

There are a lot of seasonal customs that we don't do, but maybe we should be apprised to understand better ...

## Mistletoe

**Mistletoe** is an ever-green plant which produces oval leaves, white berries, and sexual harassment lawsuits.



from Scott Hahn

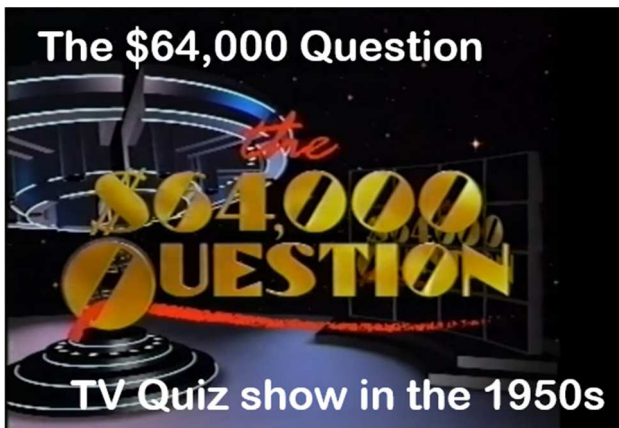


No, you're wrong ...  
It doesn't even go in one ear.

Some marital wisdom from Jim Adler

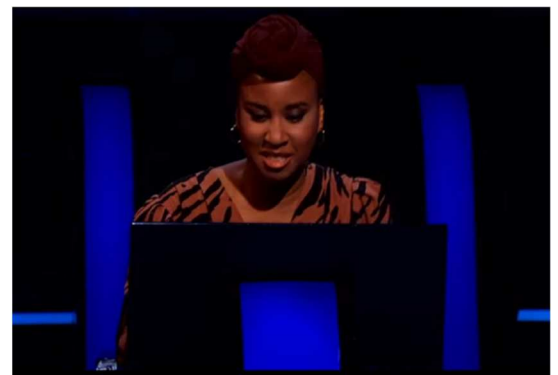


Apparently, it is a common malady for men to miss things their wives say:



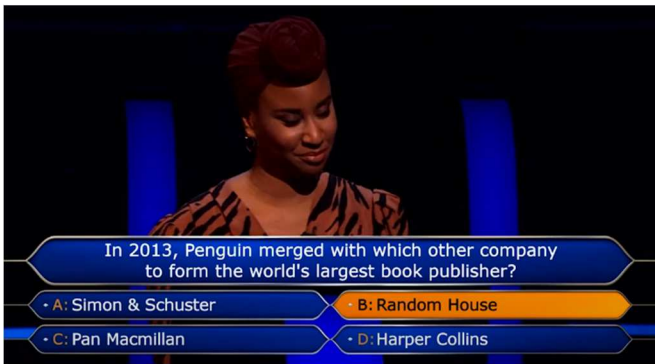
[<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/6X8K2EcMEh8/maxresdefault.jpg>]  
64,000£ Question

The contestant was asked questions only in the chosen category, earning money which doubled (\$64, \$128, \$256, \$512; then \$1,000, \$2,000, \$4,000, \$8,000, \$16,000, \$32,000, and finally \$64,000)



[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_%2464%2C000\\_Question](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_%2464%2C000_Question)]  
If they got the answer wrong, they got a consolation prize of a new Cadillac.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBZ\\_yJB4eyA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBZ_yJB4eyA)  
(2-minute video)



This clip British equivalent show £64,000 = \$81,142  
So, she won the £64,000 = \$81,142!!

There is a MUCH bigger, riskier, more significant question than that which we must all answer.

Ephesians 2.8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God. It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship—created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them.

[Key word: saved.]

The real question: Are you and I saved?



## Outline

1. What does it mean to be saved?
2. How do we enter by grace?
3. What does it mean “through faith”?
4. His workmanship?

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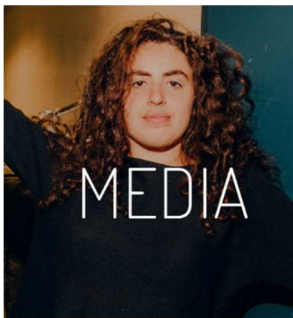
### Cluelessness and misconceptions

If you didn't grow up in the evangelical community, Bible-believing culture, the question, “Are you saved?” seems strange, bizarre.

Saved from what??

