



## Doctrine 7: The process of salvation

*We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.*

### Big ideas

- **Repentance is a response to the work of Jesus**
- **Repentance is a change in life to follow God**
- **Repentance and faith in Jesus leads to a new way of living**

“*The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news*”

*(Mark 1:15).*

When you have taken a wrong road, it's great to find out and turn back to the right road. It would be bizarre to keep driving down the wrong road and not get to your destination. It is the same if you have taken the wrong road in life. We need to change direction.

Repentance means to change our mind about sin and to turn to God. It is a turning of our life back to God and his ways. It is a change in purpose and direction that leads to transformation or regeneration. It involves being sorry for our sin and receiving God's promised forgiveness.

Repentance is ongoing through life and a response to God's love and mercy.

“*God's kindness leads you to repentance*”  
*(Romans 2:4).*

Faith is trusting the living person and message of Jesus Christ. Everyone places their faith or trust in different things. In driving, we place our faith in the car, the driver and our GPS. In life, we can place our faith in money, other people or our job. The question is not how much faith you have – but who do you place your faith in? It is a trusting acceptance of Jesus – his life, teaching, death on the cross and resurrection life.

“*I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus*” *(Acts 10:21).*

Regeneration is being re-made or transformed by God. Jesus described it as being born again (John 3:3–8). Paul described it as becoming a new creation. It is God's work in us to change our hearts and have new desires. We are freed from sin and transformed to be more like Jesus.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Salvation is God's work in which he accepts us, forgives us and adopts us as his child. This brings us into a family of brothers and sisters to engage in God's mission in the world. God also gives us his Holy Spirit. This brings a radical new beginning known as the new birth and a new way of living.

“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16–25).*

## Putting belief into practice

*I will abstain from alcoholic drink, tobacco, the non-medical use of addictive drugs, gambling, pornography, the occult and all else that could enslave the body or spirit.*

*I will be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps, giving as large a proportion of my income as possible to support its ministries and the worldwide work of the Army.*

Becoming a Christian means taking on a radically different way of life and becoming more like Jesus. This is a lifelong work of God in our lives. Over time, the fruit of the Spirit will become real in our lives.

For soldiers in the Army, this includes abstaining from anything that could enslave the body or spirit – and actively committing to the ministries of the Army. These ministries include loving and caring for people in our corps and social mission expressions (i.e. family violence, homelessness, recovery and youth services). Being an active member of The Salvation Army community in the local area means looking to serve and show the love of Christ to others.

## Discuss

- Why is repentance ongoing through our life?
- How have you seen evidence of God bringing about changes in your life as a follower of Jesus?