

Should Anyone Ever Say, “I Am Saved”?

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In an effort to clarify this rather tricky topic, I submit the following statements by Ellen G. White.

The Simplicity of Being Saved

He who will lay hold of Christ’s righteousness need not wait one moment that he himself may blot out his own sins. He need not wait until he has made a suitable repentance before he may take hold upon Christ’s righteousness. We do not understand the matter of salvation. It is just as simple as ABC. But we don't understand it. {FW 64.3}

We Must Be Saved Continuously

Ministers and people, if saved at all, must be saved day by day, hour by hour. They must hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Christ, the illumination of the Holy Spirit. {FE 240.0}

We Should Never Be Taught to Say the “S” Word

Never can we safely put confidence in self or feel, this side of Heaven, that we are secure against temptation. Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved. This is misleading. Everyone should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God’s Word declares, “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried.” Dan. 12:10. Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life. (James 1:12.) {COL 155.1}

Advancement Not to Cease

We are never to rest in a satisfied condition, and cease to make advancement, saying, “I am saved.” When this idea is entertained, the motives for watchfulness, for prayers, for earnest endeavor to press onward to higher attainments, cease to exist. No sanctified tongue will be found uttering these words till Christ shall come, and we enter in through the gates into the City of God. Then, with the utmost propriety, we may give glory to God and to the Lamb for eternal deliverance. As long as man is full of weakness—for of himself he cannot save his soul—he should never dare to say, “I am saved.” {ISM 314.2}

For me, then, the bottom line is that salvation is obtained finally and permanently when Christ returns to take His true disciples home. There are only two ways to be saved: (a) get translated alive like Enoch or Elijah or (b) pass probation and come up in the first resurrection. Remember, too, we are not saved *in* our sins, but *from* them (1888 74.2).

So the next time someone asks, “Are you saved?” consider answering like this:
“By God’s grace, and if I remain faithful to Him and obey His Commandments, relying completely on Christ’s perfect righteousness, I shall be saved at last.”