

# God Rescues & Perfects Willing Souls-2

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A recent message emphasized the importance of our being rescued by God from the 'sin of Adam', the control of Satan, and also having the 'self-life' exposed and taken from our heart **by God**, after we have made a final surrender of our life to Him (which allows Him to remove 'self-trust' from our life). God enables a truly surrendered soul to reverse Adam's sin of trusting on efforts of the 'self-life', get back to God, and learn to trust and depend on Him for every need and Scriptural desire in our life. He also teaches us to allow Him to avenge wrong treatment done to us or to our family, and we could never express in words the true value of the spiritual blessing of learning that lesson. To be treated mean by somebody, is a spiritually valuable place for us to be in if we meet it according to God's Word, because God uses every circumstance when met right to prepare us for Eternity.

True 'believers' are fortunate, however, to have this 'principle of Truth' made clear to them, because God affords them that privilege. "Jesus therefore said to those of the Jews who had now believed in Him, "As for you, if you hold fast to my teaching, then you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free." (John 8:31-32).

God's Word describes perfect examples of that Truth for us to follow in our personal commitment and 'life of trust' on His Son, the power of His Atonement Blood sacrifice (and His resurrection to Life). It shows us by example how we are to allow God to teach us to depend on Him to right the wrongs done against us. The second chapter of 1st. Peter is like a road-map example for us to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, for us to reverse Adam's sin and get back to depending on God to avenge us. (Vs. 20-21), "For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and

suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called," (notice that promised spiritual blessing for bearing wrongs patiently), "because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:" (what privilege it is for us to have Christ's example to follow in our life like a road map to Eternal Life).

(Vs. 22-23) tell us exactly how Jesus acted, and how He did not even respond when he was mistreated. "He never sinned, and no deceitful language was ever heard from His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not answer with reviling; when He suffered, He uttered no threats, but left His wrongs in the hands of the righteous Judge." Jesus trusted God to right His wrongs, and to make things go right for Him. Any misunderstanding of how to meet things in God's way is drawn aside, as these verses give us the exact path that we are to follow when we are wronged in our life. To walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ is a most exalted and valuable place to be.

When those adverse circumstances arise in our life, it is a priceless privilege and opportunity for us to die to 'self', and to get rid of resentment and worry (which hinders our faith). It is a privilege to trust on God to rebuke the devil, and to make that other person act right toward us and treat us right.

The home is the best place for rapid spiritual growth in our life (the late Pastor said). It is also the place for us to die to the self-life and get back to trusting God by reversing Adam's sin (of using self-efforts to have things the way we want it to be). A wife may not do a domestic chore the way we had wanted it to be done, or maybe spoiled a meal she was cooking, or spent more money than we wanted her to spend (using money that we had wanted to be used for a certain purpose). She may take an attitude about things in the home that would disturb our peace.

However, these are the things we are to learn to trust God for, that is, to make every member of our household to act and do as we would want them to do. We are not to get that cooperation via our fault-finding, growling and striving (by human means) to have things the way we want them to be. Rather (just as Jesus set the example for us), we are not permitted one word of censure nor fault-finding and God will cause things to work out beautifully. If God can find one person in a household that has died to self and

Satan (to that extent), God's peace will rest upon that home.

When the Lord appointed the seventy and sent them out by twos, He told them (Luke 10:5-6), "But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' "And if a 'son of peace' (or 'lover of peace') is there, your peace will rest on it."

That is the way God is with us. He will go ahead of (and all the way) before us, to make things the best that He can for us, if we will stop using self-efforts to control circumstances and other people and loved ones in our home (at the workplace, or elsewhere). We just need to have faith that God will control things for us.

Regarding matters of our faith Jesus said, that if we only "had faith as a grain of mustard seed." (Luke 17:20) "I solemnly declare to you that if you have faith like a mustard-seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Remove from this place to that,' and it will remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you."

We would think that anyone could have that much faith on God, (and we will have faith, and we can get a knowledge and understanding of the Word of God), so that it will be done for us, and nothing will be impossible for anyone who will truly place their trust on God (instead of grumbling and striving by self-efforts to have things the way we want it to be). God will make it delightfully easy for us to have Him to control everything for us if we will get ourselves out of the way and allow Him to do that. We don't always realize that in the beginning of our Christian life, but God is merciful and patient with us, and He will use every circumstance that He can to convict and bring us to repentance.

