

Is a person born spiritually dead or saved?

There is great debate regarding the timing of a person's actual state of salvation. Some believe that a person's state of salvation is not determined until he actually believes. Others believe that a person's state of salvation is solidified even before he is born. Others believe that everyone is born in a state of salvation but it is lost when the person sins against God thus necessitating a reconciled relationship with God.

1. When is a person's state of salvation known to God?

Ephesians **1:3-5**

Romans **8:26-30; 9:10-13**

John **6:63-65; 6:39**

The scriptures are very clear that even before a person is known, God knows the eternal state of the individual. Notice that the scriptures indicate that God "has chosen us in Him [Jesus] before the foundation of the world" and that "no man can come unto me [Jesus], except it were given unto him of my Father" and that "all which He [the Father] has given me I [Jesus] should lose nothing". The state of that person's salvation is known by God and controlled by God well before the individual is born.

2. When is a person's state of salvation known to the individual?

Romans **8:16; 10:9-13**

Mark 16:16

John **10:9**

Acts **2:21; 15:10-11**

When a person recognizes the greatness of his own sinful condition and his complete inability to do anything to pay the penalty for his sins resulting in crying out to God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, When the person truly believes in his heart, and only God and the individual know for sure, then the person who completely entrusts himself to the work and the person of Jesus Christ is saved as soon as he recognizes that he believes.

3. When does the person receive the mark of the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians **1:11-14**

John 7:38-39

John 13:19-20

Ephesians **1:17-19**

1 John **3:23-24**

John **16:7-11**

The reception of the Holy Spirit is a very special work. On the one hand the Holy Spirit is the one doing the work on an individual that he might believe. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit does not dwell with or enter into a person until he believes.

4. What happens between God's knowledge and the individual's knowledge?

John 4:40-42; 13:18-20; 14:26-31; 16:30-31

1 Corinthians **6:9-11**

Romans 11:30

Ephesians **2:1-6**

Galatians **3:22-25**

Although God knows who will be saved through faith in Jesus Christ, every man is born a sinner functioning as one who is destined for eternal condemnation. But God does a mighty work to bring those who will be saved into the presence of the scriptures and the Holy Spirit that each may hear the word of God, believe it, and be saved.