**ONE:** At אגודת חיים Ayts Chaim Messianic Synagogue, Rabbi Ira Brawer, the drama team produced *Saved, Shmaved, Who Wants to Be Saved?* which was one of the more serious skits. [\[https://docslib.org/doc/4810476/what-is-theatres-role-as-a-worship-tool-in-a-messianic-synagogue?#pf3c\]](https://docslib.org/doc/4810476/what-is-theatres-role-as-a-worship-tool-in-a-messianic-synagogue?#pf3c)

**TWO:** Marcia Belsky is a New York City-based stand-up comedian, musician and writer.



[\[https://www.marciabelsky.com/about/](https://www.marciabelsky.com/about/)

*I am NOT recommending her. I suspect she is pretty rude, lewd, and crude.]*

*Saved, Shmaved:* Marcia talks about growing up Jewish in the very conservative Christian Oklahoma and shares some of the religious harassment she and her family faced from the locals.

Apparently, harassment about this issue of being saved.

So, if you approach most Jewish people with the question, “Are you saved?”

they will say, “Saved from what?”

J4J had a broadside with this title.

Chaim Malespin talks about his mother, saved from Hamas.

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiIV6VKPV08](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiIV6VKPV08)

*1.19 to 2.22: 1-minute video]*

Chaim's Mom was physically saved, but we all face an unseen danger much greater than that!

Are you saved?



The jail warden in ancient Philippi understood this as an eternal salvation question.

After Paul and Silas had a successful ministry to a demented young woman, those who were trafficking her complained to authorities, and ...

*[Because they were Jews]*

Acts 16.22-28 The mob joined in the attack against them, and the judges tore their clothes off them and ordered that they be flogged. After giving them a severe beating, they threw them in prison,



charging the jailer to guard them securely. Upon receiving such an order, he threw them into the inner cell and clamped their feet securely between heavy blocks of wood.

*[Great response to a ministry service. How would you or I respond? Depression, anger at G-d? Anger at authorities? Plotting to escape?]*

Acts 16.22-28 Around midnight, Sha'ul and Sila were praying and singing hymns to God, while the other prisoners listened attentively. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake which shook the prison to its foundations.

*[I submit that there were two earthquakes:*

- 1. Praying and singing after being flogged and jailed in stocks! Spiritual earthquake. Therefore others listening, maybe in astonishment.*
- 2. Controlled geological earthquake, but selectively engineered, that killed no one, but broke all the locks. Miraculous?]*

Acts 16.22-28 All the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer awoke, and when he saw the doors open he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, for he assumed that the prisoners had escaped. But Sha'ul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We're all here!"

*[Jailer saw the spirit of judgment in the earthquake, apparently.*

*Judgment: heaven and hell. (Also failure before magistrates.)*

*We are under the threat of eternal judgment like that. May have to give account at any time to the GREAT Judge of all.]*

Acts 16.29-32 Calling for lights, the jailer ran in, began to tremble and fell down in front of Sha'ul and Sila. Then, leading them outside, he said, "**Men, what must I do to be saved?**" They said, "Trust in the Lord Yeshua, and you will be saved — you and your household!" Whereupon they told him and everyone in his household the message about the Lord.

Led them outside, away from crumbling jail building.

Applied that jailhouse devastation to judgment on his own soul for sin.

He does two steps.

1. Fell down in front of Shaul implies surrender. Have we surrendered?  
*[Repented of all sin and unholiness, surrendered to the Living G-d and His Son, the Messiah Yeshua.]*
2. Asked and instructed to believe, trust in Yeshua as Lord. He did!

Acts 16.33-34 He took them that very hour and washed their wounds, and at once he was immersed— he and all his household. The jailer brought them to his house and set food before them, and he was overjoyed that he with his entire household had put their trust in God.

Eph. 2.8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.

*[The jail warden was indeed saved!!]*

It has been said that no one knows about their salvation for sure until their end of life.

Mt. 10.22 And you will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end shall be saved.

Mtt 24.12-14 Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.  
*[I would suggest that the word “saved” can be understood in both senses. Hebrew is highly nuanced, more than one way to interpret.*  
*Final salvation and first salvation. One leads to the other.]*

Eph. 2.8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.

este sesōsmenoi

Verb present indicative active

*[Note grammatical terms and abbreviations.]*

ἐστε σεσῳσμένοι

you are saved

**Indicative** mood affirms the actuality of the statement: God loves the world.

V-PIA-2P V-RPM/P-NMP

originates from the subject.

**Active** voice indicates that the subject carries out the action. It

*[<https://greekforall.com/learn-biblical-greek-grammar/present-active-indicative-verbs/>]*

**You presently, really, personally are saved.**

Delivered from eternal destruction and wrath.

Similar to how Chaim’s mother was NOT on bus #4 that faced the fires of destruction [eternal fires.]

