

Scriptures and Doctrine :: **jesus**

jesus, on: 2011/9/7 6:31

Re: Scriptures Only Applying to the Chosen People, on: 2011/9/7 6:52

This is an excerpt from a website I found.

<http://www.truechristianity.com/christian/saved.htm>

There is strong evidence that many Scriptures only speak to and apply to God's chosen people. This is the only way to explain many of the difficult questions and why many Scriptures appear to contradict. Some verses do not necessarily speak to everyone. Many verses contain words like "you", "us" and "we". People wrongly assume that these verses always apply to them. For example, some verses only speak to the Israelites in the Old Testament, or to the Apostles in the New Testament.

There were obvious measurable signs that God cared for his chosen people in the Scriptures. There were other groups of people where God did not work in their lives. They did not know God and they perished. Like today, many would not have heard the gospel.

We should not indicate to people that they cannot be saved if they seek God. If we seek God and try to obey him, we would have more chance of being chosen as one of his own,

but the choosing is up to God. He is the judge.

We still need to face the judgment, and there is every indication that it will be harsh.

Scriptures indicating that only certain people will be chosen are:

"Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few chosen. Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for he shall save HIS PEOPLE from their sins.

Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto HIS PEOPLE by the remission of their sins.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and (that) your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Rom 9:10 And not only ; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, by our father Isaac; 11 (For being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Romans 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Mat 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." (This indicates that some people are born without ears and therefore cannot hear the word of God and therefore cannot be chosen)

"Matthew 13: 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked ; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

John 17:9 ; I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. Matt 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ORDAINED to eternal life believed.

Matt 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to purpose."

It is puzzling why God appeared to Paul so dramatically while he was disobeying God, while today people are seeking God and trying to obey him yet God does not appear to them. As a result they may become disgruntled and lost. Perhaps they are not meant to be the chosen people.

There is also a question about the matter that is linked to the forum at <http://www.truechristianity.com/philosophy>

Perhaps this can explain why many people are truly seeking God but cannot find him to the point that they are satisfied they have his spirit. It could be possible that some people will not be chosen and saved no matter how hard they try to seek and obey God. It appears as if Paul, the Apostles and the thief on the cross were in the right place at the right time and were chosen. I cannot explain why some people in Biblical times found God without any evidence they first tried hard to seek and obey him, while today some people spend enormous time trying to seek and obey God but they cannot find him. Luke 11:9, which says "seek, and ye shall find" may only apply and speak to the chosen people.

I don't particularly want to believe in the chosen people concept but there are so many verses that suggest it as indicated. Also evidence suggests that it is so. I am seeking to believe the truth even if it not pleasant. People can make the mistake of believing pleasant and hopeful things even if they are not true. They can believe in what feels nice instead of seeing the truth.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 7:01

For added emphasis

It is puzzling why God appeared to Paul so dramatically while he was disobeying God, while today people are seeking God and trying to obey him yet God does not appear to them. As a result they may become disgruntled and lost. Perhaps they are not meant to be the chosen people.

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Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/9/7 7:44

I'm not going to argue or debate scripture with you. I just wanted you to know I will be in prayer for you.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Like a small child I simply choose to believe God is who HE says HE is and does what HE says HE will. I believe my FATHER!!

God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/9/7 7:58

Not sure how old this is but I disagree with you. I really am neither Amerinian or Calvinist, I take an open stance on the matter.

We have all been offered Salvation, its our option to take it or leave it. We must come to God on His terms rather than ours. I agree no amount of prayer, bible study, etc will save us, its Only by Faith we are Saved not by works that any man should boast. Who is saved? those that have faith. And it is Faith that is counted as Righteousness. For me personally Calvinism makes little sense to me in this aspect dear brother, do you have assurance of Salvation? If no this is a error of doctrine, we can know we are saved according to 1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God SO THAT you may KNOW that you have eternal life."

Do you believe Christ died for you? Do you believe He rose again? Do you by faith identify with this fact of Christ? IF so the 1 John was written so you can have confidence in approaching God.

Yet another flaw I see with Calvinism and the usual TULIP model is Limited Atonement, if God has specifically chosen people as you have stated then John 3:16 would read For God so loved his chosen people, that he sent his only begotten son that whosoever of his chosen people believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. But it doesn't say His Chosen People but The World, Christ atoned for the Whole World, should they step into the cleansing blood of the lamb by faith.

I also seem to pick up frustration from you dear brother, God not answering you? Not getting anything out of your studies? We all go through seasons like this. As for those that seek and are never satisfied GOOD! I never want to be satisfied with where I am I want to press in deeper and harder and further as far as this ole bag of bones will take me all the way to Glory. Stop trying to hard and rest in the Lord brother, He loves you and He knows your heart and frustration, God is trying to teach you His way, submit to his discipline and don't despise it.

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by Vakugal, on: 2011/9/7

"For the last two years, I've been busting my butt to find out, talk to Him, understand Him, and salvation and everything but it's all meaningless, I made no progress in the last two years and all my effort for Christ in my life was worthless."

I have not visited this site for a long time and it so happened that I came across your post.

You are right in saying that unless God opens the door, unless He opens our eyes, we cannot see. But the good news is that He does want to open our eyes, He longs to help us and bring us to Him.

I want to share a few thoughts and pray that God will use it to encourage you.

I have gone in circles in my thoughts many times and I have tried to analyse as well and it has been a harrowing experience. Till I came to a point where, I was a total failure and I had to tell the Lord that I am in a mess and I need help and I cant do it on my own. I have repented a million times only to go and live the same way, that I have no courage to say "I repent" because I think it would just be a lie.

But the good thing was that I still new that Jesus was the only way and He died for me and that the Bible was God's word. This lead me to turn back to Him.

So it was like telling the Lord, I am at an end of my resource, I dont deserve to be saved, so if You in Your mercy wants to save me, You can. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, and immediately what came to my mind was that there was one, in the Gospel (I am not writing references here, but if you want I can come back and give you the references - so that you know it is from God's word.)who had possed the same question, if you want, you can heal me. And Jesus reply to Him was, that He did and He reached out and healed Him. So I knew in my heart that this was His answer to me as well.

What next ...

I said I cant look at tomorrow, I will start looking one day at a time ... as He had said, do not worry about tomorrow.

And I am going to start trusting His word in simple faith one day at a time.

So I am with you on this Codek and let us take this one step at a time, putting a simple child like faith on what Jesus has said. "Lord You said it and so I believ it."

It is true that at this point of time, you will forced to think of all those verses that will condemn you. But remember the Lord said in john 3:17 that He has not come to condemn but to save. So you can be sure that the condemnation is not from God.

God will start showing you the areas you have fallen, both with others as well as with God.

Acknowledge and confess your sin to God, where you feel you need to go and apologise go and do it, where you need to make restitution go do it. There may be cases that you may find hard to do, put it before God and God will give you the boldness, in some cases you may need to do across time, God will show you how to plan it out.

When we confess and repent, we can reach out to Him and say, yes Lord I believe that you died for my sins and I receive the forgiveness that you bought for me.

We need to learn to stand on His word and not on our feelings or reason. We can ask the Lord to teach us this ... again in simple faith because He said if we ask Him, He will do it.

Have this attitude in yourself as the early disciples. When Jesus asked them if they too wanted to leave Him, they said where else can we go, You have the words of eternal life. Cling to Him in simple trust like a babe.

And tell the Lord, I want to enter into that personal relationship with You.

Our greatest hope is that Jesus came to save sinners and so, where as our failures would have brought us low, we now see that it is for people like us, that Jesus has come.

I want to point you to a book that will help you in establishing the fundamentals of the Christian faith - http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?book=a_good_foundation

Coming back to my small story :-) I started trusting the Lord one step at a time and I started seeing that I was growing in the Lord. But then again there were times that the Lord was real and times He was not. I had been greatly challenged by Enoch who had walked with God, and I was telling myself, if Enoch in the OT could walk with God, then I too in the NT should be able to. I asked the Lord, is it possible that He can be as real to me as the people I see around. My prayer was, Lord I want you to be more real. In my heart the thought came, "I can be either real or not real ... there is no 'more' real." I changed my prayer and said, Lord I want you to be real in my life. The immediate word that came in my heart was, "I am with you till the end of age." and I was able to accept that fact in all simplicity and my eyes were opened to the continued presence of God. (Today I seem to have drifted from there and I believe together with you He wants to bring me back to that place once again.)

In simple faith taking Him at His word let go ahead and get hold of Him.

Re: - posted by luke673 (), on: 2011/9/7 8:05

I believe that we all have freedom of choice. We choose to except Christ or not to. If we except him it has to come from our heart, true repentance comes from the heart, the inward man, the soul.

One question. If Christ only chooses certain people and they are the only ones saved then why would he have to establish the great commission to send those souls out to spread the gospel, it had to be a choice of theirs if they believed or not. its all about freedom of choice. Does God know who will accept him or not? Sure he does since the beginning of time. He is Omniscience he knows all.

Rom 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

(KJV)

It takes time to grow and feel the Lord, to listen to his voice.

Prayers going up for you dont give up.

God Bless

Re: - posted by enid, on: 2011/9/7 8:24

Codek,
You're right. No one can assure you of your salvation but God Himself.

Romans 8v9, '...now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.'

Only you know if God's Holy Spirit resides in you. This is because God is the One 'who has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.', 2 Cor 1v22.

Let's hope this thread does not degenerate into futile debate, but rather for edification and the hope of God in your life.

Take care.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 8:33

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 8:34

Please do not turn this into an arminianism vs calvisim debate. Basically both sides have their points and there are verses that support both.

The point of this post is that I'm tried everything and I've come to the conclusion that God doesn't want me saved because I've exhausted all my options, i mean EVERYTHING AND YET GOD IS STILL SILENT. This is not a season for me. GOD WAS ALWAYS SILENT IN MY LIFE. HE NEVER REALLY SAID ANYTHING, NEVER RESPONDED, YET I PAID DEARLY FOR TRYING TO FOLLOW GOD.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/9/7 8:36

This is an important topic and one where there is much confusion. We know that no man can be saved without the work of the convicting power and drawing of the Holy Spirit.

We also know that it is not the will of God that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth.

Man is without excuse when it comes to salvation. All of the ways of God are just and true.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life. Notice the word (whosoever). Men are lost because they reject the truth of the gospel, because they love the darkness and will not come to the light.

Mike

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 8:42

luke673

about the Great Commission, yes there is an aspect of christianity where the bible gives us a freedom of choice and your point on the Great Commission back it up BUT. There is a big but here. There are points where in many verses "God chooses his people", "you can't come to him until he calls you", and regeneration is not done by you, it's pretty much all God.

So what I'm saying is that both of it is true. I don't want to make this an argument between arminianism or calvinism. All I'm saying is through my bible reading, prayer time, sermon listening, experience with other christians, the only thing that makes sense to me is that God chooses what He wants. He says yes to some and no to others. He is not impartial. So some people will have harder lives than others.

He answers one person's prayers more than others.

And I got the short end of the stick because I don't see anyone in my life seeking God and his kingdom more than I am in my life. I'm not suffering the most in the world but among my peers, I definitely am and I'M GOING NOWHERE.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/9/7 8:43

Does God have two will? Answer No, no He doesn't.

Are His ways Mysterious and unknown to man? Yes in that His Thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways higher than our ways. and NO He reveals Himself and His will in His Word.

God answers prayers according to His will, imagine a world where everyone's prayers are answered with a Yes. It just wouldn't work especially seeing as many of my selfish prayers, fame, fortune, etc ALL would have ruined me and eventually destroyed me. He knows better than I do and He knows what's for the better. I would suggest getting that Childlike faith back btw, You really won't have a relationship with the Father without it.

Re: - posted by PaulFaculin, on: 2011/9/7 8:51

I do also believe on biblical synergism, in which the sinner has also responsibility to respond to God's wooing, yet I listened a lot to other reformed preachers. I think what John MacArthur said about assurance of salvation and doubt really makes sense. He said that when we are examining ourselves regarding salvation we should not look at our doubts, rather, to our desires-- if we desire to grow in holiness, hating sin, loving His word, loving the brethren etc.. Then the Spirit of God is in us. He said something like that. Anyway, Codek, you'll be in my prayers!:)

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 8:53

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Does-God-Have-Two-Wills>

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/9/7 8:55

"And I got the short end of the stick because I don't see anyone in my life seeking God and his kingdom more than I am in my life. I'm not suffering the most in the world but among my peers, I definitely am and I'M GOING NOWHERE.

I RAN OUT OF MONEY. I WILL MOST LIKELY LOSE MY CAR, HAVE TO DECLARE BANKRUPTCY, HAVE NO REAL CHRISTIAN FRIENDS IN MY REAL LIFE AND MANY MORE CRAP. I'M ALSO UNEMPLOYED RIGHT NOW. MY LAST BOSS MADE EMPLOYEES WORK 24 HOUR SHIFTS AND MADE US KISS HIS ASS OR HE MADE SURE HE FIRED US."

Why are you looking at your peers? You know that is covenanting the things of your neighbor? And I am sure you are also aware that there are many in much worse situation than you who rejoice in the Lord despite the stress and persecution of this life. They are happy because their faith is solely in the Lord, they aren't scratching around wondering where their next meal will come (if indeed they get one) but trust the Lord will provide for them. The Lord is trying to teach you something very important Complete and utter dependence on Him. May I ask you did you ask for this? Did you pray a radical prayer of a changed life when you came to the Lord? If so brother you are getting what you asked for. Stop comparing yourselves to others its awfully prideful to say you are seeking God more than others around you. God directly opposes the Proud.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 8:57

mguldner, you are missing the point. i'm not saying this to be proud.

I'm venting and looking like a loser on sermonindex cause I'm proud?

I'm doing this cause I have nothing else to turn to, no spiritual mentor, no christians in my life, and worst of no Christ, He has never spoken to me this whole time.

if you want to talk call me or email me. we're not on the same page.

and mguldner, if you went through what i went through, you wouldn't accuse me of those things. if you really want to know, you can call me. but don't call me out until you know the whole story

Re: - posted by enid, on: 2011/9/7 8:58

Codek,

Mind your language. I don't doubt most already have to hear godless profane language daily. I don't want to come on here and see it, regardless of what you are going through.

Re: - posted by luke673 (), on: 2011/9/7 8:58

All that i can say is that it sounds like you are going through some tough times in your life. I dont know you personally but i can say that He never promised us a life at the top. There are going to be some tough times ahead. look at the early church life, many were beaten and martyred. Dont lose your faith and your trust in Christ. stay strong fight the good fight. it'll all be worth it in the end. Remember Job and Paul. God told Ananias in Acts 9:16 about paul. For I will shew him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake.

God Bless

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 9:02

sorry enid but you're talking to a guy that is about to become homeless and will not mind if God takes his life so I'll try my best but no guarantees. And I'm only going to be real, we have too much emphasis on having manners and this and that BUT NO ONE IS REAL ANYMORE.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 9:06

THE WORST PART ABOUT THIS IS GOD DOESN'T SAY, DO ANYTHING.

I READ THE BIBLE AND I GET MORE CONFUSED. I HAVE TO WEED OUT SO MANY OF THE FALSE PROPHETS.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/9/7 9:08

Codek after reading through some of your replies I realize there is little I can say to you right now, you seem determined in your heart and attitude towards GOD so again I will just pray for you. Some of my darkest times in my life, some of my deepest struggles, some of the times I have felt the most alone have been when my focus was on "self" and not on JESUS...

I will be in prayer for you
Maryjane

Re: - posted by luke673 (), on: 2011/9/7 9:12

Forgive me for anything i have said that may have upset you. I love you with a Christ like love. I will keep you in my prayers and thoughts. I hope that it all works out for you. Remember Jesus loves you. sorry if i did more harm than good.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 9:34

luke673

although it was a reply to your post, you did nothing wrong. I'm sorry for going crazy but that's how desperate I became. I'm just very very very very frustrated to the point i want to die, no joke. I won't commit suicide but you get my drift.

thank you for your prayers. if I'm mad at anyone, it would be God, not any of you who try to help me. God sits there and says absolutely nothing.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 9:40

maryjane

Thank you. I don't know how to focus on Jesus. I thought I was doing that and that's why I'm getting so desperate. I have no real christians around me. What I know about God is learned through sermons, online forums, etc. The christians in my life are lukewarm christians who go to church for social reasons. None of them are saved. I don't know why I'm the only one of the people around that realize that something is wrong with the modern church today. I don't even know how i realized it. But ever since i realized it, my journey has been the toughest ever, i'm getting no breaks. I don't know what's going on.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 9:53

God,

I don't have what it takes to go through whatever this is. pick someone else.

