

(Pdf Book) So Great Salvation

by Bakht Singh

Bakht Singh's sermon emphasizes the profound and transformative nature of salvation offered through Christ, highlighting its various aspects and the believer's response to it.

Scripture: Isaiah 53:5, Hebrews 2:3

Topics: "Ebooks", "Identity in Christ", "Great Salvation"

Description

Bakht Singh emphasizes the profound significance of 'so great salvation,' urging believers to recognize the immense honor and responsibility that comes with it. He explains that this salvation elevates sinners to positions of authority in the new creation, a concept that even angels struggle to comprehend. Singh elaborates on the various aspects of salvation, including substitution, justification, reconciliation, and transformation, illustrating how each facet contributes to the believer's new identity in Christ. He encourages the congregation to fully embrace and enjoy their salvation, understanding that it is a divine gift that empowers them to live in freedom and purpose. Ultimately, he calls for a deeper appreciation of the mystery and glory of God's plan for humanity.

Transcript

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Verse 3). We want to draw your attention to this great salvation. Mark those words: "so great salvation". Why is it called "so great salvation"? The apostle wants us to know that if we do not take heed about this great salvation, we will suffer a great loss. So he tells us: "Remember the great honor, which is being conferred upon you". He tells of the world to come, and says that it is not going to be governed by angels, but by those who enjoy this great salvation. Now this is a great mystery. How can we human beings ever be found worthy to govern the new Creation? We are told in the word of God that this world which we see will pass away and there will be a new heaven and new earth which is going to be full of glory. That glorious New Creation will be governed, not by angels, but by those who are now learning to enjoy this great salvation. We read, "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying 'What is man that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visited him?'" (Verses 5 and 6). Imagine the day when God revealed this mystery in heaven, with the hosts of angels standing around Him, as He tells them about the coming new creation. He tells how this present world will pass away, and He will make a new creation, which will be governed, not by these angels, but by men. That news gives a shock to the angels. "Oh God, why are you so mindful of man? What is man that you are giving so much honor and dominion to him? We angels live in heaven always with Thee and obey Thy commands. But

these foolish men are always giving you trouble. They are always murmuring for onions and garlic. Yet you are giving them so much honor and dominion. What is man, what is man, that Thou art so mindful of him?" Even angels find it so hard to understand it. Yet so says God's Word, and it cannot fall. We believe it.

Now how is this made possible? We need to understand this. That is why we want to meditate on this great salvation. It is so great that it is able to lift a sinner from the gutter and make him a governor and a viceroy of God in the New Creation. Imagine a beggar in rags sitting in the street of this town. He looks as if he had never had a bath for the last 35 years. You go and tell him that he is going to become the President of India. Will he believe you? He will say, "What are you talking about? Look at me, look at my dirty face, look at my rags, how can I become a governor?" But we sinners are even worse than that beggar, because we are full of corruption and rottenness. Yet God is going to make us Governors and Viceroys of the New Creation. That is why it is called "so great salvation."

1.Substitution. 2.Justification. 3.Reconciliation. 4.Redemption. 5.Propitiation. 6.Regeneration. 7.Identification. 8.Liberation. 9.Transformation. 10.Son-ship. 11.Sanctification. 12.Priesthood. 13.Kingship. 14.Glorification.

These are the fourteen main aspects of salvation. When a child is born it has bones, muscles, nerves, tissues, and all the organs complete. By nourishment they develop. In the same manner, when a man is born again, eternal life is given to him and spiritually all these fourteen aspects are there. As he grows older he begins to enjoy it more fully, just as when the child grows older it runs about, eats more food, and its brain develops. As the child already has the potentiality of every faculty in its body, so it is with the believer. By spiritual growth he enjoys these different aspects of salvation.

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Substitution

This means that the Lord Jesus Christ died as my Substitute. He took my place and died for me. In Isaiah 53:5, 6 we read, "He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed", and in Romans 4:25, "He was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification." If you want to enjoy your salvation that is the first lesson you must learn. Every sin I committed in thought, word and deed was borne by Him. Otherwise I would not have been able to talk with God or even to come near Him, because the wages of sin is death. Every sin I commit deserves some punishment. I, as man, cannot pay that punishment. So the Lord Jesus Christ paid it for me. That is why we confess our sins when we come to Him. By so doing, our sins are rolled upon Him.

