



Salvation's Kinship

The relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus Christ has always intrigued me. These cousins (through their mothers) both had miraculous conceptions and births. John leapt in Elizabeth's womb when he recognized the presence of God's only Son in Mary's womb. Each of their ministries mirrored and complimented each other, but most impressive to me is that their persons were the express image of God's redemption plan for all humanity.

The Bible teaches us that there are two separate and distinct works in the Plan of Salvation, as ordained by God before creation. For a person to have a conscience void of offense and a pure heart before the Lord, he or she must be Converted and Sanctified. The fifth chapter of Romans lays the groundwork for mankind's lost state. The twelfth verse educates us that "by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin." Because of Adam's disobedience and rebellion, death has passed upon all men. The sinful, or carnal, nature is inherited by each of us when we are born into this world. This carnal nature is an enemy to God and makes us fleshly. Our life is corrupt and yields corrupt fruit, much like an apple tree yields apples. It is only by the power of God that this nature in us can be changed, and only you can allow it to happen.

The first work is repentance that yields forgiveness. This work of mercy is represented in the life and mission of John the Baptist. He was absolutely necessary in the preparation for the Christ. Just look at the last prophecy written in the Old Testament: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:5-6).

Here we see the first work. A turning of our hearts. A sickness over our sinful, disobedient, and unholy life. What did John the Baptist do? He preached the baptism of repentance for what? Or in preparation for what? The remission of sins. John preached to "prepare ye the way of the Lord." The baptizing in water was an outward sign of an inward work. The washing and cleansing of a person's heart happens when they place their faith in the sin-erasing blood of Jesus through repentance. Romans 6 tells us that when we are baptized into Jesus Christ, we are baptized (fully immersed) into his death. We are buried with him (Jesus) by baptism into death. Dying is hard. Dying to yourself and your ways: it is not easy but necessary. Without this death there is no resurrection.

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"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

- ACTS 1:8

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*"When the Holy Ghost descended,
They were all of one accord,
In the uppermost room assembled,
All waiting on the Lord.*

*Oh, Lord, send the power,
just now,
Oh, Lord, send the power,
just now,
Oh, Lord, send the power,
just now,
And baptize every one.*

*Our fathers had the old-time power
And you may have it, too;
It was promised to believers,
What He has promised, He will do."*

- CHARLES D TILLMAN

TIDINGS

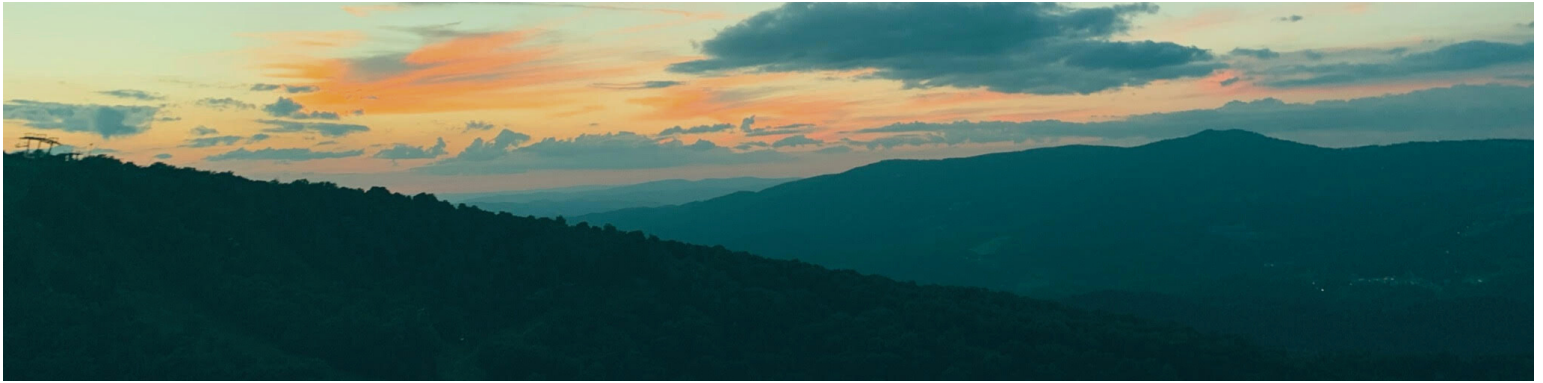
Now, in this state of forgiveness, a heart is cleansed and prepared for God's Holy Spirit to dwell, or live, inside of him. This second work of grace is Sanctification! This is newness of life! We become new creatures in Christ Jesus when we ask the Savior through faith to come into our hearts. Now our lives are hid in Christ, and all we had to do was ask in faith.

