

What It Means To Be Saved

Part 3

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James 1:5 tells us ---*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”*

There are some people who get the teaching of the Truth, and do not mean to make much progress; they have not found out the reason for this. If we lack wisdom--if we do not know what is the matter with us, we have the blessed privilege of going to God and receiving the knowledge and enlightenment that we need. (James 1:5) When we ask God what is the matter with us, He will show us, impart the wisdom needed, and also reveal to us how to remedy that trouble.

He will never show us our lack without giving us the supply for the victory. He will grant us His Holy Spirit, His special agent here on earth; He will fill us with righteousness.

Satan has no right to attack us or blockade us unless we allow him to; we have a Blood-bought right to have whatever we ask for, and Satan cannot blockade us without our consent, and he cannot remain a moment longer than we give our consent. What a power there is in our power of choice. Choosing the Blood of Christ, we have our destiny in our hands.

Deuteronomy 30:19, *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live!”*

Let us consider Solomon. God asked him to make one request-- just one. We can make many requests; we are privileged to ask until our joy is full; but poor Solomon only was allowed to have one request. Just think of the promises we have. Solomon had one request.

1 Kings 3: 5 & 9, *“In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.... Give therefore thy*

servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?” (1 Kings 3:5,9)

This request pleased, God, for He said---*“And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked, the life of thine enemies; but has asked, for thyself understanding to discern judgment.”*

“Behold I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.”

If we ask wisdom of God first, He will add everything else that we need.

You hear people saying— “I cannot stand against the devil.” All right, seek your room again.

Hebrews 4:15-16, *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

We still have the same God today; anybody can come to His throne and be pardoned and cleansed.

“Be careful for nothing;” --in every detail of Christian life--do not worry or be anxious about anything. Not even if you are terribly sick.

Satan suggests that we should see the best specialist--a special tool of Satan would be a proper rendering.

It does not state any such thing here in the Bible. In Exodus 15:26 God Himself said, *“If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.”*

Isaiah 53:5 *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*

It does not make any difference whether it be your spiritual, physical, financial, home life, business life, church work, etc., the first step is--- *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”* (Philippians 4:6)

From a needle point of trouble to a world of difficulty.

“But in every thing by prayer and supplication,” “Tell your troubles to another person” ---No! no! *“With thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

What does that mean? To open your heart without reserve to God telling Him all the trouble from beginning to end, telling Him the whole thing, all about the worry.

“Open your heart without reserve to God.” Then what will happen?

“And the peace of God,”God’s own peace will take the place of all that made our troubles.

Many religious teachers teach that we are to have peace inside--our peace is to flow as a river--even though we are worried to death and burdened by troubles, overwhelmed with trials, our wives or husbands are seriously oppressed, our children sick. These religious teachers say that you can be oppressed in body yourself, be poverty stricken, cast down, and still have this great peace within!

It can be upsetting or sad when we hear people talking like that. When we get God’s peace inside, we will not need to care what Satan is doing, because he will not be able to reach us on the outside either.

When we are trusting God in all things, we can take our stand and say that Satan’s oppressions must stop right where they are, and we do not need to stand them a moment longer.

“When a man’s ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.” (Proverbs 16:7)

When we get God’s peace within, it will affect our body, our spirit, our soul, our finances, our home, our Christian work; everything will prosper, everything on the outside is affected because it flows from the inside out.

Solomon said---*“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* (Proverbs 4:23)

God’s peace, real peace is perfected unto victory..... *“but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”* (1 Timothy 4:8)

“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.” (Psalm 37:5-6)

That is found on the outside.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

A literal translation of this verse is, “Do not worry a moment about anything, big or little, great or small,”--- or---“in everything that concerns us, by prayer to God alone, pleading and opening our heart and telling God everything about it; and God’s own peace shall put us in union and keep us in union with Jesus Christ.”

This means to keep us in union with Jesus Christ even as the branch is in union with the vine. That is what happens when we enter into the beautiful part of dealing with God. What a confidence we receive as a result of that dealing.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.” (1 John 5:14,15)

That word “confidence” does not mean “faith” in this instance, but it means “boldness,” that we can have this “Nerve” in dealing with God. That we can travel this far and be dead sure of this much that if we ask anything in accordance with His will, we know that He heareth us.

There are those who say---“Well, how do you know it is His will, when the leper said---‘If it be Thy will,’ you must say the same as Jesus did!”

The poor leper had never seen a church, never heard a sermon; all he had heard was that Jesus Christ was healing people. He was a very ignorant person, especially concerning Divine things. Jesus told him that if he could believe, He would heal him.

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That is something worth knowing. That is dealing with God.

Hezekiah prayed one prayer, when there was a great army after him, which was going to take his people to destroy them.

“Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, The Lord will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.....But they held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.” (Isaiah 36: 14,15, &21)

That is an excellent way to do when Satan tries to argue with us.

Hezekiah had received this letter at the hands of the messengers. He gives us a wonderful example of how to pray. He did not pray over and over again. We find all the prayers in the Bible to be short and to the point.

“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.” (Matthew 6 :7)

“And Hezekiah prayed unto the Lord, saying O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. Incline thine ear, O Lord., and hear; open thine eyes, O Lord, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.”

He really believed that God was real and that He would answer his prayer. Many people do not have any more faith in God than a post.

If we believe what He says in His Word, our troubles are ended, but if we think that we have a different God, if we conjure up in our minds some other kind of a God, we have no more faith than a post.

We have a real God, One Who can read letters just as anybody else can. He has eyes and ears. Beloved, if we believe in the real God, we will have real results.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Hezekiah prayed to God and told Him what he really believed he was.

Do you believe He has made anything? If we believe that, we are an improvement over the average professing Christian. If you believe that God has made the Heaven and the earth, as Hezekiah did, you will have faith for everything you need, and your prayers will be answered like a snap of the finger.

If we really would study about what God has made and meditate upon it, we would not need to worry one bit about our deliverances.

If God could make a man out of the dust of the earth and a woman out of a rib--He actually took a piece of bone five inches long and a half inch thick and created a woman--and even numbers the hairs of our head, could not such a God instantly deliver us and grant us perfect healing or anything else we may need? It would be a travesty to think He could not.

God help us to believe that He is a real God, a real Being; that He really did make Heaven and earth. That He really did make man out of the dust of the earth and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in the balances, and measured the waters in the hollow of His hand.

The supposed distance from the sun to the earth is 93 million miles; just think, God measured such a distance with the span of His hand.