But before He died for us He had to prove Himself perfect. No man could find sin of any kind in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was able to ask, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (John 8:46). That is why He could be my perfect Substitute: "He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5: 21).

Justification

This means that He has made me just and righteous in God's sight. He was delivered for our offences and raised up for our justification (Romans 4:25). He rose again to make me just and righteous. What does this mean? It means that He has made me as if I had never committed a single sin. Imagine there is a thief in

this town. Everybody knows him to be a thief. He is caught and brought to the court. Imagine the whole population of the town, 15,000 people standing and testifying, "I saw him stealing a banana; I saw him stealing a fowl", and so on. The thief knows that what these men are saying is quite true. He dare not look at anyone's face. He knows what the judge will say. He knows that he is bound to be punished. Then he looks up and sees that somehow all these men have disappeared. The judge also says, Go away Mr. So-and-so; there is no charge against you. Now he can walk away very boldly into the bazaar. That is the meaning of justification. Though we were condemned, now we are declared righteous as if we had not committed a single Sin. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). This justification is received by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In some parts of North India after a girl has been married she is not supposed to use any of her old garments or ornaments, which she used before her marriage. Afterwards she uses only the garments given by the bridegroom. In the same way we put on the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our old nature is compared to filthy rags. We put on the new garment, which is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not become righteous by attending meetings, or by prayers. But by faith we receive into us the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. When God looks at me He sees me in the righteousness of His Son and not my old nature.

When I was a small boy I used to play with other boys. One day I brought home one of them who was very dirty. My mother asked me, "Who is this boy?" I held his hand and said, "He is my friend." Then my mother gave him some milk and other things because she could see me in him. If he had come alone my mother would not have allowed him into the house. For my sake he was accepted. That is the meaning of justification. We walk boldly into heaven, though once we were

sinners. We do not realize the wonderful work, which God does in us when He saves us. He actually gives us His own righteousness. Once a very poor man was invited to a dinner by a king. But he had no proper garments to put on. The king knew of it, so he sent him one of his own garments through a servant. The poor man put on the king's garments and walked boldly into the palace and everyone gave him honor because of the garments, which he was wearing.

When we are saved we put on the garments of salvation, the robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10). We receive the very garments of the Lord Jesus Christ. We put on Christ Himself (Galatians 3:27). Our spirit is surrounded by the Spirit of Christ, when we put our trust in Him, believing that He died for us and rose again for us.

Reconciliation

To understand this we must also know that as sinners we were enemies of God because we were always hurting and wounding Him by our actions. If a child always does things that offend you, will you call it your friend? We have done things that grieve the Spirit of God, wound Him and give Him pain. This is because of the inward enmity that we have towards God. The Lord Jesus Christ takes away that inward enmity and we are reconciled. "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity... that he might reconcile us unto God" (Ephesians 2:15). "And you that were sometime alienated and enemies... hath he reconciled" (Col. 1:20-23). We are enemies of God by nature from birth. We can say darkness is the enemy of light, is the enemy of life, corruption is the enemy of incorruption. Therefore we who walk in darkness are under condemnation of death and full of corruption, being enemies of the living God Who is full of light and life and Who is immortal. God wants us to be heavenly and we want to be earthly. We work against every

thought of God to spoil it. Whether we do it knowingly or unknowingly, we go on working against God. Once we become the enemy of somebody, we love to do things that will hurt him.

So is our attitude towards God by nature. It requires Divine power to take away that enmity. You know by experience how hard it is to get reconciled to even one man. We would rather say, "I will never see his face again, even if I have to die." During my schooldays I had a friend. One day we quarreled and became enemies. Before this we had always been together. But now when I saw him coming in one direction, I would go the other way. This went on for three months. Sometimes the thought of reconciliation came to me, but then I said, "Let him come to me first." Then a third man came and said, "Why are you so foolish?" and he put our hands together, and we smiled and became friends again. We could not do this ourselves. That is our human nature. My father, and his father, and so on, were all God's enemies. This has been so for 6,000 years. Such enmity could not be removed by yourself or by any other man. It can be killed and destroyed only by divine power. This, the Lord Jesus Christ did by His death on the cross. He died that He might reconcile all things in Himself unto God. We were enemies once, now we are friends, this is called Reconciliation. Praise God! That is why we love to walk together now. Once it was a real trouble to go to prayer. Now I cannot help going.