The story (most all of us have read) about Peter, and James and John (the sons of Zabdi) and the huge draft of fish they caught (which God used toward convicting them of the life of self-trust), was just the beginning of them following God's Word in a life of trust on Him, and of them reversing the sin of Adam. When God used that miracle to convict, Peter said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" That was the best thing Peter had ever found out about his true spiritual condition, because it exposed the unbelief of 'self' in his heart. It was the beginning of a successful Christian life of obedient trust on God, and the beginning of his preparation for

Eternal Life. It proved to be the first step in him (and others) getting back to trusting on God (and it was in a matter of temporal concerns).

There is no greater spiritual choice (no 'shorter cut' to get back to God and into the image of Christ), than there is in making "a financial trust on God decision." It was the beginning of the right road on the narrow 'path of trust' for them.

The end results of God's workmanship, God's teaching His people and preparing us for Eternal Life, is well-illustrated in the third chapter of Daniel. There were three Hebrews (besides Daniel) who were surrendered to God, and they had surrendered to do His will unto death. They had settled it that no person nor thing would cause them to disobey God, nor to trust in anything or anybody but Him. They had a few tests (just as we will have tests in our life until we are willing to make a final commitment of our life to God), and they became victorious in faith, as they got victory each time.

However, they still had to meet a supreme test. The Emperor made a golden image and said that everyone who wouldn't pray to that image (wouldn't worship and trust that image for things they wanted) would be cast into a fiery furnace seven-times hot.

It was the worst predicament they could ever be in, being told they had to disobey God by trusting in something besides Him. That would have been a fundamental disobedience of God's command not to have any idols in our life by trusting on some-thing or person besides Him. That devil-controlled king's penalty in that instance for not disobeying God's command to worship only Him, was, to be burned to death in the king's seven-times hot furnace.

This shows us how determined the devil is, to get us to depend on something besides God. That's why the devil devises so many plans and policies today to deceive us into accepting and signing, and to cause us to place trust in something other than God. They are all serious efforts of the devil who inspires those laws, plans, and policies, just as he inspired the king's un-Scriptural law with a 'fiery furnace death' as the penalty.

Now we can understand why the devil tries to get us to help ourselves instead of trusting on God to provide in His way and time, and why the devil has the so-called Christian world depending

on everybody, every thing, plan, or policy, but God. That shows that they are under the total control of the devil because he doesn't even have to build a golden image or a fiery furnace for them. The devil has made it so easy for them that they are delighted to follow him, and they readily agree to the plans and policies that he has inspired and instituted in order to deceive them. Since the so-called Christian world is so delighted to follow Satan's inspired plans, it doesn't even make any difference to them what trouble comes their way, they simply follow the devil's plans closer than ever before. We can see this happening all around us, so we must pray each day for God to enable us to see through the devil's deceitful security programs. That is why Jesus told us to pray each day (Matt. 13:6) "And lead us not into temptation, but "deliver us from evil" (or) "the evil one."

However, those three Hebrews had made a final surrender to do God's will unto death. They boldly defied the king's unscriptural law. What a great principle of Truth that is for us! Any law that conflicts with the Word of God, we are not to obey it if it costs us our life. That includes vaccination laws set forth by the Government to force people to depend on the medical world, or joining labor unions and following their laws and guidelines (which insist that people trust on them to control employers), instead of trusting God to make our employer to be fair and considerate in their treatment of us; also laws forcing people to sign up with insurance companies to protect their financial assets and interests, and rationing laws set up by the Government to try to assure people that the Government will see that they can get things that are needed. All of these plans of Satan are similar to (or forerunners of) someone accepting the 'mark of the beast' in order to be allowed to buy or sell in the 'end times' to come (which seem to be coming fast upon us, as indicated by many circumstances in the world today).