*[How do we know? How did the jail warden know?]*

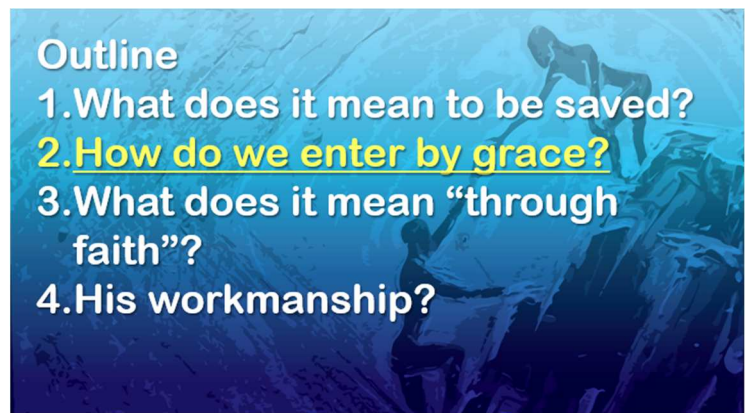
Ro 8.15-18 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, “Abba!” (that is, “Dear Father!”). **The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God**; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him. I don’t think the sufferings we are going through now are even worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us in the future.

*[Salvation or not, heaven or hell. My story April 13, 1969 life, holy fire still burning in my heart today. Not everyone has the same exact history, but Spirit.]*

What about the great men of Torah, Rabbis who just never got it about Yeshua. R Telushkin, Solovetchik, Jonathan Sacks.

Unrecognized mediation is a concept partially true.

Stewart Winograd’s father.



Eph. 2.8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.

**xáris ("grace")** refers to God freely extending Himself (His favor, grace), reaching (inclining) to people because He is disposed to bless (be near) them.

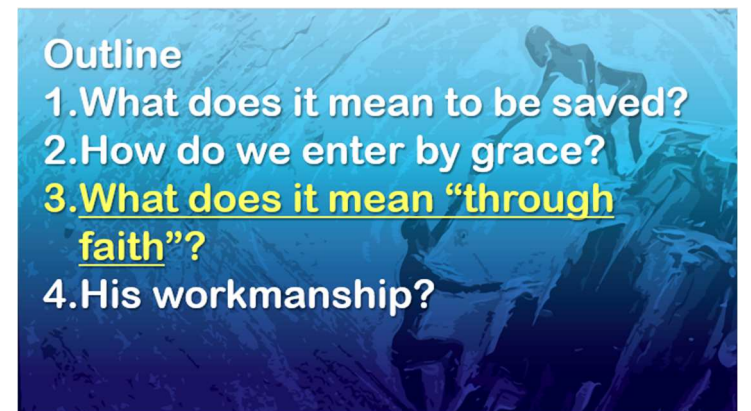
The sun shines, G-d blesses.

[<https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm>]

Ro. 5.6-8 For while we were still helpless, at the right time, the Messiah died on behalf of ungodly people. Now it is a rare event when someone gives up his life even for the sake of somebody righteous, although possibly for a truly good person one might have the courage to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners.

Undeserving, unmerited.

[I did this, I did that. Irrelevant.]



Acts 16.31 They said, "Trust in the Lord Yeshua, and **you will be saved** — you and your household!"

Ephesians 2.8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God.

Some say, the faith is a gift, and I don't have it, so I can't respond. It's not my fault. Greek grammatical analysis:

sesōsmenoi

σεσωσμένοι

saved

V-RPM/P-NMP

Verb - Perfect Participle Middle or Passive

Nominative Masculine Plural

“Saved” is a masculine form of verb

this

not

of

DPro-NNS

Adv

Prep

Demonstrative Pronoun - Nominative Neuter Singular

‘This’ is neuter

faith

N-GFS

Noun - Genitive Feminine Singular

‘Faith’ is feminine

Ephesians 2.8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God.

