

ROOKIE CHRISTIAN | FACT SHEET

Salvation is Like a Combo Meal

Many people think of salvation as one thing: getting to go to Heaven when they die. However, when a person becomes a Christian, it's like buying a Combo Meal. This is a quick and easy way to order food with just a number and includes the sandwich, the fries, and the drink. Multiple entries are included in salvation also. We have to know the items to understand what has happened to us. Here's a list:

The New Birth: Our problem wasn't merely that we needed new items added onto our calendars, a new lifestyle. No, we needed new life! In John 3, Jesus told a man, "You must be born again" (John 3:1-7). Paul put it this way: "God made us alive" (Ephesians 2:5). Titus 3:5 says salvation includes "the washing of regeneration [which means *new life*] and renewal of the Holy Spirit." The new birth changes our "want to" and the direction in life we aspire to go.

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit: When people become Christians, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside them. Believers are walking temples in which God lives. Some Christians in one church weren't behaving as they should. So the Apostle Paul asked them, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16). When Jesus promised the Apostles he would send the Holy Spirit, he said "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18). The Holy Spirit guides believers to know the right things to do, prompts them to do them, and gives them the power to live the Christian life.

Forgiveness of Sins: When people become Christians they are forgiven of every sin, past, present, and future. In Jesus "We have the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

A Person is Put in Good Standing with God. We know that God loves us, but sometimes forget how we have rebelled

against Him. Sin is against God personally, so God takes it personally. For that reason, before we became Christians, we were not in good standing with God. We were his enemies (Romans 5:8-11). But when God saved us, that changed! We were declared right with God. The Bible word for this is "justified." Now we can say, "God treats me *just as if I'd* never sinned."

Adoption: We are all God's children in the sense of having been created by Him. However, in terms of relationship and privilege, only those whom God adopts are his children. Galatians 3:26 says "In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith."

The Promise of Heaven: Yes, there is a place prepared for believers where the Lord is the center of attention, the wrongs are made right, and the hurts are healed (John 14:1-7; Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-5).

Some people think of salvation only as going to Heaven when one dies, but that until then, a person can live any way he likes. However, if salvation is like a combo meal—and being born again and the Holy Spirit living within us is part of the package—then we would want, instead, to live clean lives and stay close to the Lord.

Now Read: Ephesians 1:3-14. See how many of the items listed above you can find in this passage.

