

Death to Life: The saving and sending power of God's grace

Acts 19

In Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) it says, *"¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Faith separated from Jesus will leave you separated from God in the end.

Peter builds on a familiar foundation as he preaches Jesus Christ.

Paul builds bridges of familiarity for the sake of presenting Christ.

In 2024 the American church is much more like Ephesus than Jerusalem

Jesus saves, seals, and sends the saints who are his by the power of the Spirit.

The powerful signs of the Holy Spirit are related to the calling and commissioning of all believers to share the gospel and make disciples.

The signs of the Spirit accompany the sending power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

The events in the church at Ephesus give us clarity regarding the radical changes and new life that follow faith in Jesus.

The new life of faith in Christ involves letting go of the old sources of power, comfort, and hope to trust in the grace, goodness, and power of God.

The new life of faith includes letting go of your old identity and loyalties to embrace your new identity and loyalty to Jesus Christ.

Salvation is not the result of a magic prayer or phrase.

Salvation is the gift of God's grace to those who truly and sincerely trust Him by faith in Jesus.

New life means new affections, new priorities, new relationships, and even new rules.

New life is a sign of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life and the church.