I don't want to go on sermonindex anymore and complain and whine about how you don't say crap and how you never even talk to me.

The people here are decent people, let me leave them alone.

this is stupid.

God, say, do something.

Re: - posted by rorichts (), on: 2011/9/7 10:10

I understand I have been where you are at more than once.

I think from your discussion we must live fairly close to each other. I have one question for you coming from what I have read of your postings, Do you hear God's voice speaking to you? For me it is down in my chest or to my spirit so to speak. If you don't then ask Him to speak to you. Remember the Word if you ask Him for bread He will not give you a stone. You need to hear His voice in this day and age that we live in to be able to endure until the end.

On the matter of "None of them are saved." That is for God to decide. We are to judge but for one thing and that is whether or not someone is going to hell.

Remember also it is much tribulation that we shall enter into the Kingdom.

Please don't give up you are not alone you can contact me offline if need be. I've been walking with Him for over 30 years and have experienced that same things you are going through. I've been down to one cardboard box, I've been locked out of the house by my own family members. I understand the IHOP situation and concur and there are many others just like them.

If you truly want to be follower of Jesus this is going to be that hardest thing you will ever do, don't let anyone tell you the

path is easy and the road is wide.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/9/7 10:25

codek there was a point in my life where things were very low. I will not bother with all the details because in all truth the y don't matter, what does matter is that I can tell you in that moment JESUS met me there. I was lost, completely in darkness and HE came for me. Now perhaps JESUS is stripping you of every thing, every single thing in your life so that all that will remain is you and HIM...how will you respond? I do not ask you this to make life of what you are going through. I ask to give you something to think about, if at the end of today all you have left is the shirt on your back, you find yourself sitting on the street with out even a cardboard box to shelter you, if you find yourself completely abandoned by all around you and you are cut off, alone and yet you still have CHRIST...is HE enough for you? IF at the end of this day all you have is JESUS is that enough for you? How will you respond when there is nothing left but you and HIM?

I will pray that you will be able to focus on JESUS and not so much on self, HE truly is worthy!

God bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by enid, on: 2011/9/7 10:41

Codek,
You said you read the Bible? Ever read this?

Ephesians 6v16, 'above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.'

Remember him? The wicked one, Satan?

He is just poisoning your mind against God. And don't think he hasn't done the same to many, if not all who visit this site.

Doesn't Jesus tell us he was a liar from the beginning? Doesn't Jesus also tell us, that he is a thief, and that he comes to steal, kill and destroy? John 10v10.

And it began in Genesis 3 when the serpent got Eve to doubt God's word with one simple sentence, 'Has God indeed said?' And, as we know, she fell for it.

I hope and pray you don't do the same. How is it we can trust the words of men, but the word of God we seem to question?

If it's an emotional experience you want, it might not happen.

Regardless of feelings, cling to the word. There is hope.

Praying.

There is a place in his kingdom - posted by Sree (), on: 2011/9/7 10:49

To the Codek,

There was a stage in my life when I hit the rock bottom of self esteem and I felt I am not called by him. Then I asked Lord to tell me frankly whether I have a place in his kingdom or not. And then he showed me John 14-1

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

So if there is no room for me in his kingdom Jesus would have told me straight to my face that there is no place. But there is that is why he didn't tell me there is no room. Same is the case with you, there is place in God's Kingdom for you and that is why Jesus has not said no to you yet. After God showed me that verse I got so much encouraged that there is a place

ace for me and I just need to live worthy of it.

Codek, this Christian life is not just for reaching heaven. If only reaching heaven and escaping hell is your goal you will never become like Christ. Instead focus on Christ and ask God to fill with Holy Spirit to reflect Christ's glory on earth. He will do it for sure. He did not do it till now to you because your interest to reach heaven is much higher than Christlikeness. Change your priorities and God will change you.

Calvinism is not a solution at all, it will only turn you away from God or make you wait indefinitely for God to change you. See when Jesus converted water to Wine he first asked the servants to fill the jars with water and then he did the miracle of turning it to wine. So there is a small human element involved in our holy christian life which cannot be neglected. If you become a Calvinist you will never do that human task and God will never be able to convert an empty Jar to Jar filled with Wine.

Also you need to understand brokenness and that is what God is leading you now into. I can explain you about this if you are willing to know. Please email me at desitcs@gmail.com if you are interested to know about brokenness which is a wonderful gift that I see God giving you but you have not accepted it now.

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/9/7 11:05

Codek,

Sounds to me like you have been reading too many articles, too many sermons, hence your confusion.

May I suggest you take a fast from reading theological works; fast from listening to sermons; fast from listening and observing others. Then you just search out the WORD, the Scriptures only and see what happens. Read the scriptures on your knees...if God is telling you you need to repent of something, do it. There may be a besetting sin that is blocking your relationship with God. Paul writes about that - I will let you look up that verse, you need the exercise.

You will find if you persist and are obedient to what he tells you. Too many want to hold onto a pet sin, hence the dryness of soul.

Blessings.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 11:05

Quote:
-----The Christians in my life are lukewarm Christians who go to church for social reasons. None of them are saved. I don't know why I'm the only one of the people around that realize that something is wrong with the modern church today. I don't even know how I realized it.

Hi Codek,

You say you "don't even know how you realized it".

You realized it because God IS speaking to you and you are hearing His voice.

Brother, you are suffering from lack of fellowship with others and with the Holy Spirit. I have been in a similar situation as you and it can be very depressing. But as some have mentioned, God is using it in your life.

I would begin by recognizing that Jesus Christ is indeed speaking to you and drawing you away from everything that is not of Him. But what now, you say?

He is trying to train you to lay aside every weight that so easily besets you and to look unto Him, the Author and Finisher of your faith.

We cannot trust in ourselves or even our brothers, we must put our full trust and hope in Him.

Codek, the Lord is actually trying to bring you into much closer fellowship with Him. Just begin with baby steps and acknowledge

owledge that He is speaking to you and thank Him for that. He has chosen you brother. You must see this, because all of us do easily see it. I know I do.

Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matt 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

I will pray that you will find that place of rest with Him that He has provided for us. We all yearn for it, but to get it we must let go of our "labours" and burdens.

Just-in

The Lord knows how you feel.

Jer 9:2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

Re: Hang in there - posted by Vakugal, on: 2011/9/7 12:54

As often as I am reminded, I am going to uphold you in prayer that you be assured of God's unchanging everlasting love for you.

God will come through, don't give up on Him because He has not given up on you.

Pour out your heart to Him, tell it as it is, tell Him that you may not be reacting the way you ought to but at the end of it all I tell Him that though you don't understand it all, you are still going to trust Him because you know He loves you.

Listen to no thought that tells you otherwise.

Also maybe you could mention your location (no need to mention personal details) here and one of the brothers or sisters could suggest a fellowship nearest to where you live. Maybe there is a wholehearted brother who stays very near to where you stay.

What then shall we say, if God did not spare His own Son, won't He with Him, give us all things.

There is always someone in the word of God who might have gone through similar circumstances as you have, and God has always come through. So let us take heart!

James 5:10, 11 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Isaiah said there was no one left but him.

From Joseph all was taken away.

Job was ridiculed by his friends

Heb 12:1, 2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 12:57

I have not bothered to read this whole thing (and probably a good thing I didn't), but the if the original author of this thread thinks that this is representative of reformed theology... he/she is completely wrong.

You can not repent and put your trust in Christ without His regenerating your heart and enabling you to do so anyway. ANYONE who repents and puts their trust in Christ IS SAVED. IS CHOSEN.

Without regeneration there is no ability to repent.

Krispy

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2011/9/7 12:58

Hi Codek,

I think that there is much wisdom in what sister GinnyRose is saying.

Sometimes, during periods of confusion where our mind is clouded by so many thoughts, it is best to lay aside every weight of confusion (including every notion about doctrine) and simply spend time with the Lord and His Word.

Brother, all of your fretting or agonizing worry cannot make the Sun go up or down. God set it in order...for His purpose and our benefit.

Like many, I think that we often concern ourselves with passages of Scripture and build mountainous doctrines out of ant hills.

I would suggest leaving all of the confusion behind. Lay down any books or sermons that you might be listening to...and focus upon the simplicity and clear truths from God's Word.

During His time on Earth, many children came to Jesus. They weren't concerned with doctrines of "predestination." They weren't worried about eschatology. They weren't even worried about any traditions (including theological ones). Instead, they focused on what was really important -- spending time with Jesus.

After all, HE is all that truly matters.

I suggest that you simply stop running around with preconceived notions that you gleaned from books, sermons or contemplation, and instead just pick up the New Testament (particularly the Gospels) and fall in love with Jesus all over again. I would even suggest that you start with the Book of Luke (because Luke was quite a thinker as well).

One thing that I can promise you: Jesus sees you, hears you and loves you more than words can ever say! He sees your concern and fears...and holds nothing but the purest form of love than can ever be imagined for you. When you study the Gospels, I suggest that you do it slowly...and talk with Him as you read (asking for clarity). And remember that the things that He spoke 2,000 years ago were spoken with you also in mind.

I will be praying for you, brother. The Lord understands you...and He has great compassion for you. He loves you as much as any president, king, child or preacher featured on this website. Be encouraged.

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2011/9/7 12:58

Codek,

What do you want from Jesus, exactly? A better life? A life without trouble?

Sadly, the modern "gospel" message claims that God wants you to be happy and to have a better life here and now. This is as bad as the message of cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses (pay attention...), who try to make you focus on improving this life, rather than setting your hope on the inheritance that is in Christ. Don't listen to this junk (modern gospel or JW), because they will surely perish along with this world (2 Peter 3:7).

The truth is that:

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
(1 Corinthians 15:19)

For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.
(Romans 6:5)

Why are you upset at God? He has given you all things in Christ... Do you not care for the riches that are in Christ? (Eternal life, no more pain, no more sin, no more hypocrisy, God comforting you and wiping all tears from your eyes, seeing

God face-to-face, no longer as through a dark glass, no more confusion, etc.) The reason why you are upset is because you wanted something that God had not promised. You wanted comfort, now... whereas God promised tribulations and trials... comfort comes later. (Acts 14:22, John 16:33)

Keep your eyes on the goal of your faith: the salvation of your soul! (1 Peter 1:9) Maybe you came to Jesus for the wrong reasons...

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACCEPT WHAT GOD HAS REALLY PROVIDED IN CHRIST JESUS: THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL. He paid the price at the cross, He conquered death by the resurrection. Do you think that God will refuse you if you accept His offer on His terms? Come on! May the Lord give you faith to see what His promises REALLY ARE, and to lay hold of them.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Renoncer

Re: - posted by Careman, on: 2011/9/7 14:21

Codek,

If I have ever been thankful to the LORD for saving me, I am thankful that He made me to know the depths of Islam and the emptiness therein because it is all human philosophy and disjointed human reasoning laced with absurd spirit interjections. Now I know the LORD Jesus and I am so free from man's chains and shackles. All my days I will crave to know Jesus more and more - not Calvinism, not Armenianism, not Moseism, not Elijaism and all what not. If any of them is worth devoting my attention to, I will only do so to the extent that they are able to point me to Jesus Christ. Without Jesus Christ, Christianity is blank, bland, epileptic religion. It has no meaning and will never bring meaning to anyone who practices it. Thank God, I know Jesus! Beloved, endeavour to know Jesus, open your heart and listen to Him.

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2011/9/7 15:02

Codek,

I have had you on my prayer list since I joined SI almost a year ago now....I am glad for this thread to remind me to be more fervent in my prayers for you. I have a 26-y/o son who has said almost identical things to what you are saying with just slightly different language. There is NOTHING a mother wants more than the salvation of her children, but I have been helpless to help my son in all my reasonings and quotings of Scripture to him. I am only saying this to let you know that to some level I hear and understand your pain and frustration. While it MUST be an act of God in your life, you also MUST keep on seeking.....I will be more in prayer for you.....

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2011/9/7 15:27

Codek,

I was reading Ray Comfort's book entitled "God has a wonderful plan for your life: The myth of the modern message", when I came across a passage that made me think about you. My heart was again very burdened for you... oh, how my heart aches for you!

"Christ was sent to heal the brokenhearted, to give peace to those that were troubled and humbled for sins, and to bring them to rest who were weary and heavy-laden, under the burden of guilt and corruption"

I want you to know that I am praying for you.

Listen to the words of the First and the Last, who died and came to life:

"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich!) and the slander of those who say that they are Christians and are not, but are an assembly of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be TESTED, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who OVERCOMES will not be hurt by the second death."

(Revelation 2:8-11)

PRAYER CALL FOR CODEK - posted by Renoncer, on: 2011/9/7 15:33

Greg (SI moderator),

Can we have a prayer call tonight for Codek? I really feel burdened for him. I don't know how to set that up (the call), so if anyone has the ability, they could set up a time and a number that we can call.

Sincerely in Christ,
Renoncer

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by Veronica226 (), on: 2011/9/7 15:33

codek,

I skimmed the replies, but didn't read them all so I apologize if this is redundant.

First of all, I will be praying for you.

Secondly, this is the theme that I keep getting out of your posts, here and else where:

Quote:

-----to me. It's sad but really I don't care anymore. There is nothing more I can do. I've done all I can. If He wants to save me, He will. I'm sick and tired of reading the bible and getting nothing out of it. I listened to 8 hours of sermons while researching on the internet like crazy today. There is no hope. Jesus refuses to talk to me and He doesn't have to.

Now the next thing I will say, I say in love. Because I want to see you get through this. I say with the old puritan preacher S...

You need to repent of your good deeds. Even of all your Bible reading. Why? Because it seems that you are doing all of this to prove that you are a real Christian and to get God's attention. It's won't work. GOD DOESN'T NEED YOU. He doesn't need your poverty or your evangelism or your obedience. Does He want it? Yes. Does he need it? NO!

Job 35:6-8 "6 If you sin, how does that affect him? If your sins are many, what does that do to him? 7 If you are righteous, what do you give to him, or what does he receive from your hand? 8 Your wickedness affects only a man like yourself, and your righteousness only the sons of men."

Romans 11:33-36 "33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

1 Corinthians 4:7 "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"

The fact that you are at the end of yourself is very good. That's the only place you can be in. Because God can't use someone who thinks they can give something to God.

Since you seem to idolize Paul Washer, I will give you a few quotes from him just to make a point:

"All the religions of the world are saying, 'Do this, do that and make yourself worthy before God. Make God your debtor. Live in such a way that God must save you because He owes you.' That's what works is actually saying. And then there's a salvation by grace. It's a gift." - Paul Washer

"You think that when a preacher gets up and says, 'Look, salvation is a gift! It's favor that's not merited!' That men would just jump at the chance to have such a thing. But they don't. You know why? Men are proud. 'I don't need anything from anybody. I don't need anything from your God. I can do everything on my own.' Sir you cannot breathe apart from the grace of God. And even the hardened atheist who clenches his fist and shakes it in the face of God cursing His name can only do so by the power of God. Everything is grace. Everything is God's unmerited favor." - Paul Washer

And I once heard him say that people would offer him these big ministries. Where he could preach and teach and do all kinds of spiritual things. Do you know what his answer was? "But then I won't have time to go fishing." You can glorify God while fishing just as much as you can reading your Bible. And if you disobey Him and go fishing or something instead of reading your Bible or praying, He still loves you the EXACT SAME AMOUNT if you are really His. Why? Because His love is UNCONDITIONAL. You can never be good enough. No good work you ever do will make Him love you more than He already loves you.