\fRedemption

In Ephesians 1:7 and 1 Cor. 6:20 we read, "Ye are bought with a price." Once we were working as the devil's bond slaves and nobody could ever set us free. Then the Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood, paid the price and set us free. In olden days slaves were sold in the market just as we sell cows and buffaloes now. Once a wealthy man was selling slaves in the market, and among them was a young boy. A passer-by felt very sorry for him. So he paid the price and told the boy, "You can now go home." But the boy said, "I have no home. You are my father and mother. I will be with you and serve you cheerfully." The devil was saying to us, "I will not let you go." But the Lord Jesus Christ paid the price of our redemption by His own precious blood, which He shed upon the cross of Calvary. Now He says to the believer, "You can go now; you are free." But the believer says, "Lord I have no other place to go. You are my father and my mother. I will be with you always, and serve you cheerfully."

Thus we have become His peculiar treasure (Psalm 135:4). When you go to a king's palace you would like to see his treasures. So also when you go to heaven and ask God, "Let me see your treasures," God will say, "Look at John; look at Paul; they are My treasures." If you pay a heavy price for something it becomes very precious. Things worth two or three annas are thrown here and there. But if there is something worth one lakh of rupees it will be kept in a very safe place. So because we have been bought with a very high price, which the Lord Jesus paid by His own blood, we are more precious to God than angels. Our fellowmen may not care for us. They may say, "He has a black face and thick lips." But in God's sight we are very precious and God says, "He is my diamond; he is my pearl." If we understand the meaning of redemption, we will enjoy our salvation more. When you understand that you are His property, you will be completely freed from defiling habits. Ordinary earthen vessels are not cleaned much; but golden vessels are kept bright and shining. If you know your body is the temple of God, you will keep it clean from bad habits.

Propitiation

In Rom. 3:22-25 we read, "Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation." Now we believe that God has forgiven all our sins. Yet often we think, "Three months ago I did this, and one year ago I did

that," and then we feel downcast. We need to understand that we have a perfect atonement; everything is covered completely, and removed completely as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12). He has cast all my sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). If the devil accuses you, you can say, "Mr. Devil, if you want to see my sins, go and dive deep into the sea yourself, and you will find them there." The Lord says, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as cloud, thy sins; return unto me; for I have redeemed thee" (Isaiah 44:22). I remember how Satan troubled me in the beginning. God saved me by His grace on 14th December, 1929. I was very happy. Then I was without money for some time. And Satan said to me, "it is because of this sin and that sin that you are in trouble." For some time I believed it, until one day the Lord Jesus revealed to me that my sins had been removed as far as the East is from the West, never to be remembered again. So we all need to understand how every sin has been wiped out and will not be remembered any more (Isaiah 43:25). If you have really repented and accepted the Blood of the Lord Jesus, do not allow Satan to deceive you. Blessed is the man whose sin is covered (Psalm

132:1). No matter how great our sins, they have all been covered by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why the blood was sprinkled upon both sides of the door and on the top of the doorpost on the Passover day. The Lord has completely covered all your shortcomings and failures. We can stand before Him complete. Many times we think, "How can a man like me ever be perfect?" Every human being has faults, in some they are open, in others they are secret. But the Blood covers everything. So by confession we claim the Blood, and then the sin is completely forgotten.

Regeneration

He has made us a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17). If a man be in Christ, he is a new creation. In every way we become completely and entirely new. Some people think that by giving up some bad habits we are converted. That is not correct. Conversion means we are made a new creation in Christ Jesus and all things are of God (verse 18). The Holy Spirit of God comes into us in such a way that we become entirely new by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Tit. 3:5).

In the following ways we are made a new creation: Ezek. 36:26. We receive a new mind, a new heart and new spirit. In this verse our original heart is called a stony heart. Why is it so called? Suppose you have a stone in your house and you go on saying to it "My dear brother, my dear sister, or my dear child!" and you go on hugging it and kissing it; will it give you any satisfaction? Whatsoever you do or say the stone will never respond. God comes to us with such love, yet we go away from Him.

We do not respond to any action of God. That is why man's heart is called a stony heart. But God says, I will take away that stony heart and give you a new heart. Hebrews 9:14. Then God gives us a new conscience, a purged conscience. Before that we have a guilty conscience. It had become so dead that we had no consideration and we went on sinning against God, telling lies and deceiving people. But now the very thought of sin becomes horrible. I know a man who was a slave to tobacco before his conversion.