“saved” grammatically masculine  
“this” grammatically neuter  
“faith” grammatically feminine

### Conclusion

*[Salvation is not from yourselves.*

*Faith IS of yourselves. You can choose to believe, or not.]*

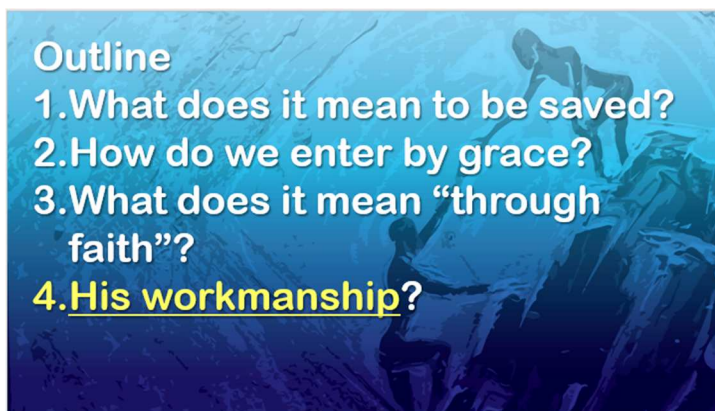
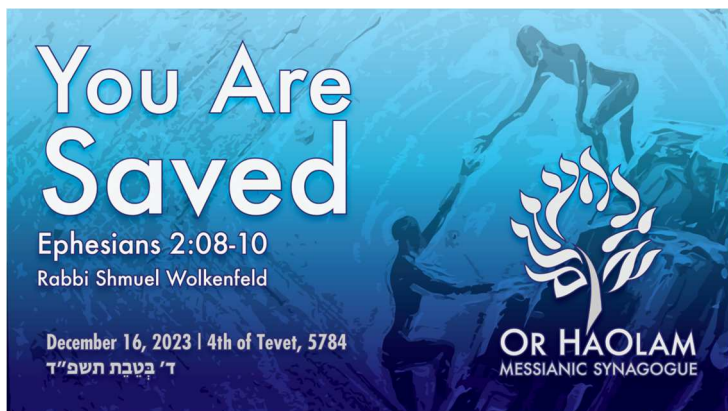
*From Rabbi Barney Kasdan, San Diego, Ephesians*

What about closed hearts and faith?

Acts 16. 13-14 On Shabbat, we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we understood a minyan met. We sat down and began speaking to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in fine purple cloth. She was already a “God-fearer,” and the Lord opened up her heart to respond to what Sha’ul was saying.

Ro 11.25 Stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra’el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness. *[Can believe the dam is about to break, and flee, or scoff and stay. Mt St. Helens scoffs.]*





Eph 2.9-10 It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship — created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them.

*[Walk in them ~Halakhah.*

*How does that play out in years, decades of life?]*

1 Yn 1.7-9 If we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin. If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

*[Growth process. Seeking, praying, disciplines of devotion, special growth ministries: RTF, Henry Wright, Life Model, Ancient Paths, Sozo.]*

1 Yn 1.7-9 If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing.

Mtt. 5.14-16 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Yn 17.3,13-14 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Yeshua the Messiah, the One You sent ... But now I am coming to You. I say these words while I am still in the world, so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world hated them, because they are not of the world just as I am not of the world.

Yn 17.20-23 I pray not on behalf of these only, but also for those who believe in Me through their message, that they all may be one. Just as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You, so also may they be one in Us, so the world may believe that You sent Me.

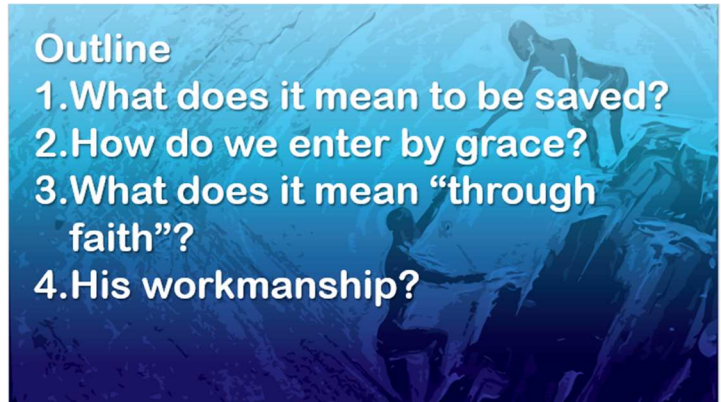
*[Great unity and shalom and forgiveness in the body of Messiah. Starting in our homes and marriages. “A married couple are a pair of forgivers.”]*

Yn 17.20-23 The glory that You have given to Me I have given to them, that they may be one just as We are one— I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them as You loved Me.



1Kefa/P 2.15 For it is God's will that your doing good should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Dvarim/Dt. 5 26 (29) Oh, how I wish their hearts would stay like this always, that they would fear me and obey all my mitzvot; so that it would go well with them and their children forever.  
*[This is why Messianic Jews and Gentiles love the Torah.]*



1. Delivered from guilt and power of sin, like Chaim's mother was delivered from that bus. Witness of the Spirit that you are forgiven!
2. We are undeserving of the deliverance.
3. We choose to believe and receive the message.
4. We walk in the light and grow.