The fact that He seems distant could be that He is trying to get your attention, that He is disciplining you. Trying to show you that works don't mean anything and that you need to quit trusting in yourself.

Repent of ALL your good deeds and flee to Christ.

I'm praying for you.
In Christ,
Veronica

P.S. Why evangelize if God has already ordained/chosen who will be saved? Because God has also ordained that they be saved by hearing someone preach the gospel. Romans 10:13-14 "for **“WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”** 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?"
And secondly because Christ commanded it. Your sinning if you don't. I really don't understand why this is so hard for people to grasp. You don't know who has been chosen! Therefore you are to preach the gospel to all the world **LIKE YOU ARE COMMANDED TO**. Sheesh.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 18:26

Someone quoted this verse

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who **OVERCOMES** will not be hurt by the second death."
(Revelation 2:8-11)

So are all of you willing to be faithful unto death? Have you guys given up everything to follow Him?

I'm just saying this because I have **SO MANY** people quote this verse to me all the time and they haven't given up anything. They are just charlatans.

It's easy to say these things but I'm just wondering how many people are willing to give up everything including their **LIVES** for christ.

I'm not passing judgement here but from **EXPERIENCE**, none of these people who quoted me that verse were willing to give up anything. They were phonies.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 18:37

About getting in the word. I read the word in 30 minute increments from time to time. I used to do it more but **GAVE UP BECAUSE I WAS GETTING MORE CONFUSED**. I still do it but since I'm not suppose to use commentary or bible study material, it's really just hard to interpret what the bible is saying. I have only been doing a lot of sermon listening, website research because the bible is not making any sense. If I was getting it from the bible, why listen to sermons?

I was reading Romans chapter 8-10 and it was confusing the hell outta me. That's why I resort to other means but I still keep going back to the bible but it hasn't been working.

You guys do have to understand that the bible is not easy text to follow. **IT IS THE HARDEST TEXT TO FOLLOW**. There are many interpretations of the word, many contradictions. Why are we still arguing arminianism vs calvinism, you want to know the answer? because **THE BIBLE IS THAT AMBIGUOUS AND HARD TO FOLLOW**.

I'm not gonna gain any understanding unless God reveals it to me. This is sounding like law,"codek, you gotta do this. you gotta do that. But I don't see God doing anything. He doesn't even reply."

You can tell what I'm doing.

But I will keep trying to do it and no matter how hard it is , I will read the bible. No matter how many times I throw my bible against the wall in frustration, I will read it. And yes reading the bible is a vital part of christian life.

Thank you for whoever reminded me of reading the bible. I'm just trying to help you guys understand my frustrations with reading the bible.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 18:42

This quotation pretty much summarizes my post. so please read this. thank you.

It is puzzling why God appeared to Paul so dramatically while he was disobeying God, while today people are seeking God and trying to obey him yet God does not appear to them. As a result they may become disgruntled and lost. Perhaps they are not meant to be the chosen people.

There is also a question about the matter that is linked to the forum at <http://www.truechristianity.com/philosophy>

Perhaps this can explain why many people are truly seeking God but cannot find him to the point that they are satisfied they have his spirit. It could be possible that some people will not be chosen and saved no matter how hard they try to seek and obey God. It appears as if Paul, the Apostles and the thief on the cross were in the right place at the right time and were chosen. I cannot explain why some people in Biblical times found God without any evidence they first tried hard to seek and obey him, while today some people spend enormous time trying to seek and obey God but they cannot find him. Luke 11:9, which says "seek, and ye shall find" may only apply and speak to the chosen people.

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by kwamenat, on: 2011/9/7 18:46

Codek,

If you go to hell, its because of your unbelief. Don't allow the devil to cripple you with one of his deadly weapons which is doubting the power of God to save you through Jesus Christ! If you decide to believe what you wrote then the Bible will not be true!

God is pleased by a person who has faith (Heb. 11:6).

God will work miracles on behalf of a person who has faith (Matt. 9:22, Luke 18:42).

God limits or even refuses to work in a person's life when that person's faith is weakened by doubt or unbelief (Mark 6:5, James 1:7).

Need I go on....

kwamenat

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 18:46

kwamenat, would you tell us your conversion story.

so if every example of christianity in my life is opposite to what the bible says, God never loves me or talks to me, never answers my prayer, I'm suppose to just believe in Him, just cause.

You must have EXTRAORDINARY FAITH.

If I married your daughter and EVERYDAY for 30 years, I beat the crap out of her but told you to have FAITH in me cause I loved your daughter, would you have FAITH IN ME? HOW EASY WOULD THAT BE? LIKE A LIGHT SWITCH?

So if I tell you right now to sell all your possessions and to invest in the american dollar right now because somehow the dollar will bounce back by the end of this year and everything will go back to how it was in 2003, would you have ENOUGH FAITH TO DO IT? Would you really believe that the economy will go back to how it was in 2003 by the end of this year without any evidence?

I had faith like a child but when you get burned by everybody and when you get BURNED BY JESUS himself, you start to lose faith. Remember when we were little kids and we trusted everybody but as we get older we become cynical and judged by this world.

I HAD FAITH AND I GOT BURNED BY GOD CAUSE HE WON'T EVEN TALK TO ME.

Christianity is faith but experience does matter. No one believes on faith alone.

IF IT WAS SO EASY TO FAITH why is there a thread on this forum titled

"Experience vs. Doctrine in Relationship with Christ".

I didn't create that thread.

I'm not saying to be harsh but right now but I'm doing this to prove a point. I don't believe God is good. My faith in that w
hittled down to nothing after decades of pain and hurt , not from just other BUT FROM GOD. If you were Job and all you
saw was your life torn apart and I'm not talking about material things. What if you were Job but without the blessed stag
e of your life. From the time you were born, all you felt is PAIN AND MORE PAIN. If God just was SILENT TO YOU, wo
uld you have enough faith? Even his own wife said "curse God, and die" Do you know how hard it is to have that faith i
n a world like this? Yet I'm suppose to just turn this on like a light switch.

Every single pastor I was under taught some form of prosperity gospel. They kept telling me I had to have more faith wh
en they themselves didn't have any faith. They didn't give it all up like I did. They always played it safe in their walk, nev
er ever willing sacrifice a bit out of their comfort zone.

So if there is this magic pill, tell me how to do it because I DON'T WANT TO BE MISLED ANYMORE. DO YOU HONES
TLY THINK I LIKE DOING THIS?

I'M ONLY DOING THIS CAUSE BECAUSE

1.GOD IS SILENT(THROUGH THE WORD, AND EVERYTHING)LIKE TALKING TO A BRICK WALL

2.EVERY SO CALLED XIAN IN MY REAL LIFE IS FAKE

3.I HAVE NO WHERE ELSE TO GO(I WOULDN'T DO THIS IF I DID)

and one more thing kwamenat, if God burned down your house right now, allowed all your daughters to get raped and th
en killed, your wife to die, you go bankrupt, you lose your home and everything, you get a serious disease all TODAY,

HOW EASY WOULD IT BE TO JUST HAVE THAT FAITH?

Re: - posted by kwamenat, on: 2011/9/7 19:22

First, you need to know that you are probably better off than the vast majority of people in the world (Many people in a th
ird world country will love to have what you have). God has done a lot for you. you just fail to see it! + you are still alive!

You are looking for signs to validate that God loves you and is willing to save you instead of just believing or saying like t
he boy's father in Mark 9:24- Lord I believe but help my unbelief. You need to simply believe the word of God and leave t
he rest to God.

"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." (John 4:48)

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet ha
ve believed." (John 20:29)

Codek, if you continued to believe and trust in God amidst your hardships you would have been truly blessed but now yo
u are filled with doubt and unbelief. Not to late..You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.(Jere
miah 29:13)

I saw a different thread that you started about giving all of your money to the poor and now you are totally broke and no
one is helping you. If God never talks to you then who told you to give all of your money away?

I see no need to answer the whole american dollar question you asked because God did not say that. If He did then i will believe!

My conversion story is simply this. I believed in Jesus Christ and I have not been the same since. I have peace through rough and good times. Even if the rest of my life goes downhill I will believe. I can do no other! He is all i have.

In Christ,
kwamenat

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 19:29

kwamenat

"First, you need to know that you are probably better off than the vast majority of people in the world (Many people in a third world country will love to have what you have). God has done a lot for you. you just fail to see it! + you are still alive!"

That is all relative. If I born in 3rd world country, I would be surrounded by others in my situation. And no the hardest place to be saved is in America, not in a 3rd world country. If I had a choice, I wouldn't have asked to be born here. And of course since I was born here, I can't move there so that is a moot point. I'm not talking about material suffering. Of course that hurts but what really hurts is God not responding, not being able to trust in God through all my prior experiences. If I could trust, I don't give a crap what happens to me in this life, why would it? It's all about the afterlife. See you don't even understand where I'm coming from and yet you arrogantly order me to just believe.. lol

about who told me to feed the poor?

Maybe God, maybe Satan, maybe myself I have no idea. I thought it was God but maybe its my own brain. I have no idea. BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHY? GOD DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING TO ME.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 19:33

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 19:33

kwamenat

See the whole point of this "giving up everything" was because I wanted to understand "He is all I have" I wanted to know what it was to truly believe "Jesus is all i need"

That is pretty abstract for such an unholy man like me so please explain. Because I can tell you why a Steak tastes good and I can touch, taste, smell it, move it, interact with it.

Because then anyone can argue Superman is all I need, Batman is all I need.

Because believing in Jesus is such an easy thing for you to do so why don't you explain. Pretend I'm a non believer, actually that's what I always was. I was never a true christian and now I've realized that I've never really believed in God and now I'm trying to find out how.

SO TELL ME HOW.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 19:42

kwamenat

"My conversion story is simply this... Even if the rest of my life goes downhill I will believe....I can do no other! He is all i have."

That is because you have developed a trust with Him because somewhere down the line, that trust was developed and it wasn't only faith. You have to have some type of experienced associated to it.

So if you're not going to explain how you developed that faith or how God gave it to you, you need to stop just saying "JUST HAVE FAITH"

I never had that encounter with God or BETTER CALLED TESTIMONY

And also many people I know tell me, If I lose everything I will still believe but I find very few that will actually do it so you saying that without anything means nothing.

"Codek, if you continued to believe and trust in God amidst your hardships you would have been truly blessed but now you are filled with doubt and unbelief. Not to late..You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.(Jeremiah 29:13)"

I was trustin in God for about 20 years and I keep getting let down. God doesn't warn me of the false prophets that are coming in my life. He just lets me get rocked and then lets me find out the truth in the HARDEST WAY POSSIBLE.

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 20

Codek,

I am willing to talk about my faith in Jesus with you if you would like to hear about it.

Travis

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 19:54

"You are looking for signs to validate that God loves you and is willing to save you instead of just believing or saying like the boy's father in Mark 9:24- Lord I believe but help my unbelief. You need to simply believe the word of God and leave the rest to God.

"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonder's," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." (John 4:48)

If you get burned by God all the time, how else do you believe?

Again with the other example

If I married your daughter and EVERYDAY for 30 years, I beat the crap out of her but told you to have FAITH in me cause I loved your daughter, would you have FAITH IN ME? HOW EASY WOULD THAT BE? LIKE A LIGHT SWITCH?

And please don't be a copout and use the "God didn't say that response" We're both trying to prove a point and that basically says you can't back up what you are saying. It's an easy copout used by false prophets. If you don't want to back up what you are saying then please don't post.

I've got enough people saying "just believe" and I look at their lives and say "why don't you believe"

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 19:54

Please do Travis.

Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2011/9/7 20:07

I grew up doing drugs with my family,

the person I was living with through me out of the house because I stole the last bit of his drugs, so I started walking down the mountain that we lived on and he offered me a ride, I refused saying "Jesus walked, so can I". I have been following him since then, That was about seven years ago.

I tried joining churches, but the Lord didn't want me in them. I was baptized in one of them though. I have been a pilgrim in this world. I know what it is to be thrown out of house and home for the sake of Jesus. The other day the police came to my door because many think that I am insane and dangerous so when I preach, the police are called. God always gives me the right words though, I have not been arrested yet. Through all this my heart is overflowing with joy and peace because Jesus says I am blessed!!! His love is wonderful.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World!

Behold Him Codek.

He is Jesus.

He was slain and is risen again!

We are countered as sheep for the slaughter.

But he crowns us with life!

Hallelujah!

come Lord Jesus!

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/7 20:10

Couple questions:

What is your "conversion" story? How long ago did that take place? What do you understand the gospel to be? Is english your first language/do you have learning disabilities of any kind?

Regarding the first question, there need be no "experience" in the sense you have stated. Romans 10 here:

10:5 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

and lastly:

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

You are saved when you believe in the word of God with regards to the gospel. The bad news and then the good news. Your experience is simply to have someone preach the gospel or for you to read it and then to believe it, repenting of sin.

God does have to will to make you born again, and He has promised to do that in John 1:12-13. Whoever will receive Him (Jesus) God wills to give spiritual life to and indwell with His Holy Spirit.

The last question I ask is simply because you may have trouble understanding the King James version if you aren't English as first language (Calm down all y'all) or you may have a learning disability toward reading. You seem to listen to sermons a lot and read online so I guess that there isn't really a problem there.

Finally, GOD DOES SPEAK TO YOU WHENEVER YOU OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND RECEIVE IT IN FAITH. Take small chunks, but in context, and meditate on them until God shows you the truth. You are approaching the Word with lack of faith it seems from the way you have written here. Read the gospels, especially John. I heard someone once say that it was deep enough for theologians to drown in and yet shallow enough for babes to wade in.

Lloyd

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 20:15

"Through all this my heart is overflowing with joy and peace because Jesus says I am blessed!!! His love is wonderful.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World!

Behold Him Codek. He is Jesus. He was slain and is risen again! We are countered as sheep for the slaughter.

But he crowns us with life! Hallelujah! come Lord Jesus!"

That's a great testimony! But how do you just believe Him. I have trust issues with everybody since I trusted so many people and been burned by pretty much all of them.

Kinda like Dennis Rodman, so it's very hard to believe in God without that trust. And all my life, God let these evil teachers in my life and until now I haven't been able to see through their schemes.

Earlier this year, I was listening to Bill Johnson's teaching and trying to heal everyone thinking it was God's will until I found out that he was a false prophet. A friend of mine who tricked me into believing in that because he wanted to see miracles so badly. I was tricked into believing modern christianity, ihop and various other things.

Re: - posted by savedtoserve, on: 2011/9/7 20:19

Codek, could you please give me your email address? You can send it to my email (savinggrace1611ATgmailDOTcom) if you don't wish to post it here. My pastor wants to talk with you about what you've been saying. Thank you very much.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 20:20

I can't say I have a conversion story because I grew up in the modern church and right now I'm not saved. I grew up in the church like most other Korean-Americans, and 99.99% of all the people in that church are not saved. It's a social gathering. Much of the activities sound churchy but as I found out about a year ago, much of the church today has a focus on humanism. I began to realize that fact in 2004 when I was on the praise team. I didn't know what was wrong but I knew church wasn't about Christ, it was just another machine to output man's desires disguised as a non-profit organization. I quit the praise team a week before a big conference and stopped going to church since. I focused on career and trying to dechristianize myself. Then a couple of years later, everything was turned upside down. The whole world started to fall apart. I lost my friends, job, health everything maybe in the last 3-4 years. Everything came crashing down. And I noticed how much of the bad things mentioned in Revelation were coming to be true in the world. Then I thought maybe the church is all messed up but maybe there is a God. So I read the Bible, looked for a fellowship, I probably went to 10 churches in the last 4 years. But every church I went to is had no Christians in it. The pastors were speaking downright heresy and they promoted humanism all the way to keep their congregation large and happy. I was all alone and didn't have anywhere to turn to because everyone around me were as xian as Satanists. Then a friend of mine turned me to sermonindex when he was going through a Paul Washer phase. He is in a bad place because now he is all about healing and pretty much listening to the healers Bill Johnson, Westerfield, and others. I stopped going to church all together because I couldn't find some actual believers. Another church I attended were doing Bible studies with books by Rick Warren, etc. I had to leave. So then I started to listen to Francis Chan heavily and got the bright idea to give up everything I got and be completely sold out for Jesus. Now I have no money left, about to lose my car, in tons of credit card debt, about to become bankrupt because I was waiting on God. I just thought if I put forth my trust and everything in Him first, everything will be provided. I previously felt I didn't have enough faith in God so I tried to relinquish the control in my life by focusing

using on trying to find out who God is in the last two years and not focus on things like finding a job, etc. I somehow felt that I would be disobeying God by looking for a job, that that action would show my lack of trust in Him. It all went to hell and I had to find a job so I did but I was let go a couple of months into that temp job. My employer was a dictator who forced his employees to sometimes work 24hour shifts. Now I've lost hope in everything and I'm completely screwed. The worst part is I don't trust God. And when I tried to seek, I come away with nothing but frustration, hence these posts. There is a lot more to this story, stories of me going out into the streets to evangelize, help my brothers, etc but that is the gist of it.

