

Saved & Called

1 Peter 2: 9

Sometimes as Christians we know what we've been saved from and we know ultimately where we're going. But what about the bit in the middle? What about the here and now, this thing called life? God equips us for the journey.

Part of being equipped is understanding that God hasn't just saved us from something, He's called us to something.

1) We're called out of isolation into relationship

Firstly, we're called into relationship with God and then with each other.

The work of the cross removed the separation between God and us.

Romans 5: 6

Even before we existed or could do anything about it, God sent Jesus to die in order to take care of all the stuff that was separating us from him.

Like it or not, our relationship with God is demonstrated in our relationships with each other. "By this will all men know that you're my disciples, if you love one another" - **John 13: 5**

As iron sharpen iron, so one person sharpens another - **Proverbs 27: 17**

Guess what happens when you strike 2 pieces of metal together? You get sparks. That's ok, because it's how we deal with things when the sparks fly that counts.

In fact God often uses these situations to grow us

The moment we stop learning from others, is the moment we stop growing and maturing.

God takes our relationships with each other so seriously that he attaches his blessing to our Unity

Scripture says that God commands his blessing when we dwell in unity. When he sees it, he orders that his blessings be poured out.

God puts us into relationship so that we can be cared for.

It's going to take a community to reach a community.

There are some things that God only does corporately.

2) We're called out of darkness into the light

Colossians 1: 9-14

In scripture Light symbolises, holiness, truth, glory, life. Therefore, God is characterised by light.

Paul says that he prays that the Colossians would live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way. Then he lists what this looks like:

- Bearing fruit in every good work
- Growing in the knowledge of God
- Being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might
- So that we might have great endurance and patience
- Giving joyful thanks

God wants to move you from a place of darkness and limitation into his limitless kingdom of light.

This is available to everyone. If you've never met Jesus as your Saviour then it's available for you right here right now.

3) We're called out of the old into the new

2 Corinthians 5: 17

If you're in Christ, the objective truth is that you are a new creation.

The challenge is that when we look at our lives we can see that we're still doing some of the same old stuff. Old thought patterns, old responses to negative and challenging situations, Old habits that we know are wrong.

How can we take this objective truth and make it a reality in our experience?

- Accept that Scripture carries more authority than our experience.

- In faith determine to raise our experience to the level of Scripture and not bring Scripture down to the level of our experience.
- Understand that Salvation is a process. Scripture teaches that we have been saved, that we are being saved and that we will be saved.

As we cooperate with him and allow him to work in our lives, we'll see more and more of that new nature manifesting itself in our lives. That objective truth will become more and more evident within us.

Don't allow condemnation to creep in either. When we fail and fall short, remember that there is grace and forgiveness available.

4) We're called out of wrath into mercy

Ephesians 2: 1-5

Mercy can be defined as God not giving us what we deserve.

Even though humanity was deserving of wrath because of it's very nature, God didn't leave us in that miserable state. He made us alive in Christ.

We've passed from death to life. All because of his mercy.

God in his mercy 'reversed the curse' as someone once said.

5) We're called out of slavery into freedom

Galatian's 5:1 & 13-15

Christ died to set us free. Free from whatever is enslaving us. - Addiction, low self-esteem, religious rules, people pleasing.

- We're not to use our freedom to indulge in sin or for our own selfish gain. We're to use our freedom to humbly serve and love each other.
- Maybe you can help someone because they're struggling in an area that you're now free in?
- We need to stand firm to maintain our freedom.
- Supernatural freedom from addiction doesn't mean that we don't seek professional help. God frequently uses professional help to bring freedom.

6) We're called out of fear into faith

Romans 8: 15

When we're slaves to something, we generally live in fear of it.

We all know the areas in our lives where fear has a foothold.

It's easy to see what's going on in the world and to allow fear to creep in and get hold - Rising prices, World war 3, potentially a new pandemic.

The way to counter fear is to come against it with the exact opposite.

- When we fear lack, we need to speak provision
- When we fear war, we need to speak peace
- When we fear death we need to speak life

In every area of our lives, God wants us to move out of fear and into faith.

The key to accessing everything we've talked about is faith.

The great news is that he gives us all the faith we need.

7) We're called out of hopelessness into hope

What is hope? - Confident expectation

Ephesians 1: 18-21

We're called to confident expectation.

Hope isn't a wishy washy, vague wish for something to come true. It is confidence based on a revelation of who God is and the fact that he doesn't change. So we can fully trust and rely on what he has said and promised.

8) We're called out of poverty into an inheritance

Romans 8: 16-17

Although God blesses us in many ways here on earth, we're yet to receive our full inheritance.

1 Peter 1: 4 says that our inheritance will never perish, spoil or fade and that it is kept in heaven for us.

2 Corinthians 8: 9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

No matter what your earthly bank balance says, you're rich.

Inheritance links back to our first point on relationship. Generally, you get an inheritance because of your relationship to someone. Because you're part of the family

Our inheritance isn't financial or material, it's relational!

We have an inheritance and we are an inheritance. Jesus is my inheritance and I'm his.

Colossians 1: 12

We're qualified to share in the inheritance.