

## **Disciple 101 Chpt 3 Salvation**

Opening prayer and comments on what God has been doing in your life in the last week.

Entering God's kingdom, which is not of this earth, involves a step that starts a transformation process of your 'spiritual man' and affects your outward or natural man as well. It is like being adopted into a wealthy family as a small child. While in principle you hold a share of the family business, you must grow up and mature to participate in a meaningful way in the family responsibilities. Not everyone does this.

John 14:6 (memory) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 (memory) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

The question is; What is involved in this process and how does it take place?

Brief testimony by someone who has experience in this "Being saved" – a few minutes.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again'. The wind blows wherever it pleases, you hear it's sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Comment on whether you have sensed the Spirit of God working through what people have said or done in the past.

John 17:17 (Jesus) "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Sanctification is a process of being set apart and cleansed spiritually by God. It is a work of his Spirit in you. Comment on above passage as it pertains to drawing close to God.

John 6:45 (Jesus) It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God'. Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

Discuss what this means in regards to "listening" to God by his Spirit. Consider –"to receive and believe".

John 6:63 (Jesus) The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life.

Can you comment further on the last passage? When you accept and change your heart and view on some concept in God's will, what are you receiving?

Down through the centuries God has inspired different authors to write down a testimony of what he has done through people that followed him, both good and bad. As this testimony is read and spoken, his will and Spirit must be heard and understood today. He, then, will reveal himself to those who listen.

Seeking God is not an intellectual exercise but one of the heart and discipline of the mind. God causes your spirit to respond to his Spirit in your heart.

Discuss what you understand about the above statements at this point in time.

Romans 2:12-15 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed when Gentiles who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness...)

Most people of the world follow some set of religious principles and hold to a core set of values. Those who seek righteousness try to live by these ideals but recognize they fall short and require mercy from God.

Discuss the above principles of "righteousness".

Luke 18:10-14 (Jesus) Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Discuss what this means to us today.

We can describe the level of righteousness in a man as compared to the height of a tree. Let's say the righteousness of the average person is like a 50 foot tree. Let's say someone who has selflessly devoted their lives to serving God among the poor is like a 200 foot tree. Perhaps some people are like small bushes. There is a big difference. What amount is righteous enough? What does it all look like from a plane at 30,000 feet? It is the state of mankind.

Romans 3:23 (memory) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Comment on the concept shown above.

God is giving us grace and mercy through Jesus if we will recognize and accept it.

Consider what should be prayed for to help draw closer to God in regards to what is shown in this study.