I don't have a disability and english is not my second language. I'm not very articulate in my posts here.

People have told me I'm a pretty smart guy and my analytical/logic skills will rival any theologian, it's just that my knowledge of theology and the bible is very weak.

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 20:21

my email is codek1424@yahoo.com

anyone can email me. actually that might be better

Re: , on: 2011/9/7 20:26

Can someone validate Lkid or Lloyd's response to my question.

I just need a second person or other people to validate his response. It is complex but simple and he made some points that I like to further investigate. thank you

Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2011/9/7 20:28

Codek,

I also bought into false teaching and was going around trying to heal everyone about a year ago. God convicted me of my Sin that lead to my captivity. I played the harlot, I loved other things more than Him. God showed me that I sinned against Him. Then he showed me how my actions were actually scattering people from Him. I saw all the darkness of my sin I cried out to God to take all my sin away. Then I saw the Cross, and all my Sin was washed away.

God was faithful to keep me, to convict me, and to save me, even after I had played the Harlot. He can and is willing to do the same for you.

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/8 2:10

Codek,

If you don't understand the scriptures check out Luke 8, the parable of the sower as a place to "start over" Jesus says in verse 18 take heed how you hear. How are you hearing the word? With a heart that has been prepared to receive the word, or hardened like the ground by the roadside, where Satan snatches away the word before it can take root.

On another note, regarding trials and tribulations. I have not been through alot of persecution for His name's sake as some have, but I look at the example of Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. They are being persecuted for doing exactly what God told them to go out and do. So, because they know they are in God's will and are suffering for His name's sake and not because of sin in their lives, they rejoice and sing hymns. When the apostles were arrested and flogged for proclaiming Jesus in the beginning of Acts they rejoiced that they had been counted worthy to suffer for His names sake. **BUT MAKE SURE YOU AREN'T BLAMING GOD FOR TRIALS THAT YOU HAVE BECAUSE YOU ARE IN A LIFE OF SIN.**

If you lost your job because of Jesus that's something to rejoice IN (not about), if you lost your job because you were checking out porn on the work computer then you are suffering for sin's sake and God is disciplining you.

Lloyd

Re: , on: 2011/9/8 3:31

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/9/8 3:51

Brother Codek, I understand you are upset but please you know this forum isn't the place for name calling or foul language, do it if you must but do it through private email respecting the rules brother Greg has placed here.

I will be sending you an email, because I really want to understand and I apologize for judging you too quickly without all the information.

My email is mguldner@hotmail.com expect and email from me.

Re: , on: 2011/9/8 4:09

I do apologize for my tone and I'm sorry if I offended anyone but I won't stand for any attacks I'm getting here. I've gotten my share on MOST threads I made.

If you dish out correction without any love or without understanding where I'm coming from, I'm going to say something back.

That is my #1 complaint about Christians. There is simply no love between Christians. Yes, you can be the greatest theologian in the world but if you have no love it means nothing. Jesus's answer to what was the greatest commandment is not how well you know the word (although this is very very important). It was to love Him and then love your brothers as yourself. I do see a lot of Bereans here and there but I don't see much of "loving brothers as yourself" anywhere I go.

But I do apologize for snapping very quickly. This is the worst time of my life right now and God will not say anything to me or I'm not able to communicate with Him in any manner right now. And I wasn't lying, if something miraculous doesn't happen, I'm filing bankruptcy next month, I will probably lose the car and I already lost my friends, health and a lot of other things. Am I going through the most suffering in the world, no! I am just an average Joe fake Christian trying to find out if Jesus is real and be saved, a genuine regeneration, not a prayer that I meant in my heart.

All of my frustration is not intended for anyone here, it is my plea with God, that if He exists that I need to talk to Him.

Everyday it feels like a gun is pointed at my head and if I die, I might end up in hell for eternity. I really do need to get this settled so please understand how desperate and sensitive I am.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/9/8 6:36

Codek do you not see? GOD is and has been answering your prayers. You have come here and shared your burdens on more than one occasion and the body of CHRIST has been moved by the LORD to intercede for you. GOD has called HIS children to pray for you and you say HE does not answer you??? HIS love is being poured out upon you even now and you refuse to see it. Many have shared how GOD has spoken to them, laid a desire upon their hearts for you personally to know HIS love for you. GOD is moving but in your anger and bitterness you refuse to see. I am not saying this to attack you but to say plainly GOD has not abandoned you. DO not let your focus on self or the enemy take away the outpouring of love GOD is demonstrating here for you through HIS children.

Will keep praying for you. Please know I am not trying to attack you or lessen what you are going through. My desire is to share with you the light of JESUS through the darkness you are now struggling with. There is much love for you here, don't let the enemy or self cause you to miss it...

GOD bless
maryjane

edited

Re: - posted by Kono (), on: 2011/9/8 8:01

Dear codek,

No man is predestinated to damnation. For it is written, that "everlasting fire prepared for the satan and his angels". (Mt 25,41) That means not for men! In God's plan no one is predestinated to hell, only the devil and his angels.

Only You have forgotten some truth of His Word, and now You are suffering from it.

Let me encourage You a bit: it is God's grace working in You, that You will not perish under delusion, but He wants You to search for the true life.

Would it be better if He let You be a famous praise band leader and yet You go to hell? Surely not! He loves You more, than let You be perished from lies.

Deserts are never comfortable, but listen:

Hos 2, 14 Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her.

Now I am over some of these deserts, when thought, this is the end of life, no God, no faith helps me.

And I am now here and I can proclaim, that He loves me, and the knowledge of His love in my heart is burning more than ever before. I have never before heard God's tender, gentle voice of love so strong like now!

I go a step further: I Kings 19: 11-12 tells the story, when Elijah wanted to truly know God's glory:

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

You will have earthquakes of Your life, windstorm, and burning fire in Your soul, if really want to know Him; want to know Him more, than others.

But be still: never forget, that God is never in the storm or in the fire; He comes after all these, if You are committed to wait for Him: by a gentle, tender whisper of love.

And what is necessary from You? Enough faith? No!

It is a false doctrine, that things only happen if You have enough(!) faith. Jesus never told us, that we have to have enough, large enough, much enough, etc. faith. Only to have faith. So have faith in Him, whether this faith is weak and broken. But still faith.

So hold on! You are not lost at all. You may need some essential change of lifestyle (work, health, financial discipline, maybe brother Matthew can help You better in a longer e-mail conversation), but if You start it with pure heart, You will be successful in every way of the Lord.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/9/8 8:33

"They weren't concerned with doctrines of "predestination." They weren't worried about eschatology. They weren't even worried about any traditions (including theological ones). Instead, they focused on what was really important -- spending time with Jesus."

And most people that come to the LORD are just as ignorant.

It is absurd to think a body needs to understand the finer points of theology in order to connect with God. We serve a living person, not an ideology.

Excellent post, Chris. You said it well.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/9/8 9:00

by ginnyrose on 2011/9/8 2:33:15

"They weren't concerned with doctrines of "predestination." They weren't worried about eschatology. They weren't even worried about any traditions (including theological ones). Instead, they focused on what was really important -- spending time with Jesus."

And most people that come to the LORD are just as ignorant.

It is absurd to think a body needs to understand the finer points of theology in order to connect with God. We serve a living person, not an ideology.

Excellent post, Chris. You said it well.

ginnyrose

I just wanted to say another amen to this. This is a very good post.

God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/9/8 9:06

codek,

As I read through your writings, you expressing your frustrations because God seems so far away after all you did to gain his approval... I thought of a few scriptures that might give you some insight.

2Thassalonians 3:6-

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;

9 not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Codek, this scripture contradicts WOF teachers, their lifestyle. If you choose to follow their teachings, you will experience some kind of consequences and you have found them to be devastating. If God would not love you, he would have allowed you to be comfortable there. As it is, He is permitting you to experience the end result of false teachings, forcing you to ask hard questions. This is not bad.

In conclusion, my mind goes to Habbakuk 3:17-18 NASB:

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls,

18 Yet I will exult in the LORD,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

This scripture has ministered to me a lot...

(BTW: if you think you are alone in experiencing financial loss, you are not alone. We did, too. We farmed for several years and practically lost everything due to drought. This put us in a severe financial bind for many years and we had five children to support on top of that. My husband was forced into work that paid much less and we had to pay these bills, still. Bankruptcy was never an option for us...I, too, had to deal with anger and bitterness but this scripture in Habakkuk always came back to minister to me. God is still God regardless of circumstances. In my case I could guess God allowed this to happen to us to humble me.)

Re: - posted by ravenmolehil, on: 2011/9/8 9:17

Job had a word for those that didn't understand his situation & tried to minister unto him... ye are all physicians of no value. O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.

& In Ch 16

2I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

3Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest? 4I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

5But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.

___ This hymn also come to mind...

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

In every condition, in sickness, in health;
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Even down to old age all My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

PS 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Re: - posted by Leeza, on: 2011/9/8 9:59

If we are wrestling with this in the realm of human reasoning, we are probably doing what Job's counselors did. They sometimes accurately stated what God had revealed about Himself, but they always drew conclusions that were offensive to God, (Not saying that is happening here! much wisdom) and discouraging to Job. Clearly, God has said He has chosen, elected...clearly God has said that those who seek Him will find Him, whosoever will may come. To us, this seems a dichotomy, but in Him, there is no dichotomy, only integrity.

so the Bible's declaration of our election is not to be a source of discouragement, but wonder, and comfort. Unwrap your human reasoning from this for a moment, and comfort yourself with the goodness and mercy of God. Who is He, what is His nature? Who do you think is drawing you to Him? Does He will that any should perish? Will not God the judge of the earth do right?

God's sovereign will trumps all, our salvation is His to initiate and His to complete. This is a comfort. This is our hope. There is not a source of condemnation.

So why do we fear? I struggle with this too. My reassurance is found only in the nature of God. Put aside your salvation, and what you may be seeking, and camp on His nature, worship and adore His goodness. And He will be found.

I have never had a manifestation of His presence. Only a growing certainty of His goodness.

Re: - posted by Kono (), on: 2011/9/8 12:27

Hey, brothers, do not fear at all!

Let us see the Bible, what it says about: there is no way to write too much, so I try to explain as simply I can.

Please read the whole chapters and all other verses, and You will find, I am right.

On one side, we read:

RA³m 9:21-22 Has the potter no right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special use and another for ordinary use?

But what if God, willing to demonstrate his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath prepared for destruction?

BUT on other side, we find:

2Tim 2:21 So if someone cleanses himself of such behavior, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

SO what does it mean? I could tell it, like:

In the kitchen we have 2 cupboards. On one, we have the cups for special purposes, and on the other, we have the cups for common purposes. You decide, on which cupboard You will take place (see 2. Tim) but it is God's election, which cup He wants to use, for what and in which time.

Second:

Jn 3:8 The wind blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.Â”

That tells us everything about rebirth. The wind blows wherever it will. When He blows to some heart, it will be born of the Spirit. That means not predestination, but this:

Only God can give us rebirth! He gives it, when He wants.

Salvation is not a gift, that only needs to be received! God is active in this process, so He wants to give this gift to everyone, personally! So it is false, that he is passive, once He has left this gift here on earth through Jesus, and now everyone, who would like, can go and get it. No!

That is why we can tell: I have met with Jesus. For He has, personally given me His gift of rebirth.

So what to do? HE commands us to repent. Not to rebirth. He will do His job in me, to be able to get this gift. If a pastor tells You to tell a prayer, and You have got salvation, do not believe Him! For no man on earth has the right to give You salvation, or to guarantee, that on that moment God gives that to You.

Only evangelist can tell: Search for God! I show the way. When You have found Him, he will give You this gift. So be on the right place, near the wind, on the right cupboard. And if not now, but hours, days, or weeks later, He will find You. For He has promised:

Jak 4:8-9 Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn, and weep. Turn your laughter into mourning and your joy into despair.

That's all:)

Re: , on: 2011/9/8 17:39

MaryJane, I'm sorry I gave you a wrong impression on my last post but I never felt you were attacking me in any way.

Most of the people here do not attack me but there are some who do not try to understand at all my situation and just order me to do things that without really taking into consideration what the issues are. I heard a lot of this all my life, they don't work.

I'm down for any rebuke whatsoever but if that person comes off like they are attacking instead of rebuking I'm going to stand up for myself.

There is also a lot of miscommunication here because there are so many posts and people can't possibly read all the posts and most people don't know my whole story.

Re: , on: 2011/9/8 17:48

Ginnyrose. Thank you for the verses but I'm not sure which part of the scripture you were trying to point out. To me it seems like they touched on a lot of issues, I'm referring to the passage in Thessalonians.

If you were talking about going to work, I am actively looking for work. I don't expect a miracle where God just throws money at me. I think there is a big misunderstanding here. I'm not advocating WoF doctrines. I want to work. But since my last post I did start looking for work in June. I got a temp job. I had the worst boss ever. He made some of my employees work 24 hour shifts without overtime pay. And if you didn't brown nose all the way, he'd find a way to get rid of you. That is the job that was provided to me.

I want to work but I hate politics. Yes, of course you have to deal with some politics but this was insane. Even coworkers told me this was crazy. And I was let go because when you are a temp, you have no rights. I wasn't willing to be his slave so I was let go.

The point I'm trying to make is that it's not my fault that I was brought up (like 99.9% of Christians) in the modern church. I had no choice but to attend. And up until recently, I was brainwashed into thinking that was the true church. I didn't know any better.

Every modern church has a bit of propriety in it. My point is that it really isn't fair to put this burden on me. I feel like everyone is telling me I should've have known better.

If I gave you a bible written in korean. I don't expect you or anyone to understand it, right away. And also if you went to church in america for all your life, I don't fault you for not being able to read from a korean bible.

But that's is my point here. Some of the people expect me to know the truth and they expect me instantly changed by their words in no time.

People who know the word are lucky because the modern church indirectly teaches us not to read from it. If you really look at it, the church indirectly discourages it. So the people who know the word are the very few and very lucky. I've been gun to understand the importance of reading the word.

The scripture from Habbakuk is a great one also. And I like to add I respect you because you actually share your testimonies about your suffering and you had 5 mouths to feed during that time.

But I believe somehow before those trials you had the trust in God, there was something there. With me, I never trusted God, I only did what I did because I was scared of God. So when trials come, I don't have that foundation to rely on.

And also I think some people are misunderstanding me. Yes my fleshly suffering, to put it bluntly, sucks but that's not why I am going crazy.

I can't feel God, I can't hear God. The worst part of this is that God is not here.

If God came to me, TOLD ME, you will die a horrible death 2 years from now, you will lose everything, I wouldn't be like this. Although I would not like the suffering, my flesh would absolutely hate it, I would have a peace that surpasses that.

I can't tell who the voices are inside my head because the same voices I thought were God were telling to believe in Wof doctrines earlier this year.

Right now, I feel I got nothing.

Something is wrong and I don't know what it is.

Re: - posted by Leeza, on: 2011/9/8 18:32

Hey again, I am so sorry too, did not mean to be preachy. Just have had similar stuff.

Re: , on: 2011/9/8 19:40

Leeza, you weren't preachy. No need to apologize. And Preachy is all good. I think there was just a couple of people that misunderstood me and I misunderstood them. that's all.