Look closely at Jesus' ministry on earth: the blind received their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf can hear, and the dead are raised up! The healings of Jesus were outward signs of an inward work. Christ in you, the hope of glory!

And since we died to ourselves and we are buried

with Christ in similarity to His death, now God raises us from the dead works of sin just as He performed with His Son on resurrection morning. We've been planted together with Jesus in the likeness of His death, so that we can be in the likeness of His resurrection. Our old man is crucified with Christ. For what purpose? That the body of sin might be destroyed, that from this point forward, we should not serve sin. "*And now being made free from sin, and becoming servants to God, you have your fruit unto holiness, and in the end everlasting life.*" (Romans 6:22)

- **Bro. Jay Williams**



Like Jesus

To earn daily bread with the work of your hands,
To be one with the low of all classes, all lands,
To stand for the truth when no one else stands,
This is to be.....like Jesus!

To spurn the parade and the pomp of the scribe,
To throw off the fetters of the temple and tribe
And win the free soul that laughs at each jibe,
This is to be.....like Jesus!

To leaven the life with the unselfish deed,
To hoard not a treasure but scatter like seed
That will grow to be harvest which multitudes
feed,
This is to be.....like Jesus!

To prefer the pain of the heavier load,
To follow the rougher and steeper highroad,
Where the outcast and sinner have made their
abode,
This is to be.....like Jesus!

To endure discomfort and poverty's lack,
To live with the friends who are foes to your back
And welcome the torture of tyranny's rack,
This is to be.....like Jesus!

To pity the wealthy, the sleek, and the great,
To give kindness for cruelty, forgiveness for hate
And then gladly accept the criminal's fate
This is to be.....like Jesus!

To turn from success with its glamour and gloss,
To lose the world's honor, and welcome the loss,
To turn down the triumph and take up the cross,
This is to be.....like Jesus!

- **V.G. Burns**

From "The Comforter," January 1962

God's GPS

We lived way out in the country about 30 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee. One Sunday afternoon in June 1965, we were sitting in our yard visiting with friends when a car with five men appeared. Brother Joe Vaughn, his son Jerry, Brothers Otho Cox, Danny Norman and Henry Price were searching for a place to erect a tent to hold church services. We later learned that Donnie Robuck and a group had headed in another direction looking for a place. After many crooks and turns, Brother Joe felt that the level knoll at our entrance was the perfect spot.

They explained their belief in the doctrine (holiness) of two works in the plan of salvation. First, the forgiveness of sins, then sanctification which is the eradication of the carnal nature and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They asked for permission to erect the tent for a couple of months and my husband readily agreed! Being raised Southern Baptist and having never met any Holiness people who lived what they preached, I was skeptical! Also, they stated there were no paid ministers and they never passed a collection plate; I couldn't imagine!

The next week, at the first service, our family (my husband Roy Sr., 3 years old daughter Joy, 2 years old son Rosh, and I) sat out of sight in the dark on upturned buckets and listened to a gospel that we had never heard. At the next service, we went inside and continued attending until they removed the tent as everyone was going to their annual August Camp Meeting in Perry, Georgia.

We had grown close to them as so much love was shown to us and we really missed their meetings. Upon their return home, we began attending the Memphis congregation of Christ's Sanctified Holy Church. They advised us to read the scriptures behind them and I found First John to be very helpful and easy to understand - *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* (1 John 3:9)

Conviction in my heart was very strong and I got sanctified December 10, 1965. It was truly a miracle and what a change it made in my life! We read of so many miracles in the Word but when the Spirit comes in our heart and gives us the "keeping power" to live holy - to me that is one of the greatest miracles.

The next year, Leon and Ruthie Stewart took us to Camp Meeting. We stayed in the Dormitory for \$20/week and walked to Burnice and Minnie Simons' cabin for breakfast each morning.

I am so thankful for the divine love, peace and joy that comes with sanctification. Finally, when life is over, the gift of God is eternal life! I love and appreciate "our folks" and feel so thankful that they found us - *"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things"* (Romans 10:15).

His GPS (God's Positioning System) brought the Gospel directly to our doorstep.

- **Sis. Peggy Bennett**

**"It is the old-time power, which our fathers' hearts did fill,
It made them love their Savior, and delight to do His will."**

- CHARLES D. TILLMAN



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TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED
HOLY CHURCH

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

- 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13