



Voice Ministries

OUR SAVIOUR

Reading: Acts 4: 5-13

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

As I listen to the various comments made by people about speaking of Christ, it often seems to me that there are distinctly differing understandings about Him, so much so that I am sometimes led to question whether the particular individual speaking at the time actually knows the Jesus Christ of whom I am so aware in my life. I hear comments from people that appear to limit the power of Christ to the parameters that they feel comfortable with. Many seem to feel that the power of the cross has slowly diminished, and that the miracles of healing that happened during the period of Christ's earthly ministry can no longer happen. Still others question the relevance of Christ's ministry in today's society, making the comment that "Times have changed". "Things are so different now from then," they say, "with all the advances made in medicine and science."

To these people I ask the question "How are they so different that you think that Christ has become irrelevant?" are times so different now that sin is no longer a problem in the world, or are things so different that mankind no longer needs Salvation? Is it possible that man could consider Jesus redundant because there is no longer a need for repentance, acceptance and redemption? Is mankind so ready to serve God that miracles have become so commonplace that they are no longer recognised?

The Jesus whom I recognise in my own life is One who is so full of love and compassion that He gave up His life for all of mankind, and that includes me. He did so that we all might be redeemed through the shedding of His precious blood upon that cross at Calvary. He gave up so much because God, His heavenly Father, ordained that it should be so, despite the fact that Jesus was His only Son. God does not ask us to give up our lives in the same manner as Christ, for death has been conquered, but He does ask that we accept what Jesus did, and believe that he died for us in order that we might be saved from the sin that we were born into. When we accept the sacrificial nature of Christ and confess Him as our Saviour, then we will die to the old self and be re-born. Our second birth is a spiritual birth, one which changes us totally on the inside, affecting not only our own lives but also the lives of others. We become new beings in Christ. This does not mean that we remain the same as we were previously but with an added dimension that we can wheel out as the occasion demands. To serve the Risen Christ is to serve with all of our heart, with all of our being, giving our



selves entirely unto His will. The more that we serve God through Jesus then the more we will desire to do so.

Once we have truly accepted Jesus Christ into our life then we no longer need to be bound by the things of our past life. There is power in Jesus and in His wonderful name to transform anyone, to heal anyone, both in body and soul. If only you recognise Him as God's sacrificial Lamb, as God's beloved Son who had all the sins of the world laid upon Him, as the One who has paid the whole price for sin in full and final settlement in order that we might be redeemed and set free, then you can enter into your inheritance of Salvation. You can do this in the full knowledge that the purchase price has been paid in full for a new life of power in and through His name.

We need to realise that we can never limit God's power in truth. We can only limit it in our own lives due the weakness in our own faith and lack of vision. Real power is always there to those who submit themselves totally to the will of God. We need to recognise that we serve God in order to glorify Him through the achievement of His plan for the world. In this we become co-workers with Christ, serving God in the name of Christ. The more that we walk in His path and do His will, then the more that we will desire to, and the greater our faith in Him will grow. The closer that we draw to God through Jesus then the farther away from the forces of darkness we'll go. I'm saddened when I hear of Christians who doubt the reality of Satan in this day and age. They feel that, because they have accepted Christ as their Saviour, then they will be left alone by Satan, free for evermore from attack. Nothing could be further from the truth! Because they have accepted Christ they will come under even greater attack. However, because we are new creatures in Christ, living according to His grace, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit in our lives to help us to withstand Satan's attacks. We can put on the spiritual armour that God has equipped us with, knowing that in the strength of His name we will be able to withstand temptations when they come and stand firm against the powers and principalities that are mustered against us.

Nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ. In his letter to the Romans, Paul stresses this, quoting from Psalm 44, verse 22. ***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?***



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Just as it is written, 'For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered sheep to be slaughtered.'

But in all these things we were more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in the whole of creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8: 35-38). Not that the difficulties that we come against are tremendous obstacles to the true believer, but His appointed way for us to grow in faith. Through our experience in dealing with things we grow in faith, for as we persevere under trial, so we are blessed. The Bible teaches us that it is ***Through many trials and temptations that we must enter the kingdom of God*** (Acts 14:22). We will not only be conquerors in Him, but through Him we shall be more than conquerors; ***But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us*** (Romans 8:37).

For many it would appear that the full measure of the gospel message remains hidden from view due to hard hearts, critical attitudes, and unforgiving natures. How can anyone expect to benefit from the full measure of God's love if they are unable to show true Christian love to others? How can anyone expect to receive forgiveness if they are not prepared to forgive others? We are taught to love one another in the same manner that Jesus loves us, yet we respond to the teaching by trying to qualify it in our lives. Critical and unforgiving attitudes will hinder faith quicker than anything. Without faith we are devoid of hope, and without hope there is nothing: ***For in hope we have been saved*** (Romans 8:24). Cleanse yourselves before God, repenting of anything which binds you to this world, for it's only when we're able to present ourselves to Him completely that we can experience all that He has to offer us. I believe that a great many people would receive His healing touch in their lives if only they could submit themselves to Him totally, and believe on His promises. All too often we hear comments about people who do so much good and who only mean well, and yet who suffer the disappointments of this world. What they fail to understand is that if they remain in the world then they will receive only what the world can offer. It's only when we walk a path according to God's will, and through Christ, that we'll reap the joys and benefits of His love. There's a need to search through our past, bringing out everything into the light for cleansing. So often people harbour grudges which lie al-



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most forgotten at the back of their minds, things from the past that only serve to paralyse their faith in the present. Once these things are exposed to the light, then Christ will wash them away if we present them in repentance to Him. The precious blood of Jesus will cleanse us totally when we believe; and it's when we believe with all of our being that God will fill our lives with His Light: ***By His stripes we are healed*** (Isaiah 53:5b). Until such time as we are able to believe totally, trusting God in and for everything, then we will still be held captive by this world, chained to it by our unbelief. There will still be links that hold us just as strongly as if they were made of the strongest metal. As long as we are so held then we can never experience the full joy that freedom in Christ brings.

I started by commenting upon the difference between the Jesus that some people speak of in comparison to the Jesus that I have come to know, trust and love. What's your conception? Are you still bound by the things of this world, with hidden things in your life and unforgiving attitudes? If you are, then I challenge you to hand them all over to God through Jesus Christ, in whom you can place all of your trust. Lay all of these things at the foot of the cross and step out fully into the Light. God wants us to be like Jesus; pure, holy and humble, Christ in us. If we believe that all of His promises are true, and that they apply to each of us, then we can be just as He wants us to be.

Amen