Again I'm open to any rebuke or discussion but it's just when people think I'm just blatantly doing this without disregard for who God is, that's what makes me angry. I wouldn't do any of this if I didn't think this was very very important.

Right now, I'm not even sure He exists. He's awfully quiet to me. I don't know.

Re: - posted by Leeza, on: 2011/9/8 19:50

I thank God that He remains steadfast. I have felt that isolation, that silence. I do think, that as He lives outside of time, He can utilize that for His purpose to form a desperation for Him in us, which is His great kindness. I think I don't have a capacity within myself for that desire, I am so easily content with the "OKness" of life, the good enough, the simple comforts. Yet, He wants more for me, He wants me to have a heart after Him. He wants us to have so so much more, and the way to that is quite like despair sometimes.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2011/9/8 19:54

<http://tinyurl.com/HeWillCarryYou>

HE WILL CARRY YOU

by Scott Wesley Brown

Their is no problem too big God cannot solve it
Their is no mountain too tall he cannot move it
Their is no storm too dark God cannot calm it
Their is no sorrow too deep he cannot sooth it

CHORUS:

If he carried the weight of the world up on his shoulders
I know my brother that he will carry you
If he carried the weight of the world up on his shoulders
I know my sister that he will carry you

He said

Come unto me, all who are weary--y
And I will give you rest

Their is no problem too big God cannot solve it
Their is no mountain too tall he cannot move it
Their is no storm too dark God cannot calm it
Their is no sorrow too deep he cannot sooth it

CHORUS:

If he carried the weight of the world up on his shoulders
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If he carried the weight of the world up on his shoulders
I know my brother that he will carry you
If he carried the weight of the world up on his shoulders
I know my sister that he will carry you,
he will carry you
he will carry you

Click here to hear the song:

<http://tinyurl.com/HeWillCarryYou>

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2011/9/8 19:59

<http://tinyurl.com/BeStillSong>

BE STILL

by Scott Wesley Brown

Performed by Angie Lewis

Verse 1

I want to hear you speak to me
The words I'm longing for.
'Cause sitting here in silence
Makes me cry.

I'm learning how to wait for you

And trust you with my life.
Your answers come so slowly, Lord,
Yet they always come on time.

Chorus
'Cause you hear me
Every breath I take.
You see me
Every move I make.
And you tell me to be still
And know that you are God.

Verse 2
Sometimes, my Lord, I wish that I
Could look into your eyes
Or feel you hold me in your arms
So tight.

'Cause I am weary running
For the answers that I seek
I need the comfort of your love
The stillness of your peace.

Repeat Chorus
'Cause you hear me
Every breath I take.
You see me
Every move I make.
And you tell me to be still
And know that you are God.

Click here to hear the song:
<http://tinyurl.com/BeStillSong>

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/8 20:16

Hi

Wow, you really misunderstood me on my last post Codek. But apology accepted from the subsequent post. I'm sorry if I am insensitive to your situation. I don't know your situation and can't know it unless I ask questions, and those questions have to be direct or we're wasting time here.

My point was that Paul and Silas trusted God and rejoiced in their suffering because they knew they were in His will so the suffering was for His name's sake and according to His will. But that we can also suffer because we are sinning, and plenty of people think they are suffering for God when it's just God disciplining them as a loving Father. That's what I was trying to say.

The other thing I was trying to say was that Jesus Himself tells us that the parable of the sower is the key to understanding the other parables. How your heart is toward God's word will determine how it goes into your heart and produces fruit.

Given: some passages are difficult and must be considered for some time to get them, some must be weighed against other passages to get the context of the whole word. Some we may never get this side of eternity, but for the most part if we diligently seek Him in His word He will show Himself to us. Just keep up the reading and meditating (considering) of His word.

I'm sorry you are in the state you are in. If you are God's child through faith then, although you may feel lost and without understanding and don't know Him well, He knows you and is watching over you and keeping you through this time. Go

d holds onto us more than we do Him.

Psalm 37:23

23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.

24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong,
Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

If you haven't trusted in Jesus as your Saviour and Lord then I pray you would do so. You say you fear God, that's good

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and knowledge.

the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and is safe. you run from the wrath of God's hatred of sin, but where can we go from His presence. the only place to run to is to Him, for forgiveness and cleansing. Run into the name of Jesus and be safe. You may have done this already, but I don't know.

Many people in other parts of the world have way less information about God than you show yourself to know here on this forum but are at peace because they have trusted in Him as far as they have read or heard about Him. Trust in the Lord that you have read about in the Word with all your heart Codek I pray!

Lloyd

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/8 20:17

hi, i respond as a calvinist for 47 years, this is a dumb question for the bible surely says that WHOSOEVER that call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. are you a whosoever? who is not a whosoever and who knows?jimp

Re: , on: 2011/9/8 23:40

I remember when I was 23, I was basically saying the same things to God that you are saying codek, and I was mad. I was walking down University Avenue in Ft. Worth and I was mad at God and said I had done everything required of me to do. Then the Lord showed me a vision. It was one of only 2 that I've had in my life. It was a huge man (couldn't see his face) and I was a little child trying to crawl up into his lap. I didn't immediately understand it, but a couple days later I understood it perfectly. Jesus wanted me to come to Him as a little child. Yes, a trusting little child. This has been very hard for me to do for all my life. Eventually the Holy Spirit came into my life in a very strong way--with comfort, guidance and revelation and with intercessory prayer for other Christians.

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by Earendel (), on: 2011/9/9 1:01

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzR_LvCQ2CM

Renew a right spirit within me... - posted by Earendel (), on: 2011/9/9 1:01

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BeO-iCqxvI>

Re: Renew a right spirit within me..., on: 2011/9/10 4:56

Re: STOP CALLING GOD A LIAR!, on: 2011/9/10 9:42

Reading the first post is a bunch of hogwash. I never read (well,I have) such trash.

Your accusing God of not being faithful.

Your accusing God of being a liar.

Your accusing God of being a promise breaker.

Your accusing Him of not following through.

What is that your expecting Him to do, fall out of the sky and physically lift you up out of the miry pit?

Where is your Faith?

Faith is the substance of things hoped for the EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.

If your expecting to see something with your natural understanding, good luck, we all have been down that road and it's a walk of faith, not sight.

God is not looking to send anyone to hell readily.

His promise is that He is NOT willing that anyone should die. NOT WILLING. But if you continue to press on in your own way and sin, yes you will end up there, but God won't be the one that is sending you there.

"The wages of sin is death".

God has a way of an escape by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you know what that means?

Trusting is stopping whatever it is your doing to obtain His favour and looking up to God saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and He has done all the work for me in obtaining favour with You Father and now I am going to spend the rest of my life loving you and thanking you for what I could not do".

Now if your looking for some overwhelming feeling most likely you won't get it. God is the object of our salvation, not feelings. Oh it would be nice to have some supernatural experience to confirm our salvation, some actually get it like the Apostle Paul, but some do not.

But Jesus tells us that "blessed are those that have NOT seen". You and I are blessed. I'd rather be blessed then to just have a one time feeling of being confirmed, wouldn't you?

It's a walk of faith.

There maybe moments in this walk of faith that there will be times of feeling, times of emotion. But if your looking for it, you will never obtain it until you learn that this walk is a walk of Faith and trusting that God is there even when everything looks bleak and dark, God is there.

He will never refuse a soul that cries unto Him for He has promised that they that call upon the name of the Lord, they will be saved.

STOP CALLING GOD A LIAR!

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2011/9/10 13:17

Looking through this thread put tears in my eyes, but at the same time, it thrilled my heart. Saints, we are seeing the making of the next greatly used of God vessel of honor. It always happens this way. Many of the most greatly used of God men of God down through the centuries (like John Bunyan) have been those who dragged the deepest depths of despair in their quest for a relationship with God. In the process (as is happening in this thread) other saints get concerned, and send up intercession to God's throne, and then suddenly there is born a new vessel of honor used greatly in God's kingdom.

Psa 40:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psa 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Psa 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Psa 40:4 Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Psa 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Psa 40:6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

Psa 40:7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

LOOK OUT WORLD! HERE COMES CODEK!

Please be sure to inform us here on the forum when God brings about the completion of His work. Before any birth there is struggle and complication, but the end result is always a miracle!

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/10 15:56

I agree with Approved, though not his tone. Codek, think of the Israelites at the Red Sea, BEFORE they crossed over. What were they singing? Nothing! they were crying out to Moses saying "Weren't there enough graves in Egypt that you had to bring us out here to die" They only saw Pharaoh's army coming one way and the impassable sea the other. And their faith and hope sank.

After God miraculously delivered them they stood on the far side jumping around, dancing and praising God. Two impossibilities were accomplished, Pharaoh's army was crushed and the sea had opened before them to walk through. Much to praise God for behind them and ahead.

But they should have been singing that song on the other side of the sea, when they were in that tight spot, knowing that if God had called them out of Egypt, surely He would care for them. And He will take care of you if you are His son, having called you out of this world into His kingdom.

Remember God wouldn't take them up by the Philistines in case they got scared and returned to Egypt. His plan and route were correct though it looked scary to the Israelites. And many more tests of their faith lay ahead of them, but the bible tells us sadly that they continually failed because the word of God wasn't mixed with faith (Heb 3). Had they moved ahead by faith the bible's account would have been one of a nation moving through the desert singing one long continuous song and entering the promised land much sooner but not so, and not so in our lives too when we doubt God because of a fearful situation around us.

But God has a plan for His children which includes testing our faith to prove "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Pet 1).

On a practical level to do with your work situation and what you posted in the cost you everything thread, what Twayneb said in the first response to your initial post is wisdom I believe. Give away everything as a heart attitude and set your treasure

asure in heaven. Then, through prayer and rightly dividing the word, give as you are led.

I pray that God will give you vision of His goodness and grace in the midst of this trial.

Lloyd

Others who later became mighty warriors for God spoke the same lingo. - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2011/9/10 16:5

Jud 6:12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

Jud 6:13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Jud 6:14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

Re: - posted by mattandliz, on: 2011/9/10 18:24

Dear Codek,

It's true that all of these scriptures indicate that God is the one who saves. However I cant seem to find one example in the entire bible of someone crying out to God and not being saved. If you're in the wilderness dont be discouraged over two years because the children of Israel were there for forty years. I have many friends that are in the same situation crying out to God but He has not answered. Their sin is evident to everyone around them except themselves. Yet they wonder why God is silent. You might want to read 1st corinthians 10 and pray and meditate on those things found dealing with why the children of Israel died in the wilderness. Ask the Lord to search your heart. Isaiah 59:1 (NIV) Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

Isaiah 59:2 (NIV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1 Listen! The LORD is not too weak to save you, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call.

Isaiah 59:2 But there is a problem--your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

Let God be true and every man a liar.

Your Brother,
Matt

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/10 19:27

do not let satan trick u into believing all the lies on the net. God put the cookies on the bottom shelf so that anyone can be saved. Jesus said I come NOT to condemn the world but that the world can be saved through Me. when you see a door and it says enter you go in and turn around and the sign says exit. Jesus is the door, and all you need to do is open your heart to Him and the spirit will birth you into the kingdom. it is all about Him and His grace and not about you and your performance. that is why it is called good news (gospel).

Re: - posted by madmatg (), on: 2011/9/10 20:07

Love, serve, adore God because He is worthy, whether we go to Heaven or Hell at the end. You cannot do these things without being saved because THIS is the reason we are saved so that we can do these things.

Trust in God and He will do what glorifies Him this is all we can ask

Re: , on: 2011/9/10 20:33

mattandliz

what sin did Job commit for God to be silent to him?

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/10 20:58

Codek,

please just patiently and consistently continue reading your bible, believing what is written. That is God speaking to you. If you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour then you have the Holy Spirit in you to enlighten those scriptures to you and to bring them to remembrance in certain situations. We need nothing more than this for a life of victory. 2 Peter 1:3 "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue"

I am not implying that I am perfect or am even close, but this is the promise to you and me and all in Christ Jesus.

Lloyd

Re: , on: 2011/9/10 21:00

Thanks Lloyd, that is a very informative post and you are absolutely right about twayneb's post. It is full of wisdom. I only wish someone told me that two years ago. I wouldn't been in this situation if someone had told me. But then again I needed to be this desperate to seek God, and now I know what it feels like to be truly desperate so maybe this is God's timing.

I'm not familiar with the story of the children of Israel because my bible knowledge is weak. I will be redoing how I go about doing my bible reading and will make an attempt at being a Berean.

Let me know if you have any other passages from the bible that might help me in my current situation.

Thanks again.

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/10 21:55

Not so much other passages to read, but a suggestion for reading the word.

Get a notebook and take notes on stuff that sticks out to you. Don't force anything, just what jumps out of the text. I've been journaling for a little while and some days I get something big, application for my life, other times its just the text and it doesn't seem to "speak" to me, but later, when i recall it in a particular situation it makes sense. Journaling helps you remember by using another method of learning (writing) and the bonus of going back when something comes up in your life and you can find that nugget of good application you got months ago.

I'm trying something I haven't done before which is to read OT in morning, NT in evening and a Psalm or Proverb somewhere in between. I'm a busy man with four kids so not everyday gets all those done, but it keeps balance in reading, so you don't get bogged down with some heavy OT passages.

Another trick is to go to blueletterbible.org and print out a chapter of the bible and take it with you through your day, that way, when you are in the line up at the till at the grocery store you can think about the word (and not what is on the cover of the National Enquirer!).

Lloyd

Re: "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." - posted by rorichts (), on: 2011/9/11 9:36

My I suggest buying the Bible on CD (35\$s-89\$s depending on where you shop) and playing it in the house, in your vehicle, or portable.

I play the same one over and over and then move on to another. Or have one in the vehicle and another in a player where ever I'm at house, shop, or just outside doing something.

"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

One can get hours a day of being in God's Word.

Re: , on: 2011/9/11 10:31

"I'm not familiar with the story of the children of Israel because my bible knowledge is weak".

Before the reformation there were hardly any bibles in circulation, worse before the printing press was invented the only way for the common folk to hear the word of God is when the priests of the Catholic order would read some hem of scriptures. It's a sad state of affairs for anyone to be without reading and hearing the word of God.

One of the mysteries concerning the word of God is that we are not commissioned to interpret the word of God. We are to read, meditate on it (which means that you think about what you read allow it to roll around in your mind) and the Holy Spirit will bring interpretation, enlightenment and best of all understanding. It's better if we let the Holy Spirit reveal lest we obtain a head knowledge of information that isn't anywhere near of setting the captive free.

Whenever your reading the bible and something jumps out at you, usually your spiritual eyes have latched on to something that the Holy Spirit wants to show you. Keep reading the bible especially the New Testament and don't worry about not understanding it, the understanding will come as you seek Him, THAT my brother is a promise.

"He that continually seeks, will find"

"He that continually knocks, that door will open"

"He that continually asks, they will obtain".

Even if you have to say a thousand times, "Jesus save me". Do it!

I've been where you have been and know what your going through. I've doubted the whole thing before and threw up my arms in frustration. When I started to seek Him regardless of what I thought, things started to open up to me. God is faithful, but we have to play by His rules.

As for my last post, I was harsh yes, because that is what I got from elder believers when I told them that God wasn't faithful. They came down on me, and I am thankful for their correction but they didn't leave me wallowing in torment, they picked me up and helped me along.

God Bless you in your search.

Re: Call upon the Name of the Lord - Pray Without Ceasing - posted by TJinFL, on: 2011/9/11 15:25

Dearest Codek

I occasionally come to this website and happened to notice your cry out for help and it has haunted me for several days. Partly because I once was an Arminian and then became a Calvinist and though I believe in election I have wrestled with the issues you bring up in regards to evangelism. One thing that bothers me about Calvinism is that it causes some people to give up hope of being saved. In many ways you are blessed for you are not settling for some kind of intellectual decision type salvation, but are seeking true salvation by being born again and having the witness of the Holy Spirit as to your new birth. The advice to read your Bible over and over continuously in the time you have available is very good advice. Also to pray and cry out to God for mercy is very good advice. I want to recommend that you read a small book called "The Way of a Pilgrim and the Pilgrim Continues His Way". If this book and type of prayer appeals to you then give it a try. Focus on the prayer and avoid the conflict over whether this prayer is appropriate for Protestants. I can assure you it is based on the Bible and not man's reasoning. This is truly a wonderful way to come to know God intimately!!

