

The Full Measure of Salvation: From Confrontation to Calling

When we think about salvation, we often reduce it to "getting saved" or "going to church." But there's so much more to what God has planned for us. Salvation isn't just a moment in time—it's a journey that transforms us completely and gives us purpose.

What Does True Salvation Look Like?

The full measure of salvation follows a path that many of us don't fully understand:

1. Confrontation - We must first be confronted with our sin and our need for God. Without this confrontation, we never understand the depth of our wretchedness or why a loving God created hell.
2. Conviction - Something inside grips us and says, "Something's got to change."
3. Repentance - We turn away from our self-destructive path and turn toward Christ.
4. Forgiveness - Not just a momentary "I forgive you," but Jesus' blood washing away our sin completely—as if we had never sinned.
5. Surrender - This is perhaps the biggest struggle in the modern church. We like forgiveness and the promise of heaven, but Jesus must be Lord, not just Savior.
6. Lordship - Jesus leads our life, guides and directs us.

What Happens When We're Born Again?

1 Peter 1:23 tells us: "For you have been born again, not of seed which is perishable, but from that which is imperishable and immortal, that is, through the living and everlasting word of God."

When you come to Christ, you're not just the old you behaving differently. You died to that old self. It's buried, and you are born anew. All things are made new. We have a tendency to try to wake up the "dead guy" or feel like that's still us—but it's not. He's dead.

Your salvation is:

- Imperishable
- Immortal
- Secure in Him
- Not based on your emotions or circumstances

How Do We Live Out Our Salvation?

Living out our salvation takes work. It's not work toward salvation, but working out our salvation. As 1 Peter 2:1 instructs us: "So put aside every trace of malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander and hateful speech."

If you're still doing the same things you did before you died in Christ and were born again, it's time to stop. This isn't about pretending to be perfect—it's about walking with the One who is perfect and letting Him take you on a journey.

How Can I Grow in My Faith?

1. Read the Bible daily - "Like newborn babies, you should long for the pure milk of the Word so that by it you may be nurtured and grow" (1 Peter 2:2). It's the living Word of God that nurtures your soul.
2. Pray consistently - The veil was torn when Jesus died, giving us direct access to God. Talk to Him throughout your day—not just during designated "quiet time."
3. Worship regularly - Worship isn't reserved for Sunday mornings. Sometimes praise and worship can break through difficult situations in your life.

What Is God Building Us Into?

"You believers, like living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house for a holy and dedicated priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5).

You are part of something God is doing. Your purpose, your plan, your gifts, your talents, your age—who you are is all part of God's plan. If God is in it:

- It's good
- It's going to happen
- He's going to make a way
- It's going to change the world we live in

What Does It Mean to Be a Holy Priesthood?

We are called to be different—to stand out. Not as the "weird one" in the group, but as someone whose life reflects holiness. Everything we do is spiritual. When you die and are born again, your spirit is reborn, so every aspect of your life becomes a spiritual journey.

Our spiritual sacrifices should be done to please God, not to please ourselves, our pastors, or our spiritual heroes. As 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 reminds us, "it is our constant ambition to be pleasing to Him."

Why Is Jesus the Cornerstone?

"Behold, I'm laying in Zion a chosen stone, a precious, honored cornerstone. And he who believes in Him will never be disappointed in his expectations" (1 Peter 2:6).

Jesus is the cornerstone of His church. We must build our lives and faith on Him and nothing else. Like the cornerstone of a building that determines if the structure will stand straight, Jesus is the perfect, unmoving foundation upon which we build everything.

What If People Reject Jesus?

Jesus will be a stumbling block for those who choose to ignore who He is. But we cannot stop sharing Jesus just because people don't accept Him. Remember John 3:16-17—Jesus didn't come to judge the world but to save it.

When we share Jesus, we're not showing people how bad they are; we're showing them the One who can save them and set them free.

Who Are We Called to Be?

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, special people for God's own possession" (1 Peter 2:9).

As believers, we are:

- Chosen by God
- A royal priesthood representing Him
- A consecrated nation set apart for His purpose
- His special possession

Why? "So that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Life Application

The church exists for nothing else but to draw people to God. It's time for all of us to arise and prepare for His return by reaching the people around us. This isn't just the preacher's responsibility—it's the calling of every believer.

Ask yourself these questions this week:

1. Am I living as someone who has been born again, or am I still trying to resurrect my old self?
2. What areas of my life need to be surrendered to Christ's lordship?
3. How am I growing in my faith through God's Word, prayer, and worship?
4. Am I living as part of God's royal priesthood, representing Him in everything I do?
5. What specific ways can I proclaim God's excellencies to those around me this week?

Remember, you are not who you once were. You have been transformed, renewed, and set apart for God's purpose. Live in that freedom and calling every day.