

Monday 12.13.21 - The Ultimate AWE Factor We ALL Need



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As I have been considering growing more in AWE of God our Bibles are filled with stories about how Awesome our God is. The more I think about and read the record God has given us of His Story showing us He loves us and has done the following we read in 1 Peter 1:3...

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **He has caused us to be born again** to a living hope **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...**”*

I want us to see two things in this passage that will help us be in AWE of Him. The first is that **He has caused us to be born again**. In other words, the fact that you have been born again and in that action caused by God we are now members of His family. Our salvation is the result of God’s choice to save us, and He made that choice before the creation of the world as we clearly read in Ephesians 1:3.

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

So, let’s be clear about why and how we became born-again Christians. God caused that to happen in all our lives. He caused that to happen by His Spirit convicting us of our sin and our need for a Savior. Then He gave us the faith to believe because of His Mercy and Grace...and we were born-again. Our salvation happened because God caused it to happen, and He decided that would happen before He creation of the world.

That in and of itself increases my AWE of God. My salvation is eternally secure because I did not just happen to discover Jesus and thought I might as well give Him a try in my life. No, it was God orchestrating the events of my life that caused me to believe. Apart from His choosing me before the creation and then causing me to believe I would not be a believer.

Because before He saved me I was dead in my sins and transgressions and was by my very nature an object of His wrath as we read in Ephesians 2...

*“**All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.**”*

I am in awe of the fact that God caused me to be born again. I was dead in my sins and transgressions, a follower of the ways of this world, and because of my rebellious nature I was actually someone deserving His wrath. That is the truth and that is the bad news for all of us.

However, in the very next verse we read...

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

So, at some point in our lives, despite who we were and how we were living, God decided it was time for us to be convicted by the Spirit of our sinful state and then He gave us the faith to believe because of His Mercy and Grace. However, there is more in the next verse that blows my mind...

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”

Because of God choosing us before the creation of the world, then giving us the faith and grace to believe even though we were dead in our sins and transgressions we have not only been saved in the here and now...but spiritually we have already been seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. Still in the future but guaranteed in the present.

So here is the AWE factor in all of this. God orchestrated everything because He has always and will always love me...and the same if true for you too. I am not saved because I was smart enough or lucky enough to believe. No, I was dead in my sins and transgressions. And it is only because He chose me, gave me the faith by His grace to believe, and when I was 19 years old in the fall of 1972 **He caused me to be born again.**

I am amazed that I am a spiritually born-again child of God. And then in my new life as a believer I did well responding to His love for me by dedicating the rest of my life to Him. However, I had no idea that my actions...my future sinful deeds that pulled me into a world of sexual brokenness did NOT separate me from God's love for me.

And this is important so pay attention...He knew all the sinful actions I would do in my entire life before I ever did them...before I was even born...before the creation of the world. He knew of my sinfulness and the horrible choices I would make as one of His children wounding my wife and family...but He chose to love me in spite of myself and in spite of my sin.

Which is why I say he began to save me from my sins in 1972. However, now in 2021 He continues to save me not only from my sins...**but from myself.**

If God were fair and just in treating me the way I deserved to be treated as a rebellious and sexually addicted man who made horrible and sinful choices even after I was married...even after I graduated from seminary...even after blessing me with an incredible wife and four marvelous kids, and even after 26 years of full-time ministry as a pastor. And when my sins were discovered, and it was time for me to reap what I had been secretly sowing. He was there to begin repairing the train wreck that I caused because of my sexual brokenness.

My friends...this isn't just my story...in some ways it is your story as well. The brilliance of our salvation is not seen in its beginning...but now in the darkness of our sexual brokenness. Deserving damnation, we remain seated with Christ in the heavenlies. We are being disciplined because a loving Father disciplines the children He loves knowing that in the end we will ultimately be perfected in heaven...forever.

We should all be in AWE of God our Father and His awesome eternal love for us.