I was saved when I was 57. Prior to this I had been praying and seeking God through false eastern religions for at least 4 hours early each morning for 8 years. When God finally began dealing with me He caused me to come into contact with this book in a very unusual way. It has been over 9 years since I was saved and I still practice this prayer every morning for many hours. I am blessed with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through His Spirit in me. He has opened up the scriptures to me and caused me to understand His grace in salvation.

I believe the prayer which this Pilgrim practiced would be very beneficial to you in attaining that which you desire. Do not despair. But be encouraged in that you have not settled for a false conversion with no evidence of the Holy Spirit. Continue to cry out to God and you will be truly saved.

May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward for His suffering!!

Terry

Re: - posted by Lovefirst (), on: 2011/9/11 15:39

Quote:

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May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward for His suffering!!

Such encouraging words from a Brother in Christ! Thank you. I have also been haunted and have wrestled with this very issue. I'm still searching. To me it seems that all who hear the gospel or even hear the name of Jesus have the opportunity to be born again believers in Christ. Without God's help it seems we wouldn't believe anyway. So if He has brought someone to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ then I would have to say He can and will save you.

Re: - posted by mattandliz, on: 2011/9/11 18:11

Brother Codek,

Even Job had sin. For when he had an encounter with God he said "I abhor myself and repent with dust and ashes". If you are having a Job experience and God is testing you, then He will eventually come in His own time, and that would make the whole point of this thread without point. Remember what I said about searching your heart, which David whom God said had a heart after his own cried to the Lord "search my heart and know me, try me and see if there be any wicked way in me." In a way grace is conditional because God gives grace to everyone...no, to the humble. And dear brother I know now that if you would humble yourself before Him, He will lift you up. There is a lot of people that will tell you nice things and things that you want to hear about God, but the truth is that it always comes down to sin and more specifically the sin of self life. Ask yourself this one question, "am I seeking God in my way or on His terms and His timing?" "If my people would humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear them and heal their land." I say this only because I have been in the same experience and not to condemn or cast doubt on the genuineness of your complaint. I know that what I am saying is extremely offensive and it should be, for the gospel is an offense to man. If I am wrong than at least you can say that you went before God, asking Him if there is sin in your life. If you don't than like so many br

others you remain in ignorance and in silence.
Love in the Lord,
Brother Matt

Re: - posted by Leeza, on: 2011/9/11 20:17

Just a comment on Job, yes, he like all of us had sin, but no, he was not experiencing what he was because of sin. It was as God's sovereign choice to allow all that happened. And God Himself rebukes his counselors, some who conclude that it is sin that is causing Job's loss.
Then He reveals Himself to Job, taking Job from "My ears had heard of you" to "now my eyes have seen you."
In context, Job did not have the revelation of God's word to rely on, and his vision of God was unique in that sense. Job had more to do with revelation, not discipline.

And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

sometimes, things just don't add up the way we think.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/9/11 20:50

All had sin and none could get rid of it until the Cross. Jesus did not have sin, He was born with God's Seed, not created and chosen sin because Adam believed Satan instead of God. Adam could not have been born again unless it was in the Garden by the tree of Life, which God kicked him out lest he partake of the tree of life and live forever an eternal sinner.

None could be born again until the ascension of Jesus Christ and come back in the incorruptible Seed of the Father being born again by the Spirit of Christ in us.

Only Jesus could be the One to fulfill the Law, no man can. In the fulfillment of the Law because He could keep the Law perfect because of the God Nature in Him, only He was able to destroy the works of the devil in us which was our nature by the choice of Adam, only He in us which takes the believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He and only He can set us free from the works of the Law which condemn us to death. We are new creatures in Christ, the Law of Moses and the moral, is no longer our advisory, He has set us free, nailing the Law of Moses and the Moral Law to His cross setting us free to be under the new covenant in the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Law of liberty, the Law of Life in Christ Jesus and the Law of Love. These Laws we can accomplish because of He that is born again in us, Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Even Paul said the Mosaic Law and the Moral Law slew Him.
None can be set free unless it is by the Cross of Jesus Christ and He will set us free indeed.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2011/9/13 6:27

mattandliz,

Matt I think there is a big misunderstanding here. Yes, a lot of times God will allow suffering due to our sin. And yes we sin all the time. But this specific time is not because of a specific sin.

What I realize now is that I'm not being punished because of sin, I'm experiencing persecution and suffering because God is just trying to draw myself to him.

And thank you for your verses, I agree with you and we should continually search our hearts. And you have to understand, I'm the hardest on myself when it comes to searching my heart. As a high school student, I used to try to say a prayer of repentance after every sin I committed but I soon found out overdoing this aspect was harmful also.

But you are wrong about one thing. No one in my life and especially on this forum always said nice things to me. It gets

heated on these posts and no one just tells me "oh, God loves you, everything is going to be okay, do whatever you feel like" When situations calls for a rebuke, rebukes come abundantly.

But I read the 1st Corinthians passage you referred to and it's a great passage.

And one last thing, I'm not saved right now. I haven't been regenerated. I'm only being called to God to seek Him. I do n't have a false conversion or anything of that sort because there is no conversion yet. But it's going in that direction.

Re: , on: 2011/9/13 6:34

Thank you everyone for all your comments. I realize what I need to do now. I need to become true berean.

Growing up in the modern church all my life, I was never equipped to be a true christian because we were always discouraged indirectly to read the word as an act of worship. Of course, pastors would once in awhile tell us to read the word, but there was much more emphasis on the humanistic programs and events the church provided(i.e. we never had time to read the word because of these events)

I have to read the bible. I have to really understand the bible front to back. I have to do it as an act of worship. It's not a intellectual exercise. It will be extremely hard. As I have tried to for the last year but just gave up because many passages were confusing or someone was hindering it but now I believe it will be a bit different.

Please pray that I will not be hindered and will truly be able to keep going with my bible reading. To really regard it as spiritual food because I've been sent so many distractions, especially now, because of my life situation.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/9/13 6:40

Brother Codek may I suggest a book that has improved my bible studying habits? Its called Living by the Book by I believe Howard Hendrickson. He goes of the basics and not just as an intellectual exersise but he also teaches the third step that I was missing completely and that is Application of the Word.

I use to run to commentaries and outside resources before but now I don't use many resources, also I invite you to Inspiration from Isaiah thread that has been started, its pretty simple we are all reading Isaiah together and then simply sharing what insight we pick up as we go. :) This may help sharpen you and help you grow because I know it and other threads similar to it have helped me grow greatly.

Re: - posted by rorichts (), on: 2011/9/13 9:04

Codek my I suggest investing in a set of CD's of the entire Bible. That way you can listen at every opportunity whether at home on the road or using a portable when out on foot.

You may want to start with the New Testament.

Re: , on: 2011/9/13 19:16

Thanks for the suggestion. I went that route and I'll try it again. I always had in playing the background. Not sure how much of it I retained. Hopefully, subliminally I'll retain something. I tried it in the car but I would just sick of listening it to it all the time. Bottomline, is everything is written in many metaphorical style. It isn't a plain set of instructions and it's very vague. And just like the parables, there is a lot of deciphering that needs to go on. Without the holy spirit's help, it's too hard and confusing, I would just give up.

And it's my misinterpretation of the scriptures that led me here. It's like deciphering an ancient book of secrets.

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/13 20:05

Hi Codek,

Please here me on this. You don't need to read the whole bible in order to be saved. Salvation comes when one repents of his sins, and believes the gospel message. Do you know the gospel? It's not difficult to understand or long to hear. Paul told the Corinthians the gospel message in a few lines of chapter 15. If you think you have to do anything else besides believe than you have been sold a bill of goods worth nothing. No works!, Even reading the bible won't save you. Faith is all that is required. Don't misunderstand what has been written here. If you are saved then you will GROW in your faith and walk with the Lord as you read the bible and believe it and obey it, but if you aren't saved then you can read the bible till you are 90 and it won't do anything for you. Believe the gospel (which is found throughout the bible), then read the word and obey faithfully. A Berean was a Jew who had some knowledge of the scriptures and when Paul preached the gospel to them they searched the scriptures to see if it were so, because they didn't want to take a man's word for it alone, but to see if the scriptures backed up what he said.

Do you repent of your sins and do you know the gospel message and do you believe it? That's where you need to start. If so, then read the whole bible. You must come in by the Door (Jesus) first and be saved, then you are a sheep that grows under His care.

Praying and hoping for you,

Lloyd

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/9/13 21:29

Codek, is that your real name?

What do you think you must do to be saved?

Salvation is not up to us. It is God who will make you a son of God, It takes a Father to give life to a son, and a son must be born to have a Father. We cannot birth ourselves.

This is not rocket science, if it were my rocket would fizzle.

John 3:15-18 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Do what? "whosoever believeth in Him".

1 John 5:10-13 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Do what? "believe on the Name of the Son of God"

Quit, stop, rest, there is nothing you can do to be saved but believe and God will do the rest. It is when we try to help God that we get in the most trouble. When you eat too much you cannot keep eating. Wait upon Him until you are hungry again and He will fill you with Himself. I believe you are already saved but you don't want to give up your old life and turn it all over to Him, boy is that the hardest thing we have to do.

God loves you, I love you because He loves you and has birthed His Son in you and me.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by beekpr, on: 2011/9/13

Dear Codek, my heart goes out to you in your anguish. For many years I experienced similar struggles. I finally realized that my feelings were liars-God's promises were true regardless of how I felt. His Word promises us salvation when we repent of our sins and believe on the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

I have begun to loath terms like "Calvinism" or "Arminianism"-man tries to create a detailed picture of things which God only gives us glimpses of in His Word regarding His infinite ways. The result is man-made confusion, lame excuses to sin wilfully etc.etc. However, regarding our salvation, and how to live as believers the Scriptures are very clear; these are the things which ought to be our first concern.

Many years after I first became a believer I realized that those terrible times of doubt were direct attacks of the enemy to destroy both my faith and my life. Today I continue to experience most vicious attacks, but now I recognise their source and cling to the Lord by faith when my feelings fail. John Bunyon, who wrote Pilgrim's Progress tells of similar experiences in his own life in the book, Grace Extended To The Chiefest Of Sinners.

Codek,I long to see you at rest in your faith and will be glad to try to answer any questions you have for me.

beekpr

Re: - posted by Leeza, on: 2011/9/13 21:54

The last post really got me thinking. Many years ago, actually about 40, I was young, newly married, and seeking God. (note, why was I seeking God? He put that in my heart..but I digress.)

I had a problem, and no one I knew had an answer for it. I wanted to believe in God, but I had unsettled "intellectual" barriers. (I was not all that intellectual, actually.) So began a study of Schaeffer, and Lewis, and all the apologist of that day, and it did seem to make some sense, finally. BUT, I hit this wall. My dilemma, the gospel message that I had heard, simply, when I was a senior in High school, and my heart had sprung up and said "I want that!" was still far from me for some reason.

One evening, I spent some time with an old friend, talking, exploring what my problem was, when she stopped suddenly, and looked at me. She said, "you know, it just occurred to me, I have just recently heard of something called spiritual oppression. I don't know much about it, but could I pray for you." I said, sure.

There are moments in our lives that are seared on our memories.

this one has remained with me.

I was in the living room, kneeling, and Patty prayed, quietly, briefly.

It is odd, the room seemed darkly lit before the prayer, and somehow was light afterwards. No emotion. no begging, just opened my eyes, and He has been with me ever since.

He was with me before. I was just blind. He had come that night when I first heard the gospel, but this night, the oppression lifted.

Now, this was not maturity, this was deliverance.

Codek, I don't know, God has not told me, but I pray, if this is similar, that He simply, quietly, lifts the oppression from you, in Jesus's holy name.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/14 4:09

hi, i have been a calvinist since 1965 when i learned about the differences at NOBTS under clark pinnock a professor there. but i see a truth that belies both sides that if you are walking into a place the sign says enter and if you are walking out the same door says exit.should we argue for years about which is true? can a traffic signal be red and green at the same time?they are always red and green at the same time,but it depends on which way you are approaching it.everything in the future is whosoever will may come and in the past it is predestined from the foundations of the earth and today it is your day of choice.that is why faith is NOW the substance...does your name fall under WHOSOEVER ?than call now upon the name of the Lord and be saved.jimp

Re: , on: 2011/9/14 19:57

Leeza, that is an encouraging story.

Re: , on: 2011/9/14 20:47

"And one last thing, I'm not saved right now. I haven't been regenerated. I'm only being called to God to seek Him. I don't have a false conversion or anything of that sort because there is no conversion yet. But it's going in that direction."

In all sincerity (I am humbly asking), how is one regenerated or converted? Thanks :o)

Re: How God Converts the Human Soul - posted by savannah, on: 2011/9/14 23:04

One poster asks this question:

"In all sincerity (I am humbly asking), how is one regenerated or converted?"

Please go to the following link to watch Part 1 of the excellent 14 part series called "How God Converts the Human Soul" by Mark Kielar.

<http://lighttheworldministry.org/?p=602>

The ministry has produced many excellent Biblical teaching series' on a number of different subjects.

The name of the ministry is crosstv and can be found at the following link.

<http://www.crosstv.com>

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 0:41

Thanks Leeza for your prayers. They are much appreciated. I don't know exactly what's going on but I know this I'm dealing with something a lot of people deal with today.

Yes, my "intellectual" side thinks I'm crazy and my spiritual side is trying to do something.

But through your testimony, I realized that I'm not alone.

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 0:50

Christinyou

Codek is not my real name. I've shared some very personal things in my posts here so I rather not use my name on here. These include details about people in my life.

If you really want to find out my real name, email me.

So easy yet so hard. And I can't buy that Jesus loves me because someone said he died for me 2000 years ago. People can say Batman had a son 2000 years ago who died for my sins.

But it's in the bible. But it's in the bible. But I don't see any Christians in my life. Where is the church in my life? I'm not saying I'm perfect, far from it but you can tell I'm seeking God, whatever it may be. In my life 99.9% of so-called Christians are undercover Satan worshipers with crafty tongues and smooth speak. And I've been deceived left and right until now.

How can I believe in the bible when everything I see or experienced is contrary to it. I need some proof buddy. If someone wanted you to sacrifice your WHOLE LIFE, wouldn't you want some proof first, especially after ALL THE CHARLATANS YOU MET IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. HOW COULD A LOVING GOD LET ME BE SO DECEIVED. And guess who pays for the consequence, NOT GOD, I DO and a lot of others just like me.

And if salvation is so easy, why is EVERYBODY GOING TO HELL. I see a lot of people who genuinely want to know God but they have no idea about the truth like how I was. I'm just beginning to see through all the deception and lies.

This is making sense little by little and I'm being introduced to what I believe are real Christians. But it's not enough.

The Bible is a paradox until the truth is revealed to you. Jesus spoke in code, i.e. parables. Everything is in code. Does this sound like a God that wants to save us all. Why is it so hard?

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/15 1:21

nothing secret or code about the Philippian jailer's conversion:

"Sirs, What must I do to be saved?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved.."

"And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."

The word of the Lord being the bad news of sin and the good news of Who Jesus is what He did.

God made it simple for simple people like me, if it was complicated I wouldn't be saved, I'd be lost.

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 3:22

Not that simple buddy. There are verses speaking of how easy it is to be saved and verses speaking about how you have to be pretty much sinless after conversion. Jesus also commands us to a lot of things, not just believe. He also talks about how the cost of discipleship is your life, everything.

"In the same way, any of you who does not give up EVERYTHING he has cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Matthew 16:25-26

Mat 19:21

"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me"

He also tells us to love each other as we love ourselves. He also tells us that whatever we do to the least of these, we do unto Him.

If you look at the whole Bible, it's not just believe he died for yourselves type of thing. That verse says so but the Bible says many other verses also and that is why the Bible is a paradox.