The Spirit of God began to work in him and he was truly converted. One day he came to me and said, "I have committed a great sin, please pray for me." I asked him, "What have you done?" He replied, "After my conversion I gave up smoking cigarettes, but last night I smoked a cigarette in my dream, and I am very unhappy." Before that he had smoked all day and night without any sense of guilt. But now smoking even in his dream was so horrible to him. There are many who have a smoke as soon as the Sunday service is over.

Before my conversion I had robbed the railway many times by traveling with excess luggage without paying for it. I used to put all my books in my bedding in order to save a few rupees. Even when I was caught I bribed the ticket collectors with eight annas and got away. In those days we had to pay octroy duty for ghee. When the octroy officers asked me if I had any dutiable articles I used to say, "No sir, I have nothing." Thus I told a lie for the sake of saving only a few annas.

After my conversion I had to ask the railway people to charge me in full. Even though they were willing to overlook, I had to say, "No sir. I am a Christian; I do not want to cheat the Railway." In the same way previously you might have brought home from your office pencils, papers, and pins without feeling any guilt. But now after your conversion it appears as a great sin. Once a girl aged ten years came under conviction and came to me and confessed that very day she used to steal face powder from her sister's room, and she felt very sorry for it and asked me to pray for her.

Thus you receive a purged conscience so that you cannot go on doing what you used to do before. Then you are given a new mind, the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:5) which makes you humble. All of us feel proud when we have some gift or qualification. But the mind of Christ helps us to hide ourselves behind the Lord Jesus Christ. If He Himself became like a servant what should be our attitude? The mind of Christ always seeks to glorify Him. Can you truthfully say that your mind is the mind of Christ?

There was a Negro preacher who preached for 52 years on this text every Sunday: "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus." The Lord Jesus said, "Learn of me for I am meek and lowly." The meekness of the Lord Jesus Christ does not come in easily. Even when we receive blessing we become proud. So note that we have to show the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone at all times.

The Lord also gives you a new nature. In 2 Peter 1:4 we read that we become partakers of the divine nature. If you want to escape from the corruption of this world claim God's promise and receive the divine nature. In every heart there are some desires which in the end bring corruption. But the divine nature gives us incorruption.

The Lord gives us new wisdom. In I Cor. 1:13 we read that the Lord Jesus Himself has become wisdom unto us. This is not the wisdom that we learn at school or acquire in this world. In Proverbs. 3:5 we read, "Lean not unto thine own understanding." We cannot depend upon this brain box. When we know something we think we know everything. A certain man in England thought that if he could read many books he would become a great man. So he acquired a big library of books and started reading them all. After a long time somebody asked him, "Mr. Asquith, what have you learnt?" He replied, "I have learnt that I know nothing." No man can depend on his own wisdom. The more you grow in grace the more you depend upon God for wisdom. In James 3:17 we read, "thy wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." These can be compared to the seven pillars mentioned in Proverbs. 9:1: "Wisdom hath built her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars." With this wisdom you can live a balanced life.

The Lord gives you new sight. "Now we walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). By faith we can see what will happen years from now. We can see the coming glory. When we are travelling over mountains we like to see far-off places. At that time binoculars help us. Special telescopes have been made through which you can see stars which are millions and millions of miles away. But with the eyes of faith we can see right into eternity, even how we are going to be governors and viceroys in the new creation.

We also receive new ears to hear the voice of God. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17: "He that hath ears to hear let him hear." These words are repeated seven times in these two chapters. Only those who have spiritual ears can hear the voice of God. In the book of Revelation the Lord was speaking of deep mysteries. Through this general salvation we are given new ears to hear great divine mysteries.

New mouth and new song. "The Lord hath put a new song into my mouth" (Psalm 40:3). We now have a new mouth to sing His praises. Those who smoke give out the smell of tobacco from their mouth. Near those who chew pansupari you can smell pan, and near those who are suffering from pyorrhea you

forget such a smell that you cannot even stand beside them. But when you are truly born again and have received eternal life you give out the fragrance of the knowledge of God when you sing and speak. We can praise God in poverty, trouble, loneliness, when people falsely accuse us, and when things go wrong. When there is too much salt in the food, or when there is no salt, even then you can praise God for everything, anywhere, at any time.

