into the fabric of the Bible, and secondly to overcome personal biases and misconceptions which are often firmly held. On the road to understanding the deep concepts of the Bible these two issues cause many to fall by the wayside. This book deals with and explains deep issues which are certainly difficult to understand. But since believers often have misconceptions about Biblical subjects, some things contained in this book will not line up with those previously held misconceptions. This issue is likely to be a serious barrier to understanding the contents of this book. Remember, we are trying to understand God Himself at a deep level, and if that were easy to do, we would be on the wrong track.

It is knowledge from the Word of God which reveals God, not emotionalism or rationalism or empirical evidence or mysticism or speculation or anything else. God has told us what He wants us to know, but not everything we want to know. That is because God requires us to ultimately live by faith, but faith is increased and strengthened by knowledge of Him and His plan which can only be learned from His Word. This is why understanding the deep concepts and doctrines of the Bible is important. It is not an intellectual enterprise, or learning for the sake of simply gaining knowledge, but rather it is learning about God for the purpose of understanding Him so we can worship and glorify Him to the maximum degree possible.

When dealing with deep concepts of the Bible a common question from believers goes something like "What Bible verse says that?" The fact is the more advanced doctrines of the Bible cannot be found or explained in a single verse of Scripture, or even several verses. The Bible makes the simplest issues clear in a verse or so. For example, salvation must be very clear and easy to understand for all casual readers, since God wants all to be saved, and He has made salvation simple for mankind to grasp. It is "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31) and other single verses with the simple message of salvation. But when it comes to complex principles and doctrines such as explaining the Trinity, eternity, the inner workings of the soul and human spirit, Satan's plan, the Tribulation and many other issues we will cover, the information comes from understanding the entire Bible and pulling together many basic and advanced principles into a complete interwoven package. This is because God is the most complex subject imaginable, and we are mere mortals. But God has made understanding Him possible to a large degree, and this takes serious hard study and piecing together complex information from across the entire Bible. So when we begin to discuss the Trinity, and someone is tempted to ask "What Bible verse says that?" just realize the word Trinity is not even found in the Bible. But the Trinity is a true doctrine. It requires deep understanding of numerous principles from multiple places in the Bible, therefore getting to the deepest principles in the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle. One piece does not complete the entire picture. It is only by connecting piece to piece to piece that the full picture eventually comes into view. Therefore, no complex doctrine of the Word of God can be understood from a single verse or often several verses.

Although this is a book about the deeper things of the Bible, we will start with a very brief review of some of the basic fundamentals taught in the Bible since they are not understood by many believers

today. As with any complex study, the basic levels of the Bible must be understood correctly in order to understand the deeper levels. To many this basic information may even appear to be deep principles. Many go astray on their way to the deeper levels of understanding by failing to lay a firm foundation in the basic principles and doctrines of the Word of God, since the Bible builds knowledge upon knowledge just as a wall is built brick upon brick. A good foundation results in a good outcome. A shaky foundation leads to a heap of bricks. Learning advanced principles is based on knowing the basic principles.

If a believer wants to understand what the Bible says about God and spiritual issues at a deep level, that is what this book seeks to accomplish. The information contained in this book has been carefully studied over a lifetime, and faithfully reported as the best available information on the subjects presented herein. The spiritual growth of the person reading this information is the only purpose for the book.

## **What Every Believer Must Know – the Basics**

If salvation is not understood first, then nothing else in the Bible can be understood. Accepting the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ is the most important issue in life. It is the most basic answer to the question "Why are we here?" The Christian life begins with a simple act of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, which accepts God's free gift of salvation. It is as simple as "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31), "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16), "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Easy for us, very difficult for God and for Jesus Christ our Savior. God is a God of grace. He does the work, and we benefit. Salvation is given, not earned. And God's way is the only way.

This salvation entry point into God's gracious plan brings the individual into a personal relationship with God and ensures an eternity with Him instead of apart from Him. Without salvation a person cannot have fellowship with God during their time on earth or spend eternity with Him no matter how "good" they are, how little they sin, or how much they help other people. The Bible makes it clear that salvation is only through Jesus Christ, and it is a free gift from God which is accepted by an act of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Salvation is a one-time event, and is forever, unchangeable and irrevocable. Most people do not know much about what they are believing at the moment of salvation, but God does not make salvation difficult. He wants all to be saved. It is a choice, and salvation must be accepted, otherwise it is rejected. None of us are good enough to deserve to live eternally with God but God has made it possible, and it is only by faith in Jesus Christ who has removed the sin issue forever as a barrier to salvation. That faith in Christ means we accept and share in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and reject our own imperfect relative righteousness. The next chapter will discuss in detail what actually happens at the moment of salvation, so we will stay at the overview level here.