"The word of the Lord being the bad news of sin and the good news of Who Jesus is what He did."

You need to listen Paul Washer sermon about false conversion when he talks about 1st John. You need to add repentance and regeneration to the topic of salvation.

If it's so easy why is most of the modern church headed for hell. I know there has to be good people in prosperity churches that believe Jesus died for their sins but they don't know anything about being regenerated or what is true repentance.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/9/15 8:28

by codek on 2011/9/14 21:22:37

Not that simple buddy.

Codek you mentioned in a few posts back that you are "not" yet saved so I do not expect that you would see or understand yet that it is truly that easy. Just to let you know I have listen many times to Paul Washers teachings even the one you mentioned and I still know it to be that simple. Truth is that many who come along today make it much more complicated then it is. Yes we are called to repent, yes we are called to live in submission and obedience unto the LORD, and yes we are told to take up our cross and follow JESUS. These are all things HE asks of us but HE does not expect us to do so alone, HE gives us all that we need to do these things. If you mean that its not that easy as in how the modern day church teaches the gospel then I can agree with you on that. There is something required of us, a death, and there are many who are not willing to go there...

Codek you also wrote:"I know there has to be good people in prosperity church that believe Jesus died for their sins but they don't know anything about being regenerated or what is true repentance."

The real reason you see so many around you who have happily excepted the water down, feel good teaching of salvation is because they want to. Many don't want to die to self, they don't want to live their lives daily in submission to the LORD, and they don't want HIM to be LORD of their lives. There are many who want GOD, but they want HIM only on their terms...they are lost because they would rather stay deceived then truly come to the LORD and die to self. Even in my own family their are those who profess their love for the LORD but when it comes down to it, they want things their way and they reject HIS way...

I am still praying for you. I pray you will come to know the LORD, that you will repent of your sins, take up your cross, and daily live unto HIM as HE calls you to no matter what. There is work that needs to be done in each of our lives as we walk and grow in HIM. I am learning no matter what HE asks of me HE is so very worth it, just to be with HIM, it is all that matters.

I pray one day very soon you will be saved.

God bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2011/9/15 8:54

It's easy to believe, but believe means more than mental assent to truth. We need to respond. Then it becomes faith.

John 5:38 Â And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

What is missing? - Faith or/and the Holy Spirit

James 1:22 Â But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

What is missing? - Faith to respond, living faith

In Hebrews it's about the roots of faith, which is a faith like Abraham had. He didn't just believe and forget about it, he responded.

See, even the Holy Spirit comes only after some act of response or obedience.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him

What is usually termed as repentance. What is more than mental assent also, or feeling sorry about sin. It's all that and also linked to obedience that will follow.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

shows the sequence, we should start with 'repent' - and how can anyone repent without being convicted of anything?

I didn't repent before I basically came to the end of myself, only that humbled me enough to seek God. Can a proud person repent?

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 9:56

Savannah, thanks for the links bro, but I wasn't asking for myself, I wanted to find out how Brother Codex understands conversion and/or regeneration. I wanted his take on when someone is converted.

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 10:19

"And if salvation is so easy, why is EVERYBODY GOING TO HELL"

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and all people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes....

If no man can number them, that is a lot of people. What that means is that a man would become exhausted after awhile and quit because the numbers are so great.

Parts of this great gospel is a mystery.

Oh yes, there are mysteries to this gospel that only few have even tried to comprehend.

But as for the simple gospel the grace of God has appeared to all men calling them to repent.

It starts out as a journey and it will cost you everything to continue therein. But He makes the cost easier than you might think.

We say with great enthusiasm, "It will cost you", as if it was some hard decision, or something awful to bear. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light". Jesus paid the price.

He not only paid for the fees to get in the door, He also paid the ticket, my cost is that I walk toward Him.

The cost of walking with Him is my association with Him. Do I want to be associated with Jesus and do I want others to know now that I am?

Get around some influential men and women and I guarantee you that you are more apt to please them than to let them know that you are associated with Jesus Christ.

There is a cost to knowing Christ. As soon as you mention that you are a believer in Jesus and give them a little bit of the gospel, you'll find out who your friends are and who is not. People will desert you, but you'll gain better and more loyal friends.

That's the cost.

And yes you're right about the mind wanting to go one way and your spirit wanting to go another, that will be your constant conflict for the rest of your life. It won't torment you unless you allow doubt to enter in, yes it will be a conflict, but Paul is saying, Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. That is the promise.

Now that is not an overnight thing. As a newborn child you need to feed off the sincere milk of the word, in other words, read the bible, hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to you and grow thereby. Your faith will increase.

David said, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord continually delivers him out of them all.

And thank God for afflictions, else we would never experience His mercies, for they are new every morning, Great is thy faithfulness.

If you say your not converted then I would cry out for mercy. Let mercy shower you with a blessing of understanding of what it means to be saved.

God Bless brother.

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 13:01

Having skimmed thru this thread... I can safely say that all throughout this, the main person asking the question is shaking his fist at God. There is an anger and a rebelliousness in almost every post he made.

Therein lies the problem. The problem is not God, my friend... the problem is with you.

You need to humble yourself and see yourself as you truly are, and see God as He truly is. Fear Him and tremble.

When you do this, a lot of things will begin to make sense.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 15:19

Krispy, that is simply an ignorant view.

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/15 15:30

It appears you are right Codek, its not that simple, for you. You are making it difficult, not God. Salvation is a free gift. Gifts are not difficult to receive, they are meant to bless, not be a burden.

Sanctification is a process of burning away the dross in your life and that is more difficult.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is very costly, it will cost you your life. So one is a gift - eternal salvation, the other costs us something.

But Jim Elliot said it best at age 22 - He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. The dividends of discipleship are worth it. God rewards us openly who live out our faith in secret.

There is probably differing views on this I'm guessing, but salvation is clearly a free gift, no cost. Sanctification and discipleship are not, and cost you your life.

Lloyd

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 16:41

Quote:

-----Krispy, that is simply an ignorant view.

Thank you for simply proving my point.

It is an impossibility for the problem to be with God. It is never with God. Therefore the problem is with you, my friend.

And if you believe you are not saved then you admit you are still in rebellion to God, because thats what it means to be unsaved.

And yes, you have shaken your fist at God on this thread. Look at the title of it. You blame God, yet God is not ever to blame. You are. It will always be your fault... because God is holy and blameless.

So if you want the answer to your question you need to start by looking at yourself.

That's not ignorance on my part, that's sound Biblical doctrine. If you refuse it it is you who are arrogant and ignorant, not me.

You just don't like it because someone will speak plainly and boldly to you... but someone has to. I don't have all the fancy words that others have. I prefer to just get straight to the root of the issue. And it's painful for you, so you call me ignorant (which is a nice Christian way of calling me "stupid")

Krispy

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 17:06

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 17:18

"There is probably differing views on this I'm guessing, but salvation is clearly a free gift, no cost. Sanctification and discipleship are not, and cost you your life."

I agree with you but it's still confusing because you have guys like Paul Washer (who I respect) who really put an emphasis on testing your salvation. If you read 1 John and other books of the NT, they go into testing your assurance of salvation. It doesn't sound like a free gift there.

Discipleship and salvation go hand in hand, how can you be saved and not be a disciple?

It also isn't simple because how can a loving God who wants me to be saved SEND NO ONE IN MY REAL LIFE THAT IS ACTUALLY SAVED. It's like a parent who wants you to play in the NBA and he sends you to soccer camp.

No one can blame God for being in hell, on: 2011/9/15 17:21

It will be impossible to blame God for anyone going to hell.

GOD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for anyone going to hell.

Re: No one can blame God for being in hell, on: 2011/9/15 17:34

tuc, I understand where you are coming from. If it was that easy, these threads would have ended YEARS ago.

If I don't understand that saying, you can't just beat it into me. And I have gotten maybe 100 posts like that in this forum for all my threads and I rather you not say anything then post either one sentence answers or answers that don't look at my situation.

This thread would be cut down by 75% if we could get rid of those posts.

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2011/9/15 17:51

Codex-

Well I actually went through the 14 pages of posts here. I am waiting for some food to finish cooking and had the time.

It certainly seems you have a fair share of "Jobs Comforters" and other folks who have all the answers for someone else's life throwing in their 2 cents.

A couple of folks might be better served to take their own advice as opposed to shoving it out to someone else-IMHO. ;-)
I also saw a few very judicious and well thought out posts.

Codex, your "problem" is a simple one that many people deal with that are seeking after God. You aren't unique or alone in how you feel. There are a couple of things that I can see from your posts that would be helpful to you in my opinion.

However, let me begin here, cut through the clutter and slice to the very heart of the matter-

Codex-EXACTLY WHY do you think or feel you are "unsaved". I read your other posts but try to reduce those thoughts to a one sentence line, or lines if there is more than one reason.

Trust me, this is the road out of the turmoil going on in your mind and heart.

Blessings and I look forward to your thoughts.

Solomon101

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 18:31

Thank you for your concern Solomon101.

About your question, it's just not an easy answer. I'm going to try to give you an introductory answer. There is a lot to why I don't believe I'm saved. It goes beyond that I'm beginning to question if Christianity is even legit. It

Bottomline is, there is just so much about scripture and doctrine that I don't see in real life even among saved Christians.

I've had faith in God. Originally when I thought I was originally converted, I thought I had great faith back in high school. I tried to really love God and his people. I had a heart for people. I hung out with the outcasts of society and even a guy who had down syndrome. I was 15, he was thirty something. I endured some hardship because of this. Some of my friends were saying, "what's wrong with you. don't bring them around here (mind you, we all went to the same church)" I didn't hang out with all the outcasts I could find but I did from time to time because that's what a Christian does because that's what Jesus did. I tried.

He commands us to think about others before we thought about ourselves. Seriously after maybe a decade of doing this, I got sick and tired of it all because I realize NO ONE REALLY DOES THIS. No one ever puts others before themselves and I'm not saying you gotta do it all the time. I don't even see it rarely. Friendships like Johnathan/David, forget it.

Now I'm in a position of need as I lost pretty much everything on purpose. I'm not going to have a car to drive in a month or so, I won't be able to make the payments if some miracles don't happen. I have an over 780 credit score that's going to go under in the next months because most likely I will have to file bankruptcy. I felt that God really wanted me to trust him (I lost my job 2 years ago) and not go the conventional route. Maybe it wasn't God that told me this, it could've been Satan, God, or me. Now I'm in a ridiculously horrible situation. It's a meaningful situation because I really learned about the heart of men. NO ONE IS WILLING TO REALLY HELP ME LOOK FOR A JOB, OR ANYTHING. While I shed out love for people, NO ONE TOOK A STAND FOR ME. That broke my heart. Very few did something. Some of these guys are supposed to be hardcore Christians (I'm not so sure).

So I'm frustrated and confused because God won't answer me. I'm not talking about worldly prayer requests. Just tell me who he is? Does he really care? What he wants me to do? Anything. All I get is silence. I don't know who He is.

The Christians in my life don't love me like they love themselves. In fact, it's just like the world.

Now I'm royally screwed and I have a feeling God is not going to come through cause He never has and I took a big gamble, I went all in with the worst cards because that's what I GENUINELY thought GOD was telling me to do.

I don't trust God. From all I've seen of God and Christians, it doesn't line up to the Bible at all.

So that's why it's almost impossible to believe. Show me someone that suffered like Jesus, loved like Jesus.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/15 18:48

hi code,study covenant...Jesus cut a covenant as very God and very man,for God and man.i am tired of people not realizing that we are under a new a better covenant.study jonathan and david and mephibosheth. if anyone could perform to the expected level of salvation requirements we would not need a redeemer.jimp

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2011/9/15 18:48

Hey Codex-

I don't want to put words in your mouth or influence your responses. Therefore the following is true AS I UNDERSTAND your responses. Feel free to correct me if I have misunderstood.

You doubt you are saved because-

1. The lifestyle you see other people living that profess to be Christians does not match what you read the scripture saying it should be. (That is the gist in 8 of your 10 paragraphs as I read it).

2. You are unable to sense God speaking to you.

It is because of these two things that you doubt God will come through for you or that Christianity may even be legit. That means from your input the two reasons you are struggling so boil down to-

1. The lifestyle you see other people living that profess to be Christians does not match what you read the scripture saying it should be.

2. You are unable to sense God speaking to you.

I don't see anything else in your responses. I am sure you could give more examples..and you have given several already. However, they all are a direct result of one of the two sentences I boiled your answers down to.

Do you agree with me on that or do I miss part of your feelings on this?

Blessings,

Solomon101

ps- believe it or not you really are in a good place at this point. I know it does not seem like it... but one day it will.

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/15 20:05

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of the world will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

You are doubting God because of your circumstances. It's very simple Codek. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus he sank, but he cried out to Jesus and He reached out His hand and pulled him up. We get our eyes off the Lord and into trouble and cry out to Him and He lifts us up. But He does it on His time. To everything a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: God has a purpose for you in this season of life and it's for your good if you trust in Him.

But I don't know that He will help you through me or anyone else here on this thread because you are hard hearted. You've come here to vent, not to receive counsel it appears.

It's apparent to others here but not yourself. The pain you are going through is real I don't doubt and I'm sorry you are going through it, but until you humble yourself and accept from God's hand even this, then how can anyone help you.

Lloyd

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2011/9/15 22:09

Practical before God:

James 4:6 Â But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
James 4:10 Â Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Practical in getting a job:

You said you cannot find a job for 2 years. Ok, so why not work on commission basis? That's the path of least resistance to get the foot in the door of a company. They don't look so much for people that want a fix salary right now, but they never say no to getting more business, where you will get paid only after they get paid. So it costs them nothing up front to work with you. If you can talk with people you qualify. I did this myself for many years in a business to business setting, got product samples from distributors and got on the phone with retailers, or walked right into their store and started chatting.

Works best if you deal with free product samples or free trial service offers, so they can test it without commitment and only if it works for them they are convinced about the product or service and they will order. So you don't really have to sell anything, you just ask them to try something for free. The product or service must work as promised, that's the thing you must find out before you invest your time in it., so the chance that they will order is high or at least above average, and so you will get paid. Many still say no to free trials, but some will say yes, persistence works.

Have a look in your local papers or craigslist under keywords like freelance sales, or commission base sales reps. - if not walk right into a wholesaler or distributor and tell them you don't want a job, you want to increase their turnover. Same as above, some will turn you down, others will say "ok, we'll give it a try", persistence works.

Re: , on: 2011/9/15 22:10

"He commands us to think about others before we thought about ourselves. Seriously after maybe a decade of doing this, I got sick and tired of it all because I realize NO ONE REALLY DOES THIS."

I think I understand where your coming from.

Yes, it's perplexing that there is no one around that looks and acts like Jesus.

But you know brother, just because we don't see them doesn't mean they don't exist.

I thought like you, I use to put myself down because I wasn't living up to the life that was outlined in the bible. I had so many hang ups that hindered me from doing anything positive for God. My life seemed to revolve around a sin repent lifestyle.

When you look at the disciples before they were converted before Pentecost they were like children, they had a hard time believing that Jesus was who He said He was. They saw the miracles and even performed a few themselves but they still questioned Him. And rightly so, they were still under the law and under that system everything wasn't made clear until Pentecost.

We are no different then they, we are like children. We love the Lord, but we stumble from time to time. We fail miserably, but when a need arises we all jump in in unison to help out. I have noticed that over the years amongst believers. We can all talk about our problems, moan about our state of affairs but when anyone entered the scene that needed help, we dropped everything and even our problems in fact we acted as if we had none. And that is the Holy Spirit doing that.

As men we fail, the Holy Spirit is what makes us more than men. It's His work. Paul tells us there are weak believers and we are to help those that have weak faith, and we do. You may not see it because we don't broadcast our deeds to be shown to others. I personally don't want my good deeds to be spread out before men, I prefer that know one knows anything except for the guy who is grateful that I gave him his meal or rent.

When you look at the men that paid a price, they were simple folks. Some had issues with their flesh that kept them humble. They weren't perfect and neither are we, but we exist in the best capacity that we know how.