New face. "We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). A poor Christian family was living in North India. A Mohammedan Pathan asked the father, "Can you tell me the oil which you and your wife and children use, because your faces are always shining so brightly?" The man replied, "We do not use any oil or cream for our faces. But we pray every morning and noon and night, and thank God for our chappati and our dhal and everything else." In America I have seen many old women using powder and lipstick to make their faces beautiful. But that is no use. A man may have a black face, thick lips and long ears, but if he is a child of God the light of God will shine in his face. Is not that wonderful? In 1935 there was an earthquake in Quetta and 58,000 people were killed. I was there at that time doing rescue work. I did not know where the Christians were living. But I said, "whenever I see a shining face, that must be a Christian." In this way I succeeded in finding a good number of them. Now what kind of a face have you? Go home and see in a mirror. The great salvation gives to everyone a bright face, which becomes still more shining as we talk and walk with God, as the face of Moses shone when he came down from the mountain after talking with God.

New clothes. "He bath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness" (Isa. 61:10). Before their conversion people want bright shining dresses, first-class suits, nice ties, nice hats and silk handkerchiefs. Women love bright shining sarees, and nice "hanging gardens" on their ears. But God gives us new robes of righteousness that make us more beautiful before God.

New Shoes. Some are very fond of new shoes. During my schooldays my father once bought me a nice pair of English shoes. I was very happy and careful about them. Whenever I saw stones or thorns on the way, I would take them off from my feet and walk barefoot, even though the thorns hurt me. I showed the shoes to my friends and felt very proud. But God gives us new shoes. The more you wear them the stronger they become. Ordinary shoes become old after ten months, but when you have these new shoes on your feet you can go 1,000 miles and still feel fresh to preach the gospel. These are the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15).

New Food. The Lord Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:35). Also, "My meat is to do the will of God" (John 4:34). Once a Christian Sadhu received goat's head curry. He was very happy, and said, "I was just praying for this." Another Sadhu was invited to a meeting, and after dinner he was requested to speak. He replied, "How can I preach when you have served me only dhal?" But to you, to do God's will

becomes your food.

New Friends and new Relations. Matt. 12:50, Mk. 3:35, Lk. 8:21. Now we have new brothers and sisters. All the others cannot be regarded as our brothers or sisters, because they are hindering us from doing God's will.

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New Vocation. Hebrews 3:1: Partakers of the heavenly calling. Our profession is a heavenly calling. One man was questioned as to what his profession was. He replied, "My profession is to win souls for Christ, but I fish in order to earn my living." In the same way to everyone of us, our profession is to win souls. From all these verses we see that we are a new creation. When the Spirit of God comes into you He begins to work in every faculty. This work goes on till we are completely renewed. You may have seen alterations being made in a building. First one wall is removed and rebuilt, then another, in the same way doors and windows are all replaced, and at last all things become new. So also the work goes on in our life, till we become like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Identification

Please read Romans 6:3-6. We are crucified with the Lord Jesus Christ, buried with Him and risen again with Him. We can say His death is my death. His burial is my burial and His resurrection is my resurrection. I shall give an illustration. You may have watched football matches. One party wins and the other loses. During my schooldays I used to go and watch many football matches in which our school took part, although I never played myself. Every year our school used to win in the match and we used to shout, "We have won, we have won," and threw our turbans into the air, although we had never touched the ball. That is identification. By revelation I see my Saviour risen again victorious for me. Every man's spirit has come from Him. He is the Author of life. Flesh and bones come from my mother, but my spirit comes direct from the Lord. By faith I see my spirit in Him when He died. So when He died I died, when He was buried I was buried, when He rose again I too rose again. Much depends upon our understanding of this truth. This is not some formula that we repeat. It is an actual reality, which we must understand by revelation from God. By faith I identified myself with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. Some people say, "My wife is my cross because she abuses me."

Others say their father or mother is their cross. The meaning of the cross is quite different. It is the power of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ working in us. Some think that by wearing a cross round their neck they have become very righteous and yet they have the old nature within them.

