

SAVED

I'd like to share a few thoughts with you about salvation. We've all heard Christians talk about when they were saved and about being saved. Webster's definition of the word save is:

To rescue or deliver from danger or harm. To preserve or guard from injury or loss

If I were drowning and you reached in and pulled me out, I would say that you saved my life.

If my house was on fire and I was trapped, and the firefighters came and put out the fire, I would say that they saved me from injury, or death.

This definition conveys the concept of being SAVED FROM a negative situation or circumstance.

Many people whose destructive decisions put them in jeopardy of losing their lives, testify that Jesus saved their lives, when they accepted Christ as their Savior.

Again, their lives were RESCUED FROM some terrible circumstances or death.

In Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 21 Moses told the Jews;

We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.

Moreover, the Lord showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household, and HE BROUGHT US OUT IN ORDER TO BRING US IN, to give us the land which he had sworn to our fathers.

He also told them, that the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN POSSESSION. Deuteronomy 4.20

In the scriptures, Egypt symbolizes bondage to our flesh and the promised land symbolizes the freedom of our relationship with God.

Webster's definition of being saved seems to only emphasize deliverance from a negative situation.

Now, God's salvation does deliver us from destructive situations, and that is a wonderful thing, and is only part of God's supernatural deliverance. The whole purpose of that is to lead us into a personal relationship with Him.

Let's take a look at the original word in the scriptures translated as saved.

Saved in Greek is sózō: to deliver out of danger and into safety; used principally of God rescuing believers from the penalty and power of sin – and into His provision of safety.

This is not just sparing our flesh from destruction.

God's idea of salvation is a full and complete package. It's deliverance from sin's bondage, in order to lead us into an eternal relationship with Him by His Holy Spirit.

And His method for accomplishing this complete and total deliverance is unlike any natural method. He's not out to merely preserve our natural life from destructive circumstances. His plan was to kill our old natural sinful lives inherited from Adam and Eve and give us His supernatural one.

Let's look at the scriptures. Romans chapter 6 verse 3.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

God put us in Christ by His supernatural power and by our death and resurrection with Christ, He killed our old sinful life that only produces death and sets us free to walk in the newness of His life. His life becomes ours by accepting His perfect sacrifice by faith.

The word used for newness of life is the word Zoe, defined as God's life. He kills our life and replaces it with His life.

Let's look at a few more statements of reality from God.

Romans 8:1 amp

Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.

For GOD HAS DONE what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit].

Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [He subdued it, overcame it, and deprived it of its power OVER ALL WHO ACCEPT THAT SACRIFICE.]

Colossians 1.21 amp states;

And although you at one time were estranged *and* alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities, yet now has [Christ, the Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence.

He hasn't asked us to reform our old sinful lives. There is no religious effort required. Just a simple childlike faith in His perfect sacrifice that sets us free.

Colossians 1.18 states, that He transferred us from the domain and authority of darkness, into the Kingdom of His Son.

He brought us out, in order to bring us in. Out from the authority of our natural lives ruled by Satan in this world, into the authority of His lordship as His sons, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ.

Because of Christ's perfect sacrifice on our behalf, and our death and resurrection with Him, He is able to supernaturally rescue us out of the bondage of our flesh, to bring us into His family as citizens of His Kingdom, and save us to the uttermost. The word translated "to the uttermost" means completely perfectly and eternally. Hebrews chapter 7. 25

He hasn't asked us to commit to a life of continual Bible study and relentless attempts at natural behavior modification. We are helpless to free ourselves from the law sin and death. We are just as helpless to walk in the newness of His life with our own natural ability.

Jesus said, my words are spirit and they are life, YOUR FLESH PROFITS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

The Gospel is the supernatural work of God for helplessly bound people that He redeemed back into His family by His own hand.

He's not looking for our best effort to change. He's asking us to trust in His best effort to totally recreate us, and redeem us back into His family, as sons born of His supernatural nature, heirs of His life, and joint heirs with Christ of all things.

God's plan to redeem mankind, His greatest creation, back into His family is supernatural and beyond all our natural comprehension and ability to perform it.

Religion is useless to try to accomplish this. God is the only one who can do the gospel, and He did it for us before we even asked, because He loves us so much.

He supernaturally brought us out of the bondage of our flesh, to bring us into His family as citizens of His Kingdom.

We can now possess the reality of this complete deliverance from darkness, and be transferred into His family as His sons, His heirs, and joint heirs, seated with Christ, because of God's incredible love for us.

Let's accept His perfect sacrifice for us and love Him back like little kids, with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength.

We love him because He first loved us

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

kingdomrealities.org