

THE PROCESS OF SALVATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ describes the process of Salvation:

"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

Mark 4, 26-29

Orthodox Christians speak of salvation as a three-fold process:

- 1) We are saved by the power of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection when we received the Christian Mystery (we were "born again") at Baptism,
- 2) We are being saved by the working of the Holy Spirit through prayer, the Holy Gifts (the Eucharist) and all the Mysteries of Divine healing, and
- 3) By the mercy of God we shall be saved for Eternal Life at the Partial Judgment at the moment of our death, being

made worthy by the Life-Giving Word and Holy Tradition. The Holy Spirit, through the Orthodox Church, teaches that attaining everlasting life (being "saved") is a lifelong process and that during our earthly life there is no guarantee that we are saved.

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