

Salvation	Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs)	Scripture and Comments
<p>Stage 1: Conversion, or becoming born-again, is to become a child of God.</p> <p>We are born again by grace, not by obeying the law (moral or ceremonial). It is a free gift. In fact, it is impossible to earn.</p>	<p>2010 Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, <u>no one can merit the initial grace of forgiveness and justification</u>, at the beginning of conversion.</p> <p>1991 Justification is at the same time <u>the acceptance of God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ</u>. Righteousness (or "justice") here means the rectitude of divine love. With justification, faith, hope, and charity are poured into our hearts, and obedience to the divine will is granted us.</p> <p>2020 Justification <u>has been merited for us by the Passion of Christ</u>. It is granted us through Baptism. It conforms us to the righteousness of God, <u>who justifies us</u>. It has for its goal the glory of God and of Christ, and the gift of eternal life. It is the most excellent work of God's mercy.</p>	<p>Romans 5:20 For no human being will be justified in his sight by works of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.</p> <p>Ephesians 2: 8, 9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast.</p> <p>Titus 3:5, 6 He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Christ Jesus our Savior.</p> <p>John 3:5 Truly, truly I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot see the kingdom of God.</p> <p>Note: The Church Fathers are unanimous that John 3:5 speaks of baptism. The Titus passage also speaks of baptism (the washing of regeneration). The grace of salvation is <i>normally</i> conferred via baptism, the sacrament of faith. But God can (and does) work his saving grace beyond the reach of the sacraments.</p>
<p>Stage 2: Now that we are a child of God, we are to live by the Spirit, not the flesh.</p> <p>As sons of the king, God gives us the grace to live like it.</p> <p>We can "merit" more saving grace by prayer, fasting, giving alms or other acts of charity and reap eternal life.</p> <p>We are not earning the divine nature of son-ship (we cannot); we are simply living it by grace, not law.</p> <p>But we have the free-will to turn away.</p>	<p>2008 The merit of man before God in the Christian life arises from the fact that God has <u>freely chosen to associate man with the work of his grace</u>. The fatherly action of God is first on his own initiative, and then follows man's free acting through his collaboration, so that the merit of good works is to be attributed in the first place to the grace of God, then to the faithful. Man's merit, moreover, <u>itself is due to God</u>, for his good actions proceed in Christ, from the predispositions and assistance given by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>2009 Filial adoption, in making us <u>partakers by grace in the divine nature</u>, can bestow <i>true merit</i> on us as a result of God's gratuitous justice. This is our right by grace, the full right of love making us "co-heirs" with Christ and worthy of obtaining the promised inheritance of eternal life. <u>The merits of our good works are gifts of divine goodness</u>. Grace has gone before us; now we are given what is due...Our merits are God's gifts.</p>	<p>2 Thessalonians 2:13 God chose you from the beginning to be saved, <u>through sanctification</u> by the Spirit and belief in the truth.</p> <p>Philippians 1:7 And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to <u>completion</u> at the day of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Galatians 6:7, 8 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; <u>but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life</u>.</p> <p>Colossians 1:21-23 And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, <u>provided</u> that you continue in faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel.</p> <p>Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; <u>for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints</u>.</p> <p>Note: At the marriage feast of the Lamb, those not justified will have filthy garments and be cast out. But those who have been justified will wear the white robes of Christ, our sanctified works.</p>
<p>Stage 3: Salvation is a future inheritance.</p> <p>But God gives us the strength to persevere.</p> <p>We are saved by Christ alone, by grace alone.</p>	<p>1843 By hope we desire, and with steadfast trust <u>await</u> from God, <u>eternal life</u> and the graces to merit it.</p>	<p>Acts 20:32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and so give you the <u>inheritance</u> among all those who are sanctified.</p> <p>Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 1:22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV</p>