

## THE POWER OF GOD AS IT RELATES TO SALVATION

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John 6:35-51

1. Here we find Jesus surrounded by a great multitude.
  - a. Many were following Jesus because of the signs He was performing. 6:2
  - b. Others were attracted to Him because He had miraculously fed them. 6:26
  - c. A few were there because they realized that Jesus was the embodiment of God's message and method of salvation. 6:66-69
2. We need to understand that it is possible to identify with Jesus Christ without a genuine work of grace having taken place. John 2:23-25  
Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. 24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.
3. A person's identification can be:
  - a. Cultural.
  - b. Selfishly motivated.
4. Just prior to our focus passage Jesus had spoken about:
  - a. The food which endures to eternal life. 6:27
  - b. The work of God. 6:29  
"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."
  - c. The Bread of God. 6:35
  - d. The blindness of most of the people. 6:36
  - c. The eternal security of those who truly believe. 6:37-40
5. Our salvation is secure because our salvation is of God.

### **I. Our salvation is dependent upon the grace and mercy of God. 6:44**

- A. Outside of Christ every human being is:
  1. Spiritually dead. "And you were dead in (by reason of) your trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:1
  2. Spiritually blind and unable to comprehend truth.
    - a. 1 Corinthians 2:14  
But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
    - b. 2 Corinthians 4:3-5  
And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
  3. Spiritually enslaved.
    - a. Held captive by the Devil to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:26
    - b. Walking according to the course of this world, according to the Prince of the Power of the Air. Ephesians 2:2
    - c. Prisoners in the Domain of Darkness. Colossians 1:13

B. God is able to:

1. Impart spiritual life. Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

2. Impart light. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

3. Impart freedom. Colossians 1:13-14

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## II. Our salvation depends upon our hearing and learning from God. 6:45

A. The Apostle Paul taught that we hear and learn from the Father as the Holy Spirit applies God's Word to our hearts and minds.

1. Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

2. Romans 10:17

So faith come from hearing, and hearing by the word of (concerning) Christ.

3. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

B. Paul conducted himself accordingly. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 **so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.**

C. Paul encouraged others to take the same approach. 2 Timothy 2:23-26

But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, **if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,** 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

### III. Our salvation is dependent upon our response to God's activity in our lives. 6:47

A. It is God who convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment. John 16:8-11

"And He (the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."

B. It is God who grants repentance.

1. Peter declared this truth to those who had forbidden him and others to stop preaching in the name of Jesus. Acts 5:29-32

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.

31 **"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.** 32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

2. Look again at 2 Timothy 2:25.

C. It is God who enables us to respond to the Gospel.

1. On the Day of Pentecost, as Peter preached, the Holy Spirit did His work and the people responded. Acts 2:37

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

2. As Paul preached to a group of people in Philippi God convicted a woman named Lydia. Acts 16:13-15

And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and **the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.** 15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

### APPLICATION

1. I am grateful that, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

2. I am also grateful that God seeks us, enlightens us, and enables us to respond to the Gospel.

3. I am grateful that His promise is sure to all who repent and believe. Romans 10:9-13

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.

4. Lastly I am grateful that we can be God's instruments in the lives of others.