On the other hand some people who call themselves Pentecostals think that to enjoy fullness they must weep all night. It is not by crying that you are filled. God works on eternal principles. Can you fill a bottle that is already full? If you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit you must die to self and be emptied. The more I identify myself with Him in His death, burial and resurrection the more I will be emptied and filled. Most Christians are what can be called football Christians. By a small kick the football goes up. When a small thorn gets in it, it stays down. "Mr. Football, what is the matter?" The football replies, "Ooh! A small thorn has entered inside me." So also at a time of convention these people fly very high. A few days later a small thorn comes and they go pass! That is not God's plan. You can go higher and higher every day by understanding the meaning of identification with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. So Paul says, "I carry upon my body the death of the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:10). Thus you can show forth His life. By spiritually identifying ourselves with Him in His death, burial and resurrection, His life is manifested

through us.

¶In the morning we find in our mind many desires. Some of them may be good, others not so good. But if you have learnt to die with Him you will say, "Please take away my thoughts and give me Thy thoughts. Take away my affections and give me Thy affections. Break all my plans and give me Thy plans." So you bring to the Lord all your plans and programs. But you cannot die by your own efforts. You die only by the power of His death. Just as you need different instruments for cutting different articles, so also you need His death to cut away self. A man can go to jail and suffer any punishment, but yet he cannot die to self. In Eph. 1:20- 2:1 we read, "God raised Him (Jesus Christ) from the dead. . . and you hath He quickened." The meaning is that when He died I died, when He was buried I was buried, when He rose again I also rose again. By faith we appropriate this identification. It is difficult to understand this. But once you learn the secret you begin to enjoy the fullness of God.

Liberation

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1). We have been set free from every kind of legal bondage. The law says, "Do this, Don't do this," and so on. But we are not under the law by any means. Whatever we do now we do joyfully and cheerfully. In the Old Testament the people gave to the Lord one tenth of their income. We also do so, not by compulsion, but with joy. If you have no joy in giving, God will not accept your gift. In the Old Testament there was compulsion. Some people even now go to service on Sundays because they feel it a duty. Then they long for the service to finish. But we have been set free and desire to be in His presence more and more. In olden days mother had to say, "Victor, you must read the Bible before you go to office." Out of fear of displeasing her Bro. Victor had to do so. Now he cannot live without reading the Word of God. Thus we have been set free from every legal bondage. But the life within us compels us to pray, to read the Word and to preach the Gospel, and so on. We have heard that 95% of present day Christianity is legalism, something like Judaism, saying, "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not." Do you find any effort necessary to pray? When you have the life of God, you do it without effort joyfully. It becomes a joy to spend the whole day in the house of God. In the beginning I thought, "I am a preacher, I need not give any money to the Lord." Then I almost always used to be in need. When I began to give cheerfully, God began to shower his gifts in abundance. The more you give the more you receive. If you do anything by compulsion you will not grow. So stand fast in your liberty. In 1 John 4:18 we read, "There is no fear in love." Real liberty takes away every fear. We are not afraid of what others will say or do. We know that the cost of disobedience is greater than the cost of obedience. Has anyone at any time lost anything by obeying God? No! So we have been set free from fear and bondage to any man. Let us give willing and cheerful obedience to the Lord.

Transformation

"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2). We have to be completely transformed. This happens through doing the perfect will of God. Once I met a happy couple married forty years. By living together in harmony so many years their faces began to look alike. So when we always try to please the Lord we become transformed into His mind and nature. Many think it is a waste of time to find the will of God. If you want to be transformed into the image of the Lord, be very patient to find His will. "Whom He predestinated to be conformed to the image

of His Son" (Romans 8:29). You take a piece of gold to the goldsmith and by his skill he makes it beautiful. So the Lord is working in us His own design to bring out of us His own beauty which no one has seen in us before. The angels know our wicked heart. But when you go to heaven the angels themselves will admire the glory that they will see in you. That becomes possible when you find God's will in everything. Thus the work of perfecting begins today.

Son-ship

It is God's desire that we should be joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ. Imagine a father with plenty of property and five sons. Only two of the sons are really sensible. The other three are very playful and irresponsible. Will the father give his property to those three sons? No! The sensible ones will receive more part in it. So also the Lord Jesus Christ has much property. But you must become really mature in order to enjoy it. Rev. 21:7: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." The very second we believe we are given that eternal life. But only he that overcometh shall inherit all things that belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer will yet receive it. The fuller meaning of the overcomer is brought out in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. When you become mature and a true son then you inherit all things. So whatever job I receive from the Lord Jesus Christ I must do it very faithfully. We can fail easily by carelessness and negligence. Some are quite satisfied by doing things half-heartedly. They will not receive the full inheritance. Whatsoever God has given to me I should not do to please men but to please God, if I want to be a joint heir. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10). Are you faithful in simple jobs that you do? Only then can you attain to son-ship.

