

How much does a person have to know about God to be saved?

Someone once said that the bible is like a pool--shallow enough that a little child can come and get a drink without fear of drowning, yet so deep scholars can swim in it and never touch bottom.

Salvation is simple but it is not *simplistic*. Jesus said: Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt 18:3).

Men must humble themselves before the Lord to be saved. Conversion is as simple as having a childlike faith but it is also a deep personal conviction that Jesus is that person's Lord.

The bible says: Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household (Ac 16:31). Each person must believe in God for himself. One cannot believe for another person.

Belief includes trusting that Jesus is who he said he was (Jn 20:31). One must also believe what he did (1 Cor. 15:3, 4).

The bible says: 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 (Ro 10:9).

Confession, repentance, faith and regeneration are requirements to be saved.

**Confession:** To be saved, one must confess the Lord Jesus.

Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Ro 10:13).

Confession means that the person agrees with God about his sin condition and he turns to the Lord in repentance.

**Repentance:** Repentance is turning from one's own way of doing things and turning to the Lord as master and sovereign in his life.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel (Mk 1:15).

**Faith:** Faith is not just a mere intellectual ascension to the facts of the gospel. The demons believe the facts (Jas 2:19). Saving faith is placing one's trust in God--giving him Lordship in his life.

Jesus said:

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Jn 3:13–18

The apostle John wrote:

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (Jn 20:31).

It is through believing that one receives new life. He becomes a child of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Regeneration:** The believer becomes made new in Christ's likeness (2 Co 3:18).

Jesus said to Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Jn 3:3–8

When one confesses Christ, repents of his sin, trusts in him for salvation and submits to his Lordship, he will be regenerated. It is by Christ's blood (Rom. 5:9), resurrection (Rom. 4:25) and righteousness (Rom. 10:4) that men are saved.

One is *not* justified by works of the law (Rom. 3:20, 28), his own righteousness (Rom. 10:1–5) or his own efforts (Rom. 4:1–5).

The apostle Paul said:

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (Ro 1:16).

Dr. Harry Ironside of Dallas Seminary taught his students to “put the cookies on the bottom shelf so the kiddies can get them.”

The hearts of children are easily converted. One need not have a PhD in sin before coming to the Lord. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Ro 10:10).

Honest seekers young or old can find the Lord. He has not been lost somewhere. God's been there all along (Jn 3:16). He is not far from anyone of us (Ac 17:27). Men should: ask of him, seek him and knock on his door of salvation. The door will be opened (Deut 30:14, Mt 7:7).