

The “A, B, C’s of Salvation”

a. **Admit** your need for God

When we admit our disobedience to God (called “sin” in the Bible), and recognize our need for forgiveness and restored relationship, then we have taken the first step toward salvation.

Typically, denial of anything wrong is the most common form of sinful pride. Blaming others for problems, or blaming society in general, is another way of avoiding personal responsibility. Many people live for years making one excuse after another instead of admitting their faults and need for God.

b. **Believe** in Jesus as Lord and Savior

In the Bible, believing is more than just knowing certain facts, or accepting certain opinions. True believing involves the mind, the heart and the will. We understand the message of Jesus, take God’s Word into our hearts and respond with a new perspective on life.

c. **Confess** Jesus as your Savior and Lord

In the courtroom, “to confess” means accepting responsibility for breaking the law, and accepting the penalty as the consequence of guilt. This is similar to the word “admit,” that enables us to say honestly, “I am a sinner and I need a Savior.”

But “to confess” can also be used in a positive sense, as an “affirmation of faith.” In worship services, believers often “confess their faith” by reciting the Apostles’ Creed as a declaration of what Christians believe.

d. **Decide** to Follow Jesus

Churches often speak of a person’s initial decision to become a follower of Jesus as a “salvation decision.” But this one-time commitment is followed by a hundred decisions daily to live as a disciple of the Lord. The sincerity of that first decision is proven by the faithfulness of daily devotion to God.

Yes, Christian faith challenges us to accept certain beliefs taught in the Bible as truth. But Christian faith is mostly about developing God’s priorities in our lives by growing in a lifestyle of worship, prayer and service to others.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

Have you learned your “a,b,c’s” of salvation yet?

Where are you in your personal response to God’s message?