

## **Now That I'm Saved, How Have I Changed?**

*But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God... The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:10,14)*

God has spared no expense in order to save His people. He became a man (Jn 1:14), shed His blood, resurrected, ascended to heaven, and even now guides us through the Holy Spirit. Even so, most people do not understand what salvation means.

### **1. What are the wrong views of salvation (not true salvation)?**

- 1) Some mistakenly believe that just by having a religion, one can be saved (Jn 3:1-10). Religion, however, is not the gospel because it is the creation of man. Even though man intends to do good, the unsaved cannot do good and even his "good deeds" are not considered good in God's sight. (All those who serve on a pirate ship, no matter what "good" they do, are doing evil in their service to piracy).
- 2) Some mistakenly believe that just by going to church as church member, one can be saved. It is like what Jesus spoke of in Mt 12:43-45: church attendance can be sinful work that only piles up more burdens and makes things worse.
- 3) Some mistakenly believe that by being devout and zealous, one can meet the standard of salvation. Do you remember that zeal of the Pharisees? Are not Buddhists also zealous? The result of this zeal is only emptiness and failure (disappointment).
- 4) Some mistakenly believe that by holding strong convictions (philosophies), one can be saved. These convictions bring ridiculous results, and when they are alone they feel like a failure.
- 5) Some mistakenly believe that by memorizing and reciting scriptures and religious chants and by praying, one can be saved. These produce only temporary, outer change, but not permanent, inner change. In Mt 11:28-30, Jesus explains the solution to their burdens and invites the weary to come to Him.

### **2. Then, what is the true condition of being saved?**

- 1) There is inner (spiritual) change.
- 2) The Holy Spirit dwells within and governs us.
- 3) Ro 8:2 says that life is the Holy Spirit, Jn 3:3-5 says we cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless we are born again by water and the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Jn 14:16-17 says the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, can neither leave us nor be cast out from us.
- 5) When we understand the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,
  - (1) We understand that this Holy Spirit accomplishes our salvation and fulfills the law (Ro 8:2,4,9).
  - (2) We come to know God's will, blessings, and grace (1 Cor 2:10-14).
  - (3) We come to know that we are the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16).
  - (4) The Holy Spirit guides us who are weak (Gal 5:16-18).
  - (5) He leads us in peace (Jn 14:26-27).
  - (6) He leads us in peace (Jn 14:27).
  - (7) He answers our prayers (Ro 8:26).
  - (8) He works out all things for our good (Ro 8:28).

### **3. How can I become saved?**

- 1) I must abide in Christ. "Abiding in Christ" and "Jesus' life in me" are the same.
- 2) In other words, it means I must be born again through water and the Holy Spirit (born from above).
- 3) There is only one way (Jn 3:14-16).

### **4. There are four changes for those who have new life (Holy Spirit).**

- 1) Spiritually, their family register changes (children of Satan to children of God). Jn 8:44 -> 1 Jn 3:2 (Jn 5:24)
- 2) Their spiritual status changes (slaves to sin to servants for God, free from sin). Ro 6:17 -> Ro 6:22
- 3) Their life condition changes (death to life, both physically and spiritually). Eph 2:1 -> Eph 2:5
- 4) The one who leads their lives changes (Satan to Spirit). Eph 2:2 -> Gal 5:18

### **5. How does God treat those who have new life?**

- 1) He will never abandon them, but will guide and sanctify them (Jn 14:16,26; Gal 5:16-18).
- 2) No one can destroy them. Let's confirm this in Ro 8:31-39.