

REVIVAL NEWS

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SALVATION - A Journey to know the Father

Salvation is not merely a prayer to save you and give you an assurance of heaven when you die. Salvation is believing and receiving Jesus into your heart (**John 1:12**), being born again by the Spirit of God (**John 3:5-6**). It is a revelation of Christ, who is God in the flesh (**1 Timothy 3:16**), coming into your very heart and making His home in you (**John 14:23**). It is a journey and revelation of coming to know our heavenly Father in Christ (**1 John 2:23**), the *'express image of His person'* (**Hebrews 1:3**). Salvation is all about being reconciled to God (**2 Corinthians 5:19**) and growing to know Him *'who is from the beginning'* (**1 John 2:14**). **When you know Jesus, you know the Father! This is eternal Life! This is why we are saved!**

Jesus came into the world to declare the Father and make Him known to us. ***"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him"*** **John 1:18**. Jesus spent so much of His time testifying to His disciples and teaching his disciples about His Father in Heaven. This is very important for us to see as we come to understand that Salvation is all about a journey to know the heavenly Father!

THE SON TESTIFIES OF THE FATHER - from the Book of Matthew

1. **Glorify Your Father** in Heaven - **Matt 5:16**
2. **Be sons of Your Father** in Heaven - **Matt 5:45**
3. **Be perfect just as your Father** in heaven is perfect - **Matt 5:48**
4. **Your Father in heaven** rewards you openly - **Matt 6:1,4,6**
5. **Your Father who is in secret** - **Matt 6:6**
6. **Your Father knows the things you have need of** - **Matt 6:8**
7. **We pray to 'Our Father in heaven'** - **Matt 6:9**
8. **Your heavenly Father forgives you** - **Matt 6:14-15**
9. **Your heavenly Father feeds you** - **Matt 6:26**
10. **Your Father in heaven gives good things** to those who ask Him - **Matt 7:11**
11. He who does **the will of My Father** enters the Kingdom of God - **Matt 7:21**
12. It is the **Spirit of Your Father who speaks** in you - **Matt 10:20**
13. **Our confession and testimony of Christ before men comes before our Father** in heaven - **Matt 10:32**
14. **The Father is Lord of heaven and earth** - **Matt 11:25**
15. **All the Son has is from the Father** - **Matt 11:27**
16. **The heavenly Father is the One who plants us** - **Matt 15:13**
17. **The Father in heaven is the giver of revelation** - **Matt 16:17**
18. **Drink of the cup anew in My Father's Kingdom** - **Matt 26:29**

The gospel is not a gospel of a “re-location” (to heaven) but of a “revelation” (of the Father).

I began my Christian journey believing that I was saved just to ‘go to heaven’, and to do my best to get others to heaven too. However, I always knew in my heart that there must be something more to ‘being saved’. I was hungry to know God and I began to seek Him, and as I did, I found Him. The Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ entered my heart (**Ephesians 1:17**). My eyes were opened, and I began to see and to know Christ, the Son of God, and as I saw the Son I saw the Father! (**John 14:9**) Salvation is now! Eternal life is now! It is not something we have to ‘imagine’ what it will be like later. **Eternal Life is knowing the true God(1 John 5:20).**

There is One God and Father

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:6

In this letter, the apostle Paul is writing to believers. He is establishing with them that there is only one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith and one baptism. He then makes a very awesome and bold confession, *“There is one God and Father of all, who is above all, through all and in you all”*. The one God is the one Father of all! There are three specific things that Paul mentions about our Father of all.

1. **The Father is above all:** *“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?” Malachi 2:10.* He is above all. The Father has everything in His hand and all authority comes from Him (**John 5:26-27, John 14:10**).
2. **The Father is through all:** *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” Romans 1:20.* The Father is through all and we can see His ‘invisible attributes’ in His creation. His mark is on all His works. He is through all.
3. **The Father is in you all** – Finally, we need to come to know the Father in us (**John 14:20**). Salvation is like the dawning of the sun. There is a growing revelation of the Father in our hearts. The Father is in Christ and the more we allow this revelation to dawn in us, we shall see the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, *“a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” 2 Peter 1:19.* Knowing the Father in us causes us to walk as sons of God (**1 John 3:1**).