Once the free gift is accepted nothing else is required to retain it, to make that salvation more permanent, or make it better. That means nothing else such as church attendance, praying, avoiding certain sins, or anything else is necessary for the person to keep salvation once accepted by faith in

Jesus Christ. The other issues are about pleasing God once we are saved, and although important and result in increased blessings for the believer, they are not about retaining salvation. Salvation is permanent and even God cannot take it away, and He never would want to.

Once we have entered the realm of being eternally saved, also referred to as being a Christian or a believer in Christ, what comes next? How did this wonderful salvation come into being? What is expected of us now that we are in God's plan? If we are saved, why worry about anything else but living life?

Of course, God did not leave us in the dark about these questions. God is a God of light and revelation. He revealed to us everything we need to know, but not necessarily everything we would like to know, through the Bible. It should be no surprise then that we find the answers there. Although the Christian life begins with a simple act of faith in Jesus Christ, it does not end there. We remain on earth afterward to make continual positive decisions toward God including learning His Word and living the spiritual life by applying what we learn. Salvation is therefore only the beginning of the journey.

After salvation the person is in the family of God but does not yet understand what that means. The Bible refers to salvation as being "born again" so the family relationship analogy puts the new believer in a position of being a spiritual newborn who must grow up spiritually. As with any family, there are certain expectations of what is required to please the "parents", in this case God. Learning to please God becomes the main task for the rest of the person's life. 2 Peter 3:18 says: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." That learning and growing pleases God and makes our life more enjoyable as we grow to love Him by learning more about Him, and then apply what we have learned. And this in turn leads to greater blessings from God during our time on earth and also results in greater rewards during eternity. So although salvation cannot be lost by ignoring God's will for our life once we are saved, it is very important to understand that blessing can be lost by ignoring God's will for our life, both blessings in time and eternal blessings. Therefore a believer who lives a life of sin and ignores God's will ends up losing enormous amounts of blessings during their time on earth and also during eternity, even though they remain eternally saved.



So we see that growing up spiritually is the primary task required of the new believer. Growth inside any family requires food and learning from teaching. God has provided spiritual food in the form of principles written in the Bible which must be taught by a pastor who is well trained in understanding the Bible, which is the Word of God and the “mind of Christ.” So intake of the Word of God becomes the primary means of spiritual growth in the family in order to meet our spiritual obligations. 2 Peter 1:3-10 says: "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness... 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Learning about God's plan is not about drudgery, but just as in regular life a person starts as a newborn and must grow up, so also the spiritual life gets easier for those who grow up and fit into their intended position, act responsibly, become reliable, and generally become good citizens. In this case, good spiritual citizens. This means they please God by growing and fulfilling God's plan. And God also provides us with the power to do so through the Holy Spirit. God only expects back from us what He first gives to us, which includes both the knowledge and the power to live the spiritual life He expects of us. Therefore we do not give God anything except what He has first given to us.

The very first item the new believer needs to learn is that God requires continual requests for forgiveness whenever the believer sins, and all believers continue to sin for the remainder of their lives. God understands our weaknesses, and realizes we will continue to sin, so He does not view it as a deal breaker. Instead, He has made provisions for dealing with our personal sins after salvation. Therefore requesting forgiveness for sins is the means provided by God for maintaining the fellowship and power of the Holy Spirit in the life, since the Holy Spirit cannot function when there is unconfessed sin. From 1 John 1:6 we learn “If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth...8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” And 1 Thessalonians 7:16 adds “Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.” The ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives is tied directly to the issue of dealing with sins we have committed, and all believers continue to commit sins. Therefore the sins we know about must be confessed to God the Father and all past sins are forgiven at that point, then we can move forward in our spiritual life empowered by the Holy Spirit. The key issue here is that God requires continual

positive choices toward His plan, first a positive decision to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation, then positive decisions must be made regarding confession of sins and growing spiritually through learning God's Word so we can live the spiritual life and have the blessings God wants to give to us.

