

His Presence
(Week 2)
What It Means To Be Saved

SMALL TALK

1. Tell us about a time when you felt rejected or banished?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Genesis 2-17 and 3:4.** On the surface it appears that what God said did not happen (Adam and Eve lived many more years). How do we know that the devil was the deceiver and God was telling the truth?
3. How did Adam and Eve “die” that very day they sinned?
4. **READ 2 Corinthians 5:8, Luke 9:59-60, and 1 Timothy 5:6.** How do these describe physical death for the “saved” believer, and spiritual death for the “lost” unbeliever?
5. **READ Romans 8:11.** Describe what Paul explains in your own words.

GETTING PERSONAL

6. So what does it mean to be “lost”? What does it mean to be “saved”? How do you know if you are “saved”? (Hint: In 1 John 5:12-13, the Apostle John says you can “know.”)

PRACTICE!

Devote Daily: While you seek his “face” / “presence” daily this week, thank him for his “saving” work of the cross and resurrection. Confess anything not surrendered to his saving work so that the Holy Spirit can apply it to you?

May 2, 2021

His Presence--(Week 2) What It Means to Be Saved

Adapted from , Adrian Rogers “The Power of His Presence” chapter 3: “Never Home Alone”

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: Saved By A Mother’s Embrace

In December of 2003, a deadly earthquake struck the ancient mud brick city of Bam Iran. The whole nation was reeling under the devastating news as the city of about 90,000 people was under rubble. The death toll had climbed approaching 26,000, and 30,000 others were injured. That is more than half the population! Can you imagine? Rescue workers and family members worked for hours looking for lost loved ones. As time went on, uncovering body after body, the hope of finding any one else alive was fading, but 37 hours into the rescue efforts, a six month old baby was found alive deep under the rubble of a collapsed building. What saved her? She was cradled in the arms of her mother who had obviously enveloped her baby like a human shield. This little baby was alive because her mother gave her own life to save her baby girl.

In the same way, Jesus “Saved” us. The word “Saved” is an important Bible word to understand. It is used over 100 times in the New Testament alone. We need to ask ourselves, what exactly does being saved mean for us? What are we being saved from? What does that look like?

Let’s begin by looking at the first use of the word “save” in the New Testament. It was spoken to the very distraught fiance of Mary who was pregnant. Now Joseph knew it wasn’t his doing, and Mary’s explanation seemed so far fetched he just had no words. What was he to do?

Matthew 1:20 (CSB) But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David,

don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:21 (CSB) *She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him **Jesus** [the meaning of his name is “Yahweh saves.”, and why this name?], because he [JESUS] will **save** his people from their sins.”*

Jesus is “**God to the rescue**”, “**Yahweh saves**”, “**Savior**”, “**Deliverer**”, but in what sense will he save? Joseph was told, **He will save us from our sins!**

Ultimately there will only be two categories of humanity. The lost or the saved.

Are you sure you know which category you are in? Are you lost? Or are you saved? And what does it mean to be saved? These questions are the most important questions we could ask. These questions are a matter of life and death! And I mean in the ultimate sense. This isn't just about life and death, but eternal LIFE versus eternal DEATH. Eternal death according to Jesus is not a state of non-existence, but something worse than that!

You may or may not believe this yet, but I hope I have your attention to consider what I believe are revealed truths about a reality we would not know without it being revealed to us by special revelation. But these revelations are backed by evidence. Evidence like eyewitness accounts to miracles, and to the resurrection of Jesus!

Today we will consider two categories. The category of being spiritually lost, and the category of being Saved and how it relates to our series theme “His Presence”.

Are you ready?

I. **LOST** means **DEATH** from the **INSIDE OUT**

Death from the inside out first began on the day Adam and Eve first sinned. And now we jump forward to this remarkable statement from Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (CSB) For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Jesus came as a man, the new Adam, to reverse the curse, and undo the damage for those who will look to him as their savior!

Now let's ponder what it means to be lost, and how it happened.

Genesis 2:16–17 (CSB) And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

They ate it anyway! But as you keep reading here is the oddity: they went on living for a very long time. So, did they die that day? Or was the serpent telling the truth.

Genesis 3:4–5 (CSB) “No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

It sounds like God lied, and Satan told the truth, but that is NOT the case if you keep reading. The answer to the question, “Did they die that day?” is Yes indeed, they did. It is very important that we understand how they died.

They died spiritually that day.

Here's what we read:

Genesis 3:8–10 (CSB) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

Here's what happened: **Adam and Eve sensed spiritual death that day, but didn't know what happened! [describe]**

Although they didn't understand it, they immediately knew something had dramatically changed. They felt naked. Yet their nakedness on the OUTSIDE had not changed. They were naked on the outside before. But now, they were somehow naked on the inside, which changed everything about them. Before their sin, they were in union with God as they were designed to be. They had a walking, talking, united fellowship with God. As images of God, God was shining through them upon their world. And they loved God, they could see him. They could experience him. Their human spirits were designed for this as they experienced God's presence in them, and with them in every way. They were fully alive. God was to them like a warm blanket covering them on the outside, their shield and protector, and a secure and settled peace on the inside. They were like children without any fear, without a care in the world, and without stress. God was their God, there was nothing to stress over.

The moment they sinned. Something inside of them changed. What was that? God had to move out. Lights out! God has no fellowship with darkness. They could not explain or articulate it. They wanted to hide. They felt naked. They were ashamed. Their human spirit was now naked without God's Spirit, and they were now Spiritually Dead, a completely different creature.

The judgment that day also moved from the inside to the outside! They were then banished from the Place of his presence.

Genesis 3:24 (CSB) *He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.*

On the day they sinned, they died spiritually. God had moved out! And they were banished from His Presence and the tree of life.

This was actually merciful on God's part. Can you imagine? What if they remained spiritually dead apart from God and lived forever...that's Hell. God had a plan to repair what they had broken.

What is Spiritual death? Spiritual death is separation of our human spirit from God's presence. It began that day. They were spiritually dead! And so all of humanity inherited this condition of the human spirit from Adam and Eve.

Did you know that Jesus refers to lost people as the walking dead?

Luke 9:59–60 (CSB) Then he said to another, "Follow me." "Lord," he said, "first let me go bury my father." ⁶⁰ But he told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God."

They are still physically alive, but spiritually dead.

What is Physical death? Physical death is separation of our human spirit and soul from our body, and this happened because of the banishment from the place of God's presence and the tree of life. Heaven and earth have been separated ever since, but God had a plan...

Dawn Puleo died Wednesday morning. But, because she was saved by Jesus, and made fully alive spiritually, what we read from Paul describes her experience.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (CSB) In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Dawn Puleo was SAVED by Jesus. Are you?

II. SAVED means LIFE from the INSIDE OUT

Saved: God Moved Back In!

God is the one that made this possible.

***Romans 8:11 (CSB)** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.*

Salvation is not merely about getting people from Earth into Heaven. It is also about getting God out of heaven and back into people!

adapted from Adrian Rogers, "The Power of His Presence" p. 41

Jesus came for this. He embraced us in his outstretched arms on the cross, enveloping us in his protective mercy and grace. He died in that embrace in the biggest cataclysmic earth shaking judgment upon humanity. He took this judgment upon himself, though we were the ones who deserved it. He voluntarily absorbed this judgment for us, to shield us and protect us, and release us to life, through his death!

The victory of his cross and resurrection are applied by his atoning blood first, then resurrection power of the Holy Spirit moving back in as a result! God's design for humanity, for you and for me, was restored by Jesus! We are saved! This is from the inside out. Spiritually first, and physically after that.