Sanctification

God desires that the spirit, soul and body should be wholly and solely set apart for God. "God hath set apart him that is godly for Himself" (Psalm 4:3). That is the meaning of true sanctification. Some people think that sanctification is some abnormal experience. But in Scripture sanctification means being set apart for God. No other man can touch them now, for the whole spirit, whole soul, and whole body have been set apart for the Lord Jesus Christ. We have to be sanctified by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, and by the Word of God. Jude 1:1: "Sanctification by God the Father"; 1 Peter 1:2: "sanctification by the Spirit"; 1 Cor. 1:30: "Christ Jesus is made unto us . . . sanctification." John 17:17: "Sanctify them through Thy Word." By greater and fuller knowledge of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, and of the Word of God, you are set apart wholly and solely. That is called sanctification. It is not just seeing a vision or a spiritual experience which lasts only for a few minutes. Daily we must appropriate this sanctification. "Be ye holy as He is holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

Priesthood

1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:9,10. Priesthood and Kingship come together in these verses. In the Old Testament times the priests had to do a twofold duty; firstly to appear before God on behalf of the people, and secondly to bring a message from God to the people. Our Lord has made us all priests. Generally people think that those who are called padres are priests. But according to Scripture every believer is a priest. This is a function, which we must fulfill. Through our prayers God can do wonders in many people's lives. So we can bring a message of exhortation, comfort

and consolation to other people, such as father, mother, friend or servant, or even neighbors or friends afar off, receiving the message from God during our morning quiet time. But very few enjoy this privilege.

Kingship

We have been called to reign in the New Creation. There used to be 450 states in India before Independence was granted to India. So there were two Colleges intended specially for the princes of these states. As later on they would be governing their states, they were taught from childhood how to govern. If today you are asked to become a Collector of a district in Bengal you will not know what to do and will feel relieved to be released, because you have not been prepared for such a task. So also we need to be prepared, because God does not want us to be servants but princes in the New Creation. It is only by overcoming that we can sit on the throne with God (Rev. 3:21). Do not expect golden thrones in heaven just to sit on. The throne means authority: 1 Cor. 6:3, "Know ye not that ye shall judge angels." You will be given authority in the New Creation. But you must prove yourself worthy of it while you are here on earth. Some people behave only like beggars before God, and do not exercise the authority that God has given them.

Glorification

1Thess. 2:12, and 2 Thess. 2:14. Romans 8:17. If we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him. John 17:22: "And the glory which Thou gavest me, I have given them." We are such limited human beings that we cannot follow these deep thoughts fully. Imagine a very great person comes to this town. He is honored with many garlands. Imagine that you are called by him to his side and whatever is given to him he gives to you, even though you do not deserve it. The same thought is here. If we suffer cheerfully with the Lord Jesus Christ, then on the day of glorification we will share that glory, because He is the King of glory. Note that it is only provided you suffer with Him. When a great man comes to the station, a red carpet is put on the ground for him to walk on, and a nice coach is also prepared for him. If you are holding that great man's hand you also will enjoy all those things. When the Lord Jesus Christ is being greeted and honored, those who suffer with Him will share in it. That is possible only when you become truly one with Him (John 17:21). Note in this verse there is first oneness in fellowship (that is spiritual oneness with all the children of God), second, oneness in glory, and third, oneness in perfection. By having this oneness you become worthy for the glory.

Thus we see through all these things why it is called great salvation. By a right understanding of all these aspects of salvation you will enjoy it more and more. When you give a mango to an Englishman, he will use a knife and spoon to eat it, if he has never been to India. He will not be able to enjoy it fully. But if you give it to an Indian he will enjoy it even to the last drop of juice close to the seed. If you give fish to a Brahmin you will only embarrass him. But if you give it to a Bengali he will enjoy even the bones. There are many who are saved but they do not enjoy their salvation fully. The work of salvation only begins in you when you are born again. A right understanding of the word of God helps us to enter into the full enjoyment of our salvation.

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