Jesus is the Way to the Father

John 14:6, “Jesus said, I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”. The one God and Father that Jesus declared and testified of, can only be known and revealed in the Son. This is a great mystery. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life; to come to the Father. The Bible does not say Jesus is the Way ‘to heaven’. **He said that He is the way to the Father.** Salvation through Jesus is to bring us into a relationship with God as our Father. Jesus is a revelation of the Father to us. *“When you see the Son, you see the Father” (John 14:9).*

Jesus is the Truth of the Father

The Words that Jesus spoke were not His own words. They were the Father’s words. *“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is*

everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak" (John 12:49-50). When we receive the doctrine of Christ we have the Father! *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son" 2 John v9.*

Jesus is the Life of the Father

The Father has life in Himself, and He has granted the Son to have life in Himself (**John 5:26**). The Life that Jesus has given to us, is the Life of the Father. Jesus said, *"As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me" John 6:57.* Jesus lives because of the Father! *"The life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us" 1 John 1:2.* Eternal life is with the Father. The Son came to manifest this life, so we too can enter in. Hallelujah!

Jesus came from the Bosom of the Father

"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" John 1:18. What does it mean that Jesus came from the 'Bosom of the Father'? Jesus came from the heart of the Father, the most intimate place of the Father. From this place the Son came forth and declared Him. There is a deep love of the Father that we are to come to know, and that Jesus came to declare and release in us (**John 17:26**).

Jesus and the Father are One

Jesus declared in **John 10:30** that *"I and My Father are One"*. Jesus is not a separate 'person' to the Father. The Bible never says that there are '3 persons'. Jesus is *"the express image of His (God's) person" (Hebrews 1:3).* There are numerous Scriptures that confirm that Jesus and the Father are One. In **John 8:42**, *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me"*. Jesus did not come of Himself. He is not separate to the Father. He is the express image of the Father. That is why Jesus could say to Philip, *"Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

It is shocking to think that Philip, who had been with Jesus, believing in Jesus and following Jesus, had missed the most important revelation of God. He was looking for the Father as a 'separate person' and not seeing the Father in Christ. Sadly, there are many, just like Philip, who are still looking for a revelation of the Father separate to Jesus. Jesus and the Father are One and as we see the Son, we see the Father.

There is a journey to know the Father

1 John 2:13, *"I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father."*

There are three spiritual stages of growth. When we are first born again, we begin as little children who *"have known the Father"*. We then are to grow to become *"young men"*, who are learning to overcome the wicked one. Finally, we are to grow to be mature 'fathers' in the Body of Christ, who *"have known Him who is from the beginning"*.

It is so important to see that our journey of salvation begins with knowing the Father. Our heavenly Father is not a mystery that is hidden from us. Jesus came and declared the Father. Jesus expects little children to know the Father. We need to lead people to Jesus so that they come into a relationship with the living Father. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

As we preach Christ from the Scriptures and allow the revelation of His word to come upon the hearts of men, there will be an unveiling of hearts to see the Father in the Son more and more (**2 Corinthians 3:14-16**).

Jesus' ascension brought in a New day

Jesus' purpose on earth was to bring us into the same relationship He had with the Father. Jesus declared, ***"I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father"*** **John 16:28**. Jesus ascending to the Father was the beginning of a new day, where we can now access the Father and be in fellowship with the Father, just as the Son demonstrated.

Jesus said, ***"in that day you will ask in My name and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you.."*** (**John 16:26**). You will know the Father yourself. You will enter into the fellowship that is with the Father and with His Son (**1 John 1:3**). Jesus said to Mary, ***"Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'*** He is now our God and our Father!

The Witness in heaven

"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." **1 John 5:7**

The Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit are One. We need to receive the witness that is in heaven. You cannot separate them. The Word that was sent and became flesh, proceeded forth from the Father (**John 1:14**). The Helper, the Spirit of Truth proceeds from the Father (**John 15:26**). There is one Spirit, and when we receive His Spirit, we are receiving the Spirit that proceeds from the Father. It is the Spirit of His Son (**Galatians 4:6-7**). Our hearts begin to cry "Abba Father" and we are no longer slaves, but sons and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. **Salvation is a journey to know the Father!**

Oh the depths of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of God!

Rhoda Jackson

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