

Discipleship 101 Chapter 05 Salvation 3

Salvation – the step of faith

Opening prayer and insights from the week

This time, before starting, someone should lead in a prayer for something more. Ask the Lord for greater sensitivity in hearing his voice and that he reveal himself in a greater way. You should be used to agreement in corporate prayer now.

Romans 9:30-33 What shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith, but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Romans 10:5 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: 'The man who does these things will live by them.'

Discuss how we try to be righteous in our everyday lives by some code of conduct or religious rules.

Romans 8:1-4 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of Life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

If we are not following a set of laws, then what are we following?

Romans 8:9 (memory) You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

God's Spirit gives us a strength from the inside to overcome our old nature. This strengthens as the presence of God's Spirit increases within us. It may be weak in the beginning but God desires to build you up. Is this needed in our lives? Discuss your understanding of this.

Romans 10:20 And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."

Romans 8:15, 16 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Now take few minutes to consider in silence what God has been doing in your heart since the beginning of this Study. You are listening to what God is wanting of you. After a few minutes, carry on.

Revelation 3:20 (memory) Jesus speaks – ‘Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me.’

This may apply to those who have never known the Lord or those who have but have gone their own way in life and desire the closeness of God again. It’s a call to pledge their hearts to him again. Again consider a few minutes in silence where you stand on this – then move on again.

Romans 10:8-10 But what does it say? The word is near you; it is in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (memory) ... and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’, except by the Holy Spirit.

Take a few minutes to reflect on these passages. Not everyone is in the same place spiritually. Not everyone is going to respond the same way or at this time. There will now be a special time for the Ministry of the Holy Spirit for the group. Each should be encouraged to participate in this but only as they feel able.

Now, set a chair in the middle of the group. People will go one at a time to sit and be prayed for by other members of the group. Each in turn taking a few minutes or words in prayer for the one seated. The ones praying or just agreeing in prayer can gather around. No one has to touch the one being prayed for but you may extend your hand out over them. Before you start someone should lead in a prayer asking God for guidance for group while praying for each other.

When you are ready as a group to start, get one volunteer to go first in the seat to be prayed for. Each one will later take a turn. If someone declines, it is ok. They can participate in agreement in prayer and observe. The volunteer sits in the chair and relaxes to allow God’s Spirit to do what it desires in them. This person should be sensitive to what they feel God’s Spirit is doing and comment on this at the end of prayer. Not everyone will experience the same. This person should voice in a few words what they desire God to do in them or lead out in a prayer themselves.

The ones praying around the seated person should consider what that person voices that they desire God to do in them but also consider if they feel God inspiring in them to pray for something more that God desires to do in them at this time. Each one who wants to pray should do so in turn so each one has a chance if they feel to do so. The agreement to the prayer by the others adds strength to it.

Some things to pray:

- Some may want to be strengthened in faith or relationship with the Lord.
- Some may be ready to ask Christ into their lives as Lord and Savior.
- Some may want filling with the Holy Spirit and have ‘gifts’ given for service.
- Some may want to overcome struggles they are having in life.
- Some may want healing from some illness or sickness.
- Some may want to be freed from an ‘evil’ spiritual influence in their lives.

Discuss experience as group after the group has finished being prayed for.