Plan of Salvation

1. **All are lost**

* If we were not lost we would not need God’s guidance
* Rom 3:10 – As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one
  + “No one is righteous” means “no one is innocent, man has inherent sin nature*.”* Every person is valuable in God’s eyes , he loves us. Though we are valuable, we have fallen into sin. But God, through Jesus his Son, has redeemed us and offers to forgive us if we turn to him in faith. You can’t can earn a right standing with God. Living according to God’s word will provide a path pleasing God.
* Rom 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
  + All sins ..big and little.. make us sinners, and all sins separate us from God, but they all can be forgiven.
  + Sinful ways lead to spiritual death separating us from God
  + Putting our trust and confidence in Christ to forgive our sins, will make us right with God, and empower us to live the way he taught us. God’s solution is available to all of us regardless of our background or past behavior.

1. **Where Sin Came from**

* Rom 5:12 – Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned
  + We have the same sinful nature and as Adam, prone to rebel against God, and are judged for the sins we commit. Because we are sinners, it isn’t fairness we need—it is mercy.
  + Sinful ways lead to spiritual death and separate us from God
  + (actually .. first sinner was Satan)
* Gen 3:6 – When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.
  + Satan tried to make Eve think that sin is good, pleasant, and desirable. We cannot always prevent/control temptation - too prevalent in the world around us. Use God’s Word and God’s people to help you stand against it.
  + Knowing God’s word (instruction - Bible) is key to recognizing Satan’s influences and rejecting his temptations.

1. **God’s Gift**

* salvation is the ***gift*** of God brought to man by ***grace*** and ***received*** by personal ***faith*** in the ***Lord Jesus Christ***, whose precious ***blood*** was shed on Calvary for the ***forgiveness*** of our sins.
* Rom 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  + You are free to choose between two masters, but you are not free to adjust the consequences of your choice. Each of the two masters pays with his own kind of currency. The currency of sin is eternal death. That is all you can expect or hope for in life without God. Christ’s currency is eternal life—new life with God that begins on earth and continues forever with God.
* 1 Pet 3:18 – For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.
  + NLT = Christ suffered for our sins once - for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. salvation and victory is not limited…
  + The events recorded in the Bible during his crucifixion clearly indicate his death removed obstacles to having an individual relationship with God. Jesus was our intercessor.

1. **Christ Is Alive**

* Matt 28:6 – He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come see the place he was lying.
  + Jesus’ resurrection is the key to the Christian faith. He will accomplish all he has promised.
  + Resurrection is the basis for the church’s witness to the world. Jesus is more than just a human leader; he is the Son of God.
  + because he was resurrected. Death is not the end—there is future life.
* 1 Cor 15:6 - After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep
  + There will always be people who say that Jesus didn’t rise from the dead. Paul assures us that many people saw Jesus after his resurrection. Appeared to disciples several times.
  + The Resurrection is a historical fact.

1. **Becoming A Christian**

* Jn 1:12 -But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name
  + All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually, receiving new life from God. It changes us from the inside out—rearranging our attitudes, desires, and motives.
  + fresh start in life is available to all who believe in Christ.
  + ABC’s - simple salvation .. sanctification is a process
* Jn 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life
  + God sets the pattern of true love, the basis for all love relationships—when you love someone dearly, you are willing to give freely to the point of self-sacrifice. God paid dearly with the life of his Son, the highest price he could pay.
  + Jesus accepted our punishment, paid the price for our sins, and then offered us the new life that he had bought for us

1. **By Faith, Not Works**

* Eph 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
  + We become Christians through God’s favor, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part.
  + Because our salvation and even our faith are gifts, we should respond with gratitude, praise, and joy. (inherent if we have a close relationship with God)
* Titus 3:5 – He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
  + All our sins, not merely some, are washed away regardless of any works.
  + Christ’s saving work 🡪 We gain eternal life with all its treasures. We have a new life through the Holy Spirit, and he continually renews our hearts. None of this occurs because we earned or deserved it; **it is all God’s gift.**

1. **Assurance of Salvation**

* all three ***persons*** in the Trinity participate in the work of salvation. Based upon the redemptive work of his Son, the Father forgives us and sends the Holy Spirit to wash away our sins and continually renew us.
* Rom 8: 38-39 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord
  + (Paul) it is impossible to be separated from Christ. If we believe these overwhelming assurances, we will not be afraid. (we can not lose our salvation)
  + Powers are unseen forces of evil in the universe, forces like Satan and his fallen angels (see Ephesians 6:12). In Christ we are super-conquerors, and his love will protect us from any such forces.
  + Overcomer – a believer
    - * 1 John 5:4-5 - For whatever is  born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
      * Rev 2:11 11He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’
* Jn 10: 27-30 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 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. I and the Father are one.”
  + Just as a shepherd protects his sheep, Jesus protects his people from eternal harm.
  + earth is the devil’s domain (until Jesus returns) .. follow Jesus, he will give you everlasting safety.
  + This verse is the clearest statement of Jesus’ divinity he ever made. Jesus and his Father are not the same person, but they are one in essence and nature.
* Jn 5:24 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
  + Eternal life”—living forever with God—begins when you accept Jesus Christ as Savior.
  + You will face physical death but .. when Christ returns again, your body will be resurrected to live forever
  + Judgement – will not face the Great White Throne judgement.