

## The four steps in a relationship with God

**Revelation 4** <sup>6</sup>And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, **full of eyes** in front and behind: <sup>7</sup>the first living creature like a **LION (step1)**, the second living creature like an **OX (step2)**, the third living creature with the face of a **MAN (step3)**, and the fourth living creature like an **EAGLE in FLIGHT (step4)**

**Comment:** The **first step** in having a relationship with Jesus is to make him your **KING, (LION = Gospel of Matthew)** Lord or boss. This involves committing yourself to obey him in all things. Repentance from sin. The **second step** involve depending on his **strength (OX = Gospel of Mark)** to save you from the penalty of sin firstly and then to **HELP** you and give you the strength to live your life according to his plan and to provide for you. The **third step** is to become best **FRIENDS** or blood brothers (**MAN = Gospel of Luke**) with Jesus. This is possible because you have proven your love and respect for him. 1 John 4:18. First you listened to him, then he listened to you and now you feel a **LOVE** for him that shows itself mainly in worship, bible study, prayer and church life. The **fourth step** is where you can relate to him as He is, namely God, with whom all things are possible, and you start to see the world through his eyes. (**Eagle = Gospel of John**) Eagles are known for their phenomenal sight and peaceful flight over rivers, mountains and all borders. This involves **FAITH** in God which gives you **PEACE** and Joy (Exodus 19:4)



**Joh 14** <sup>21</sup> Whoever **HAS MY COMMANDMENTS (step1)** and **KEEPS** them, **HE IT IS WHO LOVES ME. (step2)** And he will be **LOVED** by MY FATHER, and I **WILL LOVE (step3)** him and **MANIFEST (step4)** myself to him.”

**Joh 15** <sup>14</sup> You are my **FRIENDS (step3)** if you **DO WHAT I COMMAND YOU (step2)**.

**Joh 15** <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (Step2)

**Matthew 5** <sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart (Step2), for they shall see God. (Step4)

**What is the similarity between  
The Trojan Horse,  
Facebook and  
www.FlagofGod.com?**

**Matthew 10** <sup>16</sup> Behold I am sending you out as **sheep** in the midst of **wolves**, so be **wise** (clever) as serpents and **innocent** (pure) as doves.

A Lighthouse points out the dangerous rocks (Teachings) to the fishing boats (Churches)  
**HOW DOES A BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN PROTECT HIS SALVATION or can't he loose it in the first place?**



John 15 <sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch **IN** me that **DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT HE TAKES AWAY**, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

## **An inconvenient truth: Seven parables in which Jesus warns Christians to nurture and protect their salvation, because if they do not, they will lose it. It's irresponsible to say the opposite.**

### **The Parable of the Sower**

**Matthew 13** "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and ***immediately they sprang up***, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, ***they withered away***. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and ***choked them***. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is ***the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy***, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but ***endures for a while***, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he ***falls away***. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches ***choke*** the word, and it proves ***unfruitful***. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

### **The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

**Matthew 25** "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'<sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'<sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'<sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, '***Lord, lord, open to us.***' <sup>12</sup>But he answered, '***Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.***' <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### **The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup>"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.'<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.'<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.

Here, you have what is yours.’<sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful **servant!** You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

### **Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus**

**Luke9**<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.<sup>24</sup> For **whoever would save his life will lose it**, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.<sup>25</sup> For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

### **The wise and the foolish servant**

**Matthew24**<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?<sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.<sup>47</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.<sup>48</sup> But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’<sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,<sup>50</sup> the master of that **servant** will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know<sup>51</sup> and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **I Am the True Vine**

**John15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.<sup>2</sup> **Every branch in me** that does not bear fruit he **takes away**, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done

### **The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

**Matthew22** And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,<sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,<sup>3</sup> and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.<sup>4</sup> Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’<sup>5</sup> But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,<sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.<sup>7</sup> The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.<sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.<sup>9</sup> Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’<sup>10</sup> And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to look at the **guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.**<sup>12</sup> And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’<sup>14</sup> FOR MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN.”

## **How do Christians lose their salvation according to Paul?**

1 Timothy 1<sup>19</sup> Cling to your faith in Christ and **keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.** <sup>20</sup> Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples. I threw them out and handed them over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme God. (Living Bible)

## **How do Christians protect their salvation according to John?**

### **Answer Obey Jesus and Repent.**

**1John 1** <sup>8</sup> If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. <sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. **John 15** <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Comment: We must depend on Jesus to help us obey him. We do this through prayer, Bible study, going to Church, Cell groups, reading spiritual literature etc. to expose us to the five prophetic gifts of Ephesians 4.**

### **Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead**

**James 2** <sup>14</sup> What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? <sup>15</sup> Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, <sup>16</sup> and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? <sup>17</sup> So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. <sup>18</sup> Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." <sup>19</sup> You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. <sup>20</sup> How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? <sup>21</sup> Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. <sup>23</sup> And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. <sup>26</sup> **Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.**

**Comment: If Faith in Jesus is the heartbeat of salvation then your life lived in Willing Obedience and Repentance of your errors is its inhaling and exhaling breath. We need God's help and grace with all of it. Faith in Jesus is a gracious free gift from God (Ephesians 2:4-10) and is a continuous automatic thing for Christians – just like your heartbeat. Repentance of sin or the choice to obey God is also automatic if you are focused on Jesus, but if it is your choice to turn to the world you will fall into sin just like you can hold your breath. Just like a lack of breathing can choke you to death so a lack of obedience can also choke your faith to death.**

## How does the following conform with certainty of salvation?

### **John 10 I Am the Good Shepherd**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

**Comment:** In this passage Jesus merely states that we belong to him and he will never leave us, fail us, reject us or in his words no one will snatch us out of his hands. He will give us eternal life. He has a condition for this promise though, namely we have to hear his voice or believe in him and also follow him which implies repent from our sin. To follow him as our shepherd is a choice we must willingly make. If we have chosen him as our shepherd we will be safe with him, but because it is our choice to follow him we can also choose to not follow him. This is what happens in reality and this is the warning Jesus also gave in the seven above parables.

### **Romans 8 God's Everlasting Love**

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Comment:** In this passage Paul describes that God still loves us and always will no matter what our circumstances are. If you are going through a tough time like Job, you can be sure that God still loves you. Don't feel unloved by God just because life is hard. This passage has nothing to do with God assuring us of unconditional salvation.

### **1 John 2 Warning Concerning Antichrists (Like Mohammed and Mary. Maybe they should Marry.)**

<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; **for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.** But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

**Comment:** This passage refers to a **specific** group, namely the antichrists, that were part of the church but were not Christians in the first place. You cannot generalize this passage to say that everyone that was a born again Christian and then turned his back on God was not a Christian in the first place to make an argument that once you are born again you are certain of your salvation. **In order to be saved you have to persevere in your faith to the end.** Read Matthew 24:9-13 Your faith or trust in Jesus for your salvation from the penalty of your sin is like a glass and not like a tin cup. It is not indestructible. You have to nurture it like a plant, or it will die and handle it with great care like a glass or it will break. Once saved always saved is a myth and I have just busted it. You are not saved if you live a sinful lifestyle and it does not bother you enough to seek forgiveness from God and a desire and commitment to obey all his laws as revealed in the N.T.

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**Proverbs 14** <sup>4</sup>With one good ox (helper) you can bring in a great harvest, but then you have to feed the ox in his crib.