



Reverse the Curse Week 3 | Rescue

| KEY THOUGHTS

- God has told us how we can have a personal relationship with Him, and also the implications of that kind of relationship in our daily life; it leads us out of religion and into freedom.
- **Salvation comes at the moment of genuine belief in the message about Jesus Christ.**
 - Religious exercise only separates us from God; it doesn't move us one bit closer to Him.
 - The invitation to salvation is wide open to anyone who believes.
- **Salvation can come no other way.**
 - Substitutes abound, and they can be very sneaky.
 - Some ways we commonly think we can gain God's acceptance, but really can't: being good enough; saying a certain prayer; being baptized; following the Ten Commandments (which no one can really do anyway); feeling spiritual.
- **Genuine salvation is not something we do to earn God's favor, but is a supernatural transaction accomplished by God in us.**
 - We don't deserve and can never earn God's grace, but He gives it to us anyway.
 - It's all because of God's kindness, generosity, mercy, love, and goodness.
 - Jesus was God in human flesh; He died to pay for my sin. When I believe that, I'm forgiven.
- **What separates genuine faith from everything else is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian;** if you don't have the Holy Spirit living within you, you are not God's at all.
 - There are many evidences of the presence of the Holy Spirit, but some are:
 - Fighting against sin in our lives;
 - Awareness of God's presence;
 - Being in a process of gradual transformation.
- The fruit of the Spirit reflects the character of God, and that's in sharp contrast to the fruit of the flesh.

| SCRIPTURE

Galatians 3:1-14 (NLT)

John 6:29 (NLT)

Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

Titus 3:4-8 (NLT)

Galatians 2:3 (NLT)

Romans 8:14 (NLT)

Galatians 5:18 (NLT)

Romans 8:11-14 (NLT)

| PRACTICAL

- We're not only saved by faith, but after our salvation, we walk by faith; this is supernatural as well.
- How can we walk in step with the Holy Spirit? By saying "Yes" to Jesus continually. That is, when...
 - we cross the line of faith initially;
 - we're baptized in obedience to His command;
 - we read the Bible and pray.

We'll know the Spirit is active within is when...

- we recognize a change in our lives;
 - we experience freedom from addiction and obsession;
 - we become consumed with the desire to know God;
 - our relationships change with people, money, time, etc.
- As we say "Yes" to Jesus, our hearts are changed, and God's character begins to ooze out of us.

| REFLECT

- Have you ever had a friend who, like the Apostle Paul, can't help but tell you the truth in love? Are the warnings of that kind of friend worth listening to?
- The Holy Spirit doesn't force us to do what He says; when we resist Him in our lives, the Bible calls that "quenching" the Spirit.
- When we resist the Spirit, we grieve the Spirit, because He wants what's best for us, and resisting Him can only lead to sorrow.
- Jesus didn't come to give us a new set of religious rules, but to give us hope for an entirely new kind of life.

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