I wish that I had some great ability to bring in thousands of souls, I wish that I could lay hands on the sick and they would recover, I wish that those things were so, but they are not. And it's not my will that these things come about, but it's the power of the Holy Spirit and His will and person to whom He desires to use.

It's not up to us to live the life of Christ. As for paying the cost, many of us are doing all we know to do within our knowledge to pay the price. We can't go beyond what the Holy Spirit has given us.

But for now we are just under tutors and governors, we are being chastened of the Father and when the time is right and we have grown up then He deals with us as with sons.

You'll never hear a trumpet blown in the street to declare that Christians are going to do great deeds and show the world that Christ is alive in them, and they are paying the price.

When the twin towers fell in New York City, Times Square Church had been praying before hand because they knew from the Lord that something was going to happen but they didn't know when, so they took to their knees. When the time came, they knew and acted and they got out on the streets and they were paying the price, by helping others, comforting people.

That still goes on today. But it's by the Spirit. You may see me and think me nothing, but when the Holy Spirit comes upon me that is a different. Samson had a problem with women, but God moved in His life anyway. Even at the end of his life God didn't let Him down and He came upon him again and gave him such strength. Now that was the old testament and we live under a better system than that, how much more shall the God of heaven do unto us in our weakness?

It's time to get your eyes off of weak pitiful christian man and get them back on Jesus. Forget about what ya think about what a Christian should be and just focus on Jesus.

I'm serious. I've been down that road, it's paved with crap (pardon my expression). I met people that I thought were not christian at all but they put my walk to shame when they would sacrifice their lives for the gospel. They had faith but I was looking at their lives. What I thought I saw with my eyes deceived me. They had faith alright and they moved mountains with it. I wanted that.

I stopped looking at their lives and looked at the Jesus that was in them. Their lives were hid in God who was I to judge them based upon my own standard. I had a lot to learn.

If your looking for the perfect Christian, you won't find it. If your looking for a man that is paying the price, he is probably in a jail cell in China wondering how to get out because he is scared of dying. I know, that would be me. It would be nice to have no fear. But sometimes it grips us.

Do we stop being Christians because we don't live after the pattern of our saviour? NO!

Does God stop working with us because we have a doubt? NO!

Peter doubted Jesus and even denied Him three times, how is that for blasphemy? But Jesus never demanded that he repent of that, but oh was Peter ever grateful that He was alive.

The thief on the cross just believed that Christ was Lord and Jesus promised that He would be with Him in paradise. It's as simple as that.

That thief was already paying for his own sins, but I can imagine the weight lifted as Jesus was promising him eternal life.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....

That is where we are to look to, not frail christian man who is not living the life, but to Jesus we are to look to.

God Bless Brother.

Love - posted by Ruthiepoothie (), on: 2011/9/15 23:23

The thieves next to Jesus on the cross had no time to evangelize, no time to deliver people from hell, no time to go about doing the work of the Lord.

Jesus wants you to receive His love. Maybe you are next to Him partaking in His sufferings and feeling the separation from God. Hear His voice. "Today you will be with me.." He is building a home for you with Him. He loves you. Trust Him. He knows the plans He has for you. Plans to prosper you and give you a future and a hope.

One believed, one didn't. Jesus wants to love you and be loved by you. We love Him because He first loved us. This is the work of God that you believe in Him who was sent.

Just love Him. Jesus loves you. God is love and He is the image of the invisible God. He did not come to condemn the world but to save it. When we are faithless He remains faithful.

Love Him. Lift up your hands and just say, "here I am, it's me - and this person lifting you up doesn't even feel like the words are of any sincerity or truth or validity - but I just want to praise You. Help me to receive Your love, help me to rest in Your love, help me to know Your love Jesus." Let the lifting of your hands be as the evening sacrifice. Give the sacrifice of praise. It is a sacrifice. And sometimes the hardest to give especially when emotions, our own condemning heart, screams from the world, terrors without and within would want to constrain us from giving a sacrifice of praise.

I needed to say that for myself too. Thank you for being honest.

I've had a really hard week and have grown dull. Thank you because I want to take the advice for myself the Lord gave me for you lest I too fall away.

His mercies are new every morning, may you wake up with a love song for Him.

Re: Love, on: 2011/9/16 0:36

Thanks Ruthiepoothie, I sincerely thank you for the encouragement.

but just loving Him blindly doesn't work for me. BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT X 1000000000000. It only made the situation worse because I would believe in a God that never came through. He sent false prophets after false prophets and now I'M BEING BLAMED FOR MY UNBELIEF. Somehow it's my fault that I'M NOT A BEREAN.

Only actions counts. Words mean nothing to me now after all the bad experiences I've seen in my life and the life of others.

That's how God will judge us too. What did he say to those pharisees who were all about saying the right things. He said it's all about the heart. And why is the word "fruit" mentioned in the n.t. Because fruits means action, it means something more than words, it's a reflection of your heart.

Here is an example, a man can tell his wife, HE LOVES HER, TO TRUST HIM, THAT HE WILL TAKE CARE OF HER but if all he does is cheat on her in front of her, beat her up, and steal from her, HOW DO YOU BELIEVE THOSE WORDS?

This is how frustrating it is. Please forgive me if my words are too harsh, I'm only saying what's the truth. I dare not lie to you guys especially on these matters.

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 7:27

Solomon101,

Thanks for organizing my thoughts, I'm responding to a couple of people here and a couple of emails so my mind has a lot on its mind.

So far the list seems like a good but let me go over it and finish the list once and for all.

I'll try to edit this post today.

"ps- believe it or not you really are in a good place at this point. I know it does not seem like it... but one day it will."

I'm kinda weary with of that phrase. I heard it a couple of times before. So anything I hear a couple of times gets turned into "empty xian catchphrase" My trust in everything is shocked. All I see around and I mean ALL OVER THE PLACE is designer christianity, even designer mission trips.

Can you elaborate on that phrase, thanks.

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 8:25

Quote:

-----You are ignorant because you "glanced" at my post and suddenly knew it all.

It's not ignorance to state Biblical truth. Everything I have stated on this thread is absolutely true. Why? Because it applies to every single one of us!

Krispy

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 8:46

Krispy,

I sincerely apologize if I offended you with my posts but there is a misunderstanding here.

Everything you have said is the biblical truth but these arguments occur because a lot of these verses are taken out of context.

These aren't my words, please check out my other thread for clarification

It will cost you everything, EVERYTHING???

and

Jesus and the Rich Man by ArtB

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 8:50

Approved,

Thank you for your posts, there have been many posts here so it's taking me some time to reply to everyone.

I've read it a couple of times but I'd like to give it another go because there is an abundance of good information in these posts.

And about being harsh, I don't mind you being harsh at all. All I ask is you do it in love, I'm not a prideful person, I have no problems admitting wrong. But I have to add, I'm saying things that I'm believing at that moment. For the sake of honesty, I cannot sugarcoat any of my posts.

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 8:52

a-servant

Thank you, I just pulled up craigslist right now. I was always intrigued by sales. I'm not a people person but I could be sociable when I need to. And I'm persistent/tenacious by nature.

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 8:56

"But I don't know that He will help you through me or anyone else here on this thread because you are hard hearted. You've come here to vent, not to receive counsel it appears."

Lkid

I've come to vent and receive counsel, not one or the other but both.

I need to clarify this with you here. My heart wasn't hard at first but after years and years of disappointment, my faith dwindled to nothing. If I came to and asked you to borrow \$2000 every week for 15 years telling you that I would double your money every week but instead of bringing your doubled money would ask for \$2000 more every week(losing the previous week's money), any normal person would at first be confused, then that confusion would change to frustration then anger.

I had a childlike faith, an open mind. I sincerely believed God loved me. Would anyone that really had a hardened heart give up THIS MUCH? really?

Even the father of faith had points in his life that he lacked faith, no? Didn't Sarah laugh at the angel when the angel said that she was FINALLY going to get pregnant at around 100 years of age after waiting FOR ALL THAT TIME? They were normal people doing normal things. I'm no different. I'm just an average joe doing what an average joe does.

And it really does frustrate me when people say it's not about circumstances. Please don't say those words.. lol. It is and it isn't. The last guy told me about that supposedly had a supernatural visit from God where God led him through the streets to feed the poor and to show His love. All of us who knew our friend have questions about his encounter. I shared my suffering with him and he would be adamant that "it's not about your circumstances", this was probably a year ago.

Some bad "circumstances" happened to him and now he never reads the bible, and gave up on God. The only things that are on his mind right now are alcohol, partying, and girls.

You are right circumstances don't dictate who God is by itself but experience does factor into the equation. There is a thread here about doctrine vs experience. If I had a better foundation with God before all this happened, I would still be strong in my faith. If I had no foundation before, it's going to end up like this.

"We get our eyes off the Lord and into trouble and cry out to Him and He lifts us up. But He does it on His time. To everything a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: God has a purpose for you in this season of life and its for your good if you trust in Him. "

but on the other hand I'm SLOWLY beginning to see, there is something meaningful going on. I'm not going to prematurely say it's God, we'll have to see. Are you referring to the passage in Ecclesiastes about a time for everything?

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2011/9/16 9:59

Hey Codek-

I had written, "believe it or not you really are in a good place at this point. I know it does not seem like it... but one day it will.

You asked, "Can you elaborate on that phrase, thanks".

Yeah....I can. However, don't get sidetracked from the actual questions and answers we are working on. Just simply take it as an encouragement. I have been where you are. I read your frustrations..and understand them well. Just suffice it to say that ultimate betrayal by a few of those who were the very closest to me, those who I believed were called along side me at that time, led to the destruction of a movement of God that was affecting an entire geographic area. I spent basically the next 10 years in the wilderness unsure if I ever heard God at all..except twice. Yeah...I understand taking a risk, putting it on the line, and then feeling like God hung you out to dry. Like He set you up to take a fall...just because He could. I understand it well. Therefore I can truly say that 12 years down the road I see more of what happened than I could at the time. Just take it as an encouragement from a guy who has been there and leave it at that. Stay focused on whether the following is true---

The two reasons you are struggling so boil down to-

- 1.The lifestyle you see other people living that profess to be Christians does not match what you read the scripture saying it should be.
2. You are unable to sense God speaking to you.

If you agree with those two reasons then we can move on. However, it is important to make certain in your heart and mind that's all there is. If there is another reason then share SPECIFICALLY what it is. If it does boil down to those two then we will go a step farther.

Hang in there. No "Christianese" cliches from me. I know from experience how they just grate your emotions and soul at this time.

Blessings,

Solomon101

Re: , on: 2011/9/16 20:27

Solomon101,

Thanks for that tidbit, it helps me to trust you more now. I see now that you know exactly what I'm going through.

"Yeah...I understand taking a risk, putting it on the line, and then feeling like God hung you out to dry. Like He set you up to take a fall...just because He could." EXACTLY.. Here I was thinking, no one understood me at all.

Please read the last post I made in the thread "It will cost you everything, EVERYTHING???", it's a Part 1 to a brief outline of the last two years of my life. I didn't write about when I really started losing faith in everything and when I became bitter, etc.

reasons I'm struggling

- 1.The lifestyle I see other people living that profess to be Christians does not match what I read the scripture saying it should be. (they don't have to be perfect but you gotta care)
2. I question the Character of God (I don't trust God. sometimes I think he wants to make me suffer then send me to hell)
 - a.I am unable to sense God speaking to me. Why does God have to make hearing God's voice so hard, the distractions, the complex bible. You can say I'm in this predicament because I took verses out of context. The many false teachers EVERYWHERE. It doesn't seem like God wants you to be saved. It might be easier making it to the NBA.
 - b.God is suppose to be all powerful and all loving yet I don't see evidence of that in the world. He seems weak, apathetic, unreliable, tempermental, an egomaniac, a two faced liar, or non-existent and not there, just like my earthly father

- c. Most of the world lives in the most hardcore poverty. Babies dying everyday.
- d. Prayers are mistaught, and prayers do not get responded to 99% of the time.
- e. evidence of God only through suffering. I never saw God's blessing but yet I'm suppose to lie to myself saying God loves me.
- f. you have to be perfect after regeneration, although salvation is a gift, if you read 1 John, the evidence of your salvation is you have to be perfect.
- g. bible is vague, how many times do you have to "struggle with sin" for you to be unrepentant or when is it that you just fail but are still regenerated.

I also read this on ex-christian.net, a phrase that I could understand. It sounds like heresy but that's how people view God today. That's just the truth.

"The way I see it, Christians want you to believe that god loves you, but they also want you to be afraid of going to hell. Some even want to call it a "relationship."

Do you know what it's usually called when you're in a relationship with someone who wants you to love them, but you're constantly afraid of their punishment?

An abusive relationship.

Get out of it while you still can."

These thoughts are going through the minds of a lot of people today. I'm not saying this is the absolute truth, this is what is going through our human minds. If we want to really know Jesus, then we have to tackle these HARD ISSUES. I'm not going to lie to you and say life is peachy and Jesus loves me everyday and nothing ever goes wrong. When you try to seek Jesus, most likely, EVERYTHING WILL GO WRONG.

For the others people reading this post, please do not get offended, Christianity is messy, true love is often messy, Jesus's death was messy.

Re: messy love - posted by Ruthiepoothie (), on: 2011/9/16 21:15

true and like that, Jeremiah, uh I mean codex. reminds me a lot of Lamentations.

thank you! - posted by Ruthiepoothie (), on: 2011/9/16 22:05

I just have to also say (write) that this honesty has done soooo much for me!!!
I have been soooooooooooooo super discouraged lately - same stuff but around different situations- the body blesses me because by codex being honest and real, I prayed and got answers. maybe it didn't help codex but it helped me so much!! Here's what i've been reminded of:

- noah only saw 8 people get on that boat
- many prophets just saw God's judgement and people walking away from the Lord - but they faithfully preached even though in their lifetime they didn't see much change at all
- i am so thankful for the people in the bible that had enough faith to believe God and write the stuff down anyway no matter what it looked like in the current situation and even throughout their life. they didn't get to know if anything they ever said was of any effect until after they died !
- the thief who believed what Jesus said on the cross saw a pretty defeated looking bloodied and beat up person promising him that he would be in paradise - it sounds and probably looked ridiculous! But he believed and that faith has encouraged me so much.

I am encouraged that things might not ever look good around me - but that my reward is not here but in heaven and that I might not see any answers here - (although in truth I HAVE seen God answer prayer dramatically) - or right now. But I remember that before Jesus I was suicidal, hateful, and suuuuuuuuuuuchhhhhhhh a mess in sooooo many ways. He has done so much for me and He promises that He will see His seed and He will prolong His days (Is. 53) He will complete the work in me, and perfect that which concerns me. All I can do is be real and honest (like codex) before him and have faith to believe that I really am right with God through Jesus. For me to be in the moment, where I am is where I am but with Him, sit at His feet and receive His love...

Thank you so much codex!!

Re: thank you!, on: 2011/9/16 22:47

Fruit takes time to develop and remember it's not our fruit, it's the fruit of the Spirit.

We are to allow the Spirit to work in us His good pleasure.

Re: - posted by Kono (), on: 2011/9/17 8:58

Jā³b 13:24 Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?

Jā³b 13:25 Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?

Dear Codek,

As well I have been in same situation as You, feeling all these, but I have understood some things, that helped me to get through depression and bitterness:

1. God is Love. It is the truth. I had to understand, that I am ill-disposed and suspicious against God. When I saw the world around me, illness, violence, death, sin, immediately I accused God for it. But it is a lie that can truss us up. God is never against us. He is never like men,- all of us had bad experience with men- so there is no reason to be suspicious, and search for His faults.

Even Your father can be cruel and highly protectionist. Even sometimes for our own father, we try our best, but as a protectionist, nothing is good enough for him to love us! That is not God. That is man, brother!

The truth is that sin, death, illness was never His will. It is our will, and Satan's will. So the aim of Your anger should not be God, but rather Satan, who makes this mess, and that accuses God for it.

If these things around You, hurt Your heart, be sure, that God's heart is much more hurt by them! God feels pain because of these