**The Unpardonable Sin!**

**Mark 16:9-20**

In **Mark 3:28-29, Jesus said,** “I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit **will never be forgiven**; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”

From this text, I want to answer four questions:

1. How is a man saved? What leads to the salvation of a man?

2. What is the unpardonable sin?

3. What is the evidence that a man has truly been saved?

4. What about signs and wonders, like snake handling and supernatural healings?

**How does salvation happen? How is a man truly saved?**

* In Ephesians 1:13-14, Paul gives a very logical, step by step process, that reveals how salvation occurs.

“And you also were included in Christ when you **heard** the word of truth, the **gospel** of your salvation. **Having believed**, you were **marked in Him with a seal**, the promised **Holy Spirit**, who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of His glory.”

* First, in order for a man to be saved, he must first **hear** the Gospel message. What is the gospel? That Christ died for our sins. That He was buried, and on the 3rd day He arose from the grave. Then, over the course of 40 days, he appeared to many people who became His witnesses. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)
* 2nd, You must **believe** the gospel. Hearing must be accompanied by faith in order for a man to truly be saved.

**Ephesians 1:13** says, **Having believed**, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit!”

* **3rd**, salvation occurs when **God sees faith born in a man**. Then, **He sends His Spirit**, the Spirit of Christ, to indwell that man. Then, and only then, can it be said that that man is **in** Christ and Christ is **in** that man.
* How can you know if you are truly in Christ? You will know it by **the indwelling Holy** Spirit who will **testify with your spirit** that He is in you and that you belong to God.

**Romans 8:9** and **15-16**, Paul writes, “And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ…For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children**.”

**What is the unpardonable sin?**

* It simply means that you resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit your entire life. The one sin that God cannot forgive is the sin of **unbelief**.

**John 3:36** says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for **God’s wrath remains** on him.”

* Jesus rebuked his disciples for the sin of unbelief which God takes very seriously.
* I believe Jesus’ rebuke was severe for three reasons:
1. They were refusing to believe in the resurrection which is the ultimate proof that Jesus was and is who He claimed to be—the Son of God. All of Christianity rests upon this one fact: that Jesus arose bodily from the grave. This is the key point of the Gospel.
2. In Luke 12:48, Jesus established a very important principle: To whom much is given much is required. “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”
3. These 11 disciples refused to do what they were getting ready to ask others to do: believe the testimony of their eye-witness accounts.

**What is the evidence that a man has truly been saved?**

* I would say the number one evidence is a **changed life**. Faith must be accompanied by works. There must be **outward evidence** that you not only encountered the risen Christ, but that you have truly committed your life to following Him.

**James 2:18-19** says, “But someone will say, “You have faith: I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

**What about signs and wonders?**

* The signs and wonders that are mentioned here in Mark, were meant for the **Apostolic age** for one purpose: To give credence to the message of the gospel. In essence, when these apostles all died, those signs were not needed, because the Scripture, the Word of God, was coming together to form the New Testament. When you have the Word of God, you don’t need anything else.

**The last command:**

* The last thing Jesus said to his disciples before he ascended in heaven was “**go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.**