The request for forgiveness is directly from the believer to God the Father, not through an intermediary. This is not a process of begging, feeling sorry, or otherwise. Forgiveness is gained by simply admitting the sins to the Heavenly Father. "Father, I have done such and such." The reason this is necessary is because God requires us to make constant positive decisions in favor of Him, to continually go to Him and seek His grace. Admission of our sins to the Father is requesting His grace, and He always gives it. Asking God the Father for forgiveness of known sins also results in forgiveness of all prior sins, both known and unknown. Over time the believer can reduce the numbers and types of sins as spiritual growth occurs, but no one ever stops sinning completely while still alive, making these ongoing requests for forgiveness a lifelong requirement. And there are many more types of sin than most realize, with most of the sins we commit being mental sins such as arrogance, anger, envy, jealousy, and a long list of subtle sins which can creep into the soul. So the believer must understand that the list of sins is extensive, and any one of them will temporarily lose the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only source of power for the believer to live the spiritual life, and that power increases as we grow spiritually. However, God cannot provide the level of spiritual support and blessings He desires to provide for a believer who has long periods of unconfessed sins in the life until the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is restored.

The believer must grow and leave the newborn status behind, then proceed through adolescence, and become a spiritual adult. We have noted 2 Peter 3:18 which says "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!" The believer glorifies Jesus Christ as he grows in knowledge of God's Word. This growth must be accomplished by learning what God has told us through the Bible, and requires teaching from a Pastor who has studied the Bible in great detail. That is not as easy as it may seem, and requires searching for a Pastor who actually teaches from the Bible instead of giving baby food to a believer ready for adult foods.

Looking back at the forgiveness of sins issue, a believer must begin each Bible learning session making sure to be "in fellowship" with God by requesting forgiveness of sins. God the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to learn Bible doctrines from a Pastor who teaches them, but unforgiven sin prevents

empowerment by the Holy Spirit. These continual requests for forgiveness of sins cannot be overemphasized in the spiritual life, since without it spiritual growth will be severely stunted. Learning spiritual information is not the same as learning any other type of information, since apart from God's power we "cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:14)

During the initial stages of spiritual growth the believer does not have enough understanding of the Bible to have a strong faith, so must instead rely on promises from the Bible to provide strength in times of testing and difficulty. The Bible contains many such promises, which are short phrases emphasizing the faithfulness and love of God toward the believer. An example of such a verse of promise is Isaiah 40:31 "but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." The Bible is full of short and succinct verses which the believer can grab during times of trouble, hardship, grief and distress. These are to some extent spiritual crutches for the growing believer until they have built up spiritual confidence once they understand in depth the Bible and as a result know God as an intimate friend, not as a far-off benefactor. But we must all start somewhere in the spiritual life, and using the promises of the Bible helps boost us upward and can help get us through the tough times during the early stages of growth. But to truly live the spiritual life God has in store for us, we must grow beyond that level and achieve spiritual maturity where we instinctively trust God because we know He has already provided before we even ask, as Matthew 6:8 says "your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

It is in spiritual adulthood where the believer begins to fully function as a spiritually mature and highly productive member of the family in terms of how "pleased" God is, when we are mature enough to bring glory to our Savior Jesus Christ and begin accumulating rewards for eternity. Ephesians 4:15-16 says: "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Note how often the Bible emphasizes growth in knowledge as the means of achieving the mature spiritual life. Believers are all part of the "body of Christ" which describes the totality of believers as functioning together to support the glorification of Jesus Christ. Each believer has a spiritual gift given to them at the moment

of salvation. As the believer grows spiritually, that spiritual gift will begin to function. Often we do not even know what that gift is. As we see, the most important aspect of life as a believer is to learn and grow, which increases our love for God and enables greater spiritual strength to face the difficulties the world will present to us. Growth in the Word strengthens our faith, and the Bible tells us “we live by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

