

Good News! The Story of our Salvation Part 6

Please Stand and open your bibles to 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Again, when we came to the end of the book of Matthew, we read the Great Commission...

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

And what has He commanded us to do?

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

So, this is something we better great right as it has eternal consequences.

Good News! The Story of Our Salvation

What is the Gospel?

How is it Preached?

How is it Received?

How is it Received?

- What does it mean to Repent?

- What does it mean to Believe?
 - By Grace
 - Through Faith
 - How to be Born Again
- The Holy Spirit's work in Salvation
 - God's Part
 - Man's Part
- What is Justification?
 - A finished work
 - Forever secured

What Does it Mean to Repent?

- Original Greek Meaning
- English Meaning and History
- Use in Classical Greek and Koine Greek outside the Bible
- A use in the Septuagint
- History of NT Translation of Metanoia
- Context, Context, Context
- The Plague of Works Based Religion

What does it mean to Believe?

- By Grace
- Through Faith
- How to be Born Again

The Holy Spirit's work in Salvation

- God's Part
- Man's Part

We left off last time talking about Jesus telling Nicodemus that a person must be “Born Again”. This is the new birth that happens at the time of salvation. It is a work of God and not man and a subject that is paramount in John’s gospel. We see his progression and use of it starting right away in chapter 1...

John 1:11-13

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

And then in the conversation with Nicodemus:

John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. **So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**”

You see this theme continuing throughout the gospel of John...

John 4:21-24

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the

Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 **God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Later on, at the feast in John 7...

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, **whom those believing in Him would receive**; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus said something very interesting in John 12...

John 12:31-33

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all peoples to Myself.**” 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

We * have to ask ourselves the question “How is He going to do that?”

Turn * to John 14

John 14 is a conversation that Jesus is having with his disciples in the upper room right after the last supper. It was the last night He would be with them, and He was telling them what they needed to hear before He dies on the cross.

John 14:15-18

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

Helper =

Greek – Parakletos, Strong’s #3875

“Comforter”

Para – Along Side

Kletos – To Help

It was also used in Classical and Kione Greek to be a “Council for the Defense” We see it used that way here...

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate (Parakletos) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Jesus said “He dwells with you and will be in you.” This is referring to the fact that Jesus was with them now but when He goes away the Spirit will not just come and be with us but be in us!

Turn over to John 15:26. They have now left the upper room and are on their way to the garden where Jesus will be arrested. In the middle of His discussion of how they will be persecuted he said this...

John 15:26

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Notice that we have a definitive work of the Holy Spirit, to testify of Christ. The Holy Spirit’s job is to testify of Jesus. How * will He do that you ask? Turn now to John 16:5

John 16:5-15

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

So, what have we learned?

The Holy Spirit:

Comes along side of you

Convicts you of Sin, Righteousness and Judgement

Testifies of Christ’s saving work

What’s * is man’s part? Believe and receive!

John 7:39

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

After Jesus was raised from the dead and had appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room it says that this happened...

John 20:21-22

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

For them, this was the moment of being "Born Again". We know that this is supposed to take us back to the beginning...

Genesis 2:7

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

When the Spirit uses the word of God and our conscience to convict our heart, He will then testify of the saving work of Christ and invite us to put our faith and trust in Him. It is the way that God will initiate the relationship. He is knocking at the door, but you must open it. God is a gentleman; He will not force Himself on you. People want to argue over how much of our salvation is God and how much is man. They want to use predestination without the concept of foreknowledge. It's either all God's sovereignty or all man's freewill and no place for both. But the bible teaches both. God saves and we believe. God did not create you to be a robot. Adam had a choice and so do you. Calvinists love the book of Ephesians and use it as their proof text for predestination but as we have seen before they don't take the whole section of scripture into account. Many of these denominations do not take much stock in the work of the Holy Spirit. We can show you from just these two verses all that Jesus taught on the work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation...

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him you also trusted, after **you heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, **having believed**, you **were sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

It all comes back to this...

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (Trusts in, Relies upon, Clings to) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

In the book of Revelation Jesus is writing the church in Laodicea and rebukes them for their apostate behaviors. It is a picture of the church today. But it is also a picture of the unbeliever today. Especially to those in America that think they have God when they don't. Here was a church in name only with no Jesus inside. Here is what He said...

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

He is knocking on the door of your heart today. That is the call of the Holy Spirit leading you to Christ. Your job is to respond and put your faith in Him.

If the Holy Spirit is knocking on your heart today, open the door!