The three Hebrews refused to go against God's will, and they were reported to the king, who didn't believe that anybody could be so foolish as not to worship the false god he had made, with a death penalty for not obeying his law. The penalty for not obeying vaccination laws, insurance laws, or joining a labor union, do not even compare to the death penalty that the three

Hebrews faced for living up to God's Word and commands not to place trust on anything or anybody but Him. The heathen king was sure that he had made the best god in the world (a golden image), and that to worship it as he commanded, was the best and only thing for anyone to do. That is what 'self' and 'the devil' had done to his mind so much so, that he arrogantly demanded that everyone obey his laws and decrees. Compulsory labor unions, membership cards to supermarket purchasing programs, health and medical insurance, automobile, and property insurance laws put forth (some of which are enforced by the Governments today), all have that same 'principle of Truth and Trust' involved with them, as they are all forerunners to the 'mark of the beast' that is to come and could be very soon, and which will force people to sign up to purchase things through Government enforced programs.

These 'compulsory laws' 'tests' that we have to meet Scripturally in our life, are to prepare us and our families to Scripturally meet that bigger test which is to come. Indeed, we want children and grandchildren to meet these tests Scripturally today, so they will be prepared to meet that bigger test that is coming on the Christian world and on all other people.

The 'Scriptural stands' of uncompromising 'faith and trust' that we must take, in regard to these tests we are faced with today, do only pale in comparison to the 'Scriptural stands' that a true Christian will have to take in regard to the 'mark of the beast' (and other laws to be put forth by the anti-Christ) destined to come into this world and control it by the power of the devil as the Holy Spirit will not be present on earth at that time, to influence and guide people to follow Christ as explained (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess.2:7-12), "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason, God will

send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Today's laws pale in comparison, because the penalties are not nearly as severe (for not joining 'labor unions', supermarket 'purchasing programs', nor obeying compulsory health, medical, automobile, and property insurance laws). We are simply put in a spiritually valuable 'place of trust' on God to provide; another job for us when we will not join a labor union, make up the financial difference for us when we do not become members of a 'purchasing club' (or program), nor obey un-Scriptural health and financial insurance laws, because we will not sign on (so to speak) with a compulsory law that would take our 'place of trust' away from God.

Those three Hebrews had made a final surrender in their heart to trust on God for all things in their life, and to allow no idol to come between them and God, so they refused to go against God's will (regardless of the king's penalty for not obeying his law).

That wicked, arrogant, heathen king (Nebuchadnezzar) was so astonished that anyone would defy his law, that he said (Daniel 3:14), "Is it true (or even possible), Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods (or worship the gold image which I have set up?)" The king must have thought, perhaps they hadn't understood his law, so he gave them another chance. He said (Dan. 3:15) "Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good."

The devil was determined to trip up these men, but what a God-inspired answer they gave him. Only an out-and-out fully surrendered Christian could give it, but it is the answer every true Christian would have to give. They answered, "We are not careful to answer you, O King." (In other words, we do not have to wait for the next service). "The God that we serve is able to deliver us and will, 'BUT IF NOT' (that was the road back to God, their final decision not to give in to an un-Scriptural law of the king's government, and it was their final test on their road to give their life fully back to God). They

said, "we won't bow down to your golden image, or bow and worship the god that you have set up."

The king was furious and commanded his strong men to bind the three Hebrews and throw them into the fiery furnace, where the flames were so hot, they killed the soldiers who threw the men in. But these three men (who refused to follow the un-Scriptural laws of the king), walked in the fire without being harmed. Their hair was not singed, nor was the smell of fire on their clothing. They had passed their final test and reached the end of their 'road back to God'. They had reversed Adam's sin (in their own life). No more trouble in their life after that, and no more attacks of the devil.

That is the place God is trying to bring us to in our life. The place where all things work together for good for those who love God, and who will not allow any thing, person, or plan to come between us and our love for (and our trust on) God. That's the end of our personal road back to God in our life, perfection of our faith on the power of God, and it all depends on whether we trust in God, (or, on the deceitful plans of Satan-controlled men who have not learned to trust on God).

After many years in the Christian life (the Pastor said), we have not heard of, nor have we seen or ever knew of a single organization that allowed God to reveal to them, this 'seat of sin' and 'Satan's control', (that of depending on human help, plans, and policies instead of God). Only God alone could ever teach us the purity of this great Truth that He has revealed to us. True religion is our only hope of Eternal Life, and that is; to get back to where our trust is on God alone for everything that concerns us in this present life.



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