God loves all believers, but He is not equally pleased with each one. Spiritually mature believers are called “friends of God”. Jesus told His disciples “You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:14-15) Note once again the emphasis on spiritual learning and knowing “God’s business” as revealed in the Bible, then after that being called a “friend” of God. The more mature the believer becomes in understanding and implementing the Word of God in the life, the more that believer will be blessed by God, both in life and in eternity since this type of spiritual life pleases God our Father and glorifies Jesus Christ our Savior by using the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual growth also makes our prayers and every other aspect of our spiritual life more effective. The maturing process is one which takes time, and requires continual learning and growing over the entire life of the believer. God wants to bless the believer. However, God waits until we are prepared for blessings, otherwise we would focus on the blessing instead of on God Himself. We focus on what we want, but God focuses on what we need and also on what we can handle. And there will be testing along the way, which makes the spiritual life stronger and more focused on what is important. The more mature the believer becomes through growth in the Word, the more God can bless each believer; but blessing is unique to each one and does not mean all will have material wealth. Essentially, most believers get in the way of the blessing God wants to deliver, mainly due to lack of spiritual growth. And lack of spiritual growth is often due to focusing on living life as a secular project, just like the spiritually empty unbeliever lives.

Therefore each believer must understand that the spiritual life has stages. We enter the spiritual life by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, then we are inside of God's plan forever. At that point we are required to express continual positive decisions toward God. These include maintaining the power of the Holy

Spirit by regular requests for forgiveness of sins, plus spiritual learning and growth over a lifetime through the various phases to spiritual maturity. When these steps are followed the believer will “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18), and will have an increasingly effective spiritual life resulting in greater blessing during the time remaining on earth followed by increased rewards in eternity. Simply being a believer in Jesus Christ allows God to supply the basic needs of all believers, but the real blessings and eternal rewards are reserved for those who grow to spiritual maturity and remain there over the long term.

We have begun with the basics of what every believer must know since so many do not understand those basic truths. Advanced knowledge depends on first understanding the basic principles. Now we will begin to unravel some of the deepest concepts and doctrines from the Word of God. That is our journey.

## **Salvation -- What Happens When a Person Believes in Christ?**

We have discussed that salvation is a free gift from God through a simple act of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. But what actually happens at that single point in time, a moment of faith when the person's eternal destiny is forever changed? How does such a simple act of faith in Jesus Christ result in eternal salvation? And what actual changes occur in the new believer?

It is important to first understand that mankind is hopeless to save itself, therefore God must save each one of us individually, but He requires us to accept or reject what He provides. God demands perfect righteousness, not some form of relative righteousness, and no matter how good someone might appear to be it is never good enough to meet God's perfect standards. Therefore salvation is accepting what Christ has done for us. First, Jesus Christ removed the sin issue as a barrier to salvation since He paid in full the penalty due for all sins of mankind. Secondly, Jesus Christ made it possible to claim His own righteousness as the basis of a relationship with God, which is rejecting our own inadequate righteousness and instead claiming the perfect righteousness of Christ. Romans 3:10 says "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." And 2 Corinthians 5:21 says "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Therefore, accepting the salvation work of Jesus Christ is accepting two issues, namely that He paid the penalty for our sins, and also that He provides us with His own righteousness in place of our own works.

God only provides salvation through faith because He cannot allow imperfect mankind into a relationship with Him based on the merit of the person. The nicest, least sinful, and most charitable person who ever lived could never attain perfection on their own apart from Christ. Therefore, God developed a plan, and sent Jesus Christ the God-Man to save us. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." Salvation is a grace gift bought and paid for by Jesus Christ. This payment occurred on the cross when He was judged for every sin ever committed, past or future. And this removal of the sin issue in turn allowed God to offer mankind salvation by accepting the righteousness of Jesus Christ instead of our own

relative and inadequate righteousness. To say anything must be added insults the salvation work of Jesus Christ, declaring it to be inadequate; therefore it cannot be added to, earned, or purchased by us, only received. God's requirement for accepting the free gift is one simple act of faith, which is essentially reaching out and taking hold of the gift God is handing to each unbeliever. Faith is the only positive act which everyone can do equally. If God made salvation contingent on mental capacity to think or ability to perform works, some would have an unfair advantage over others. Faith makes everyone equal when it comes to receiving salvation. That is the fairness of God, and it is also the only procedure which aligns with His perfect righteousness.

At the moment of faith in Jesus Christ, God sets into motion a series of changes in the person and in their eternal status. The Holy Spirit is the one who makes all the changes, enabling salvation to be effective in the person. The individual cannot feel these changes, but they are very real. Some may have an emotional response knowing they are now eternally saved, but that is an individual response, not a result of the internal changes. And those changes lock in the eternal status as being permanently saved regardless of what happens after that moment of salvation. While all these changes are simultaneous, it helps us to understand them if they are viewed separately and in sequence.

Among the changes which occur at salvation is restoration of the human spirit. Each person is born with a soul but no human spirit, which Adam and Eve had at creation but lost when they sinned in the Garden of Eden. This loss of the human spirit is the definition of spiritual death, and this status of spiritual death was subsequently handed down to all their descendants, who are born without a human spirit. The exception is Jesus Christ who was born spiritually alive, and this issue will be discussed in a later chapter. Salvation makes the new believer spiritually alive, meaning the human spirit is regained. This restoration of the human spirit makes the person a spiritual being, now capable of knowing and interacting with God. It is that human spirit which allows us to understand spiritual information, which is why unbelievers cannot understand such things since they lack a human spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says: "The person without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness..." God the Holy Spirit is the one who restores the human spirit at the moment of salvation, since He is the member of the Trinity involved in making all salvation changes a reality at that moment of faith in Christ.

Another primary change which occurs at the moment of salvation is that we now share the righteousness of Jesus Christ, giving us a perfect righteousness in God's eyes even though it is not our own. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21) Of course, all believers continue to sin personally, but God still views each believer as being covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ the Savior for eternity. So we see a major change occurs at the moment of salvation whereby God declares us to be righteous in association with Jesus Christ. From that point on, no matter how much we sin or fail God looks at us and sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ in us. Therefore God no longer views us as lost sinners but as sharing the righteousness of Christ because we have accepted by faith what He did for us on the cross. When God looks at an unbeliever He sees unrighteousness and spiritual death. It is amazing to understand that God can look at us as believers who remain sinful and imperfect and see perfect righteousness in us. But it is not our own perfect righteousness God sees, but rather the perfection of Jesus Christ which is shared with all believers. God stamps us "made perfect in Christ" as a result of salvation, and then deals with our continued sins as having been taken out of the way by Christ, allowing us to request forgiveness to put them behind us so we can move on with our spiritual life inside the family of God. God deals with believers on the basis of His love because we are viewed as righteous, but God deals with unbelievers on the basis of His righteousness because they remain unrighteous. In eternity that perfection of Christ in believers will become a reality in our new resurrection bodies and we will be truly sinless and perfect righteousness forever.

Also at the moment of salvation the new believer becomes a "fellow heir" with Jesus Christ and shares in many wonderful things which Christ earned as a result of His salvation work on the cross. Romans 8:15 says: "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..." The righteousness of Jesus Christ is not the only thing He shares with us as His "fellow heir." He also shares his priesthood, giving us the right to act on our own behalf and interface directly with God the Father. He shares His status of rulership, and we will rule with Him as members of His royal court during the Millennium. He essentially shares with His Church Age believers all He possesses, which is why the Church is called the "Bride of Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:2)

Another change at the moment of salvation is the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and also by extension the entire Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit indwell every believer, as 1 John 4:13 says:



"This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us." At the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit not only indwells us as believers but also becomes the source of empowerment for our spiritual life. And the Holy Spirit also gives each new believer at least one spiritual gift, one which will become evident over time as the believer grows spiritually.

Each new believer is also provided with a guardian angel. That angel is always present, and watches over the person in many ways. That protection has limits, and we must not test those limits or fail to act rationally or wisely, but this protection is something which makes our lives less subject to the whims of chance and accidents of everyday life. Unbelievers live by chance and at the whims of fate, but believers live by faith and have protection inside God's plan, therefore fate does not apply to believers. And our personal guardian angel plays an important role in that regard.

Additionally, when we believe in Jesus Christ for salvation our name becomes permanent in the Book of Life, a registry of those with eternal salvation. The names of those who have accepted God's salvation will be in the Book of Life at the end of human history, and the names of those who did not accept God's salvation will not be found. Once again this shows that our salvation is permanent and therefore cannot be lost.

We also become a child of God with all the rights and blessings of being part of His family, including the opportunity to communicate with God and have prayers heard and answered. Romans 8:14 says: "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship." God treats believers as part of His family. Unbelievers are not, so they do not share anything God has, nor can they pray or have any form of fellowship or interaction with God.

As a person is maturing humanly they come to a point of accountability to God for their decision regarding salvation. Children and certain people with low mental function are not accountable for a salvation decision, so are automatically saved if they die before they become accountable, or

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