

SMALL GROUPS

Key Scripture

Hebrews 2:1-3 - "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation..."

Key Takeaways

1. The Greatness of Our Salvation - Salvation is not just a past event but an ongoing relationship with all the benefits of God's kingdom.
2. The Danger of Neglect - Most Christians don't reject God; they neglect Him by leaving things undone and failing to cultivate their spiritual life.
3. The Difference Between Losing and Leaving - We don't lose our first love; we leave it through our choices.
4. Working Out Our Salvation - Taking our salvation to its ultimate conclusion means experiencing the fullness of what God has for us.
5. The Call to More - God wants us to press into His presence and experience more of Him than we did yesterday.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The sermon emphasized that salvation is not the end but the beginning. How does this perspective change the way you view your relationship with God?
2. What does it mean to "neglect" your salvation rather than reject it? Can you identify areas in your spiritual life where you might be guilty of neglect?
3. Pastor Ron mentioned that "truth heard time and time again and not acted upon may be more dangerous than truth not heard at all." Why would this be true? Have you experienced this in your own life?

Going Deeper

4. The sermon referenced Samson not knowing "that the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him" (Judges 16:20). How can we guard against becoming so comfortable in our routines that we don't notice when God's presence is fading?
5. What's the difference between "speaking Christianese" (saying the right things) and genuinely walking in relationship with God? How can we tell the difference in our own lives?
6. Pastor Ron talked about Moses keeping the veil on even after the glory had faded. In what ways might we be tempted to "pretend" that everything is okay spiritually when it isn't?

Personal Application

7. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your spiritual hunger right now? What factors have increased or decreased your hunger for God?
8. The sermon asked: "Do you want to be closer to God than you were last year? Last month? Last week? Yesterday?" How would you honestly answer this question?

9. What specific practices or habits could you implement to cultivate your spiritual life rather than neglect it?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

Option 1: Daily Encounter Set aside 15-30 minutes each day this week for uninterrupted time with God. No agenda, no requests—just worship and being in His presence.

Option 2: Action Audit Make a list of spiritual truths you know but haven't acted upon. Choose one and create a specific action plan to apply it this week.

Option 3: Veil Removal Identify one area where you've been "pretending" spiritually. Confess it to God and to one trusted person, and ask for accountability.

Option 4: First Love Recovery Reflect on what your relationship with God was like when you first came to faith. Write down what has changed and what needs to be restored.

Reflection Exercise

Take 5 minutes of silence for personal reflection. Consider these questions:

- What is one thing the Holy Spirit highlighted to me during this discussion?
- What is one specific step I need to take in response?
- Who can I share this with for accountability?

Prayer Time

Group Prayer Focus:

- Pray for hunger for more of God's presence
- Pray against complacency and spiritual neglect
- Pray for genuine encounters with the Holy Spirit
- Pray for the courage to act on what we know to be true

Prayer Partners: Break into pairs or groups of three. Share one specific area where you need to stop neglecting your spiritual life and pray for each other.

Closing Thought

"Holy Spirit, You're all we want. Come rest on us."

Remember: God doesn't want us to endure what He has for us—He wants us to enjoy it. Salvation is meant to be experienced in fullness every single day.

For Next Week

- Practice your chosen application daily
- Journal about your experiences seeking more of God's presence
- Be prepared to share one way you moved from neglect to action
- Read Philippians 3:7-14 (Paul's pursuit of knowing Christ)

Leader Notes

- Be vulnerable about your own struggles with spiritual neglect
- Create a safe space for honest confession without judgment
- Emphasize grace while challenging people to growth
- Follow up with group members during the week
- Celebrate small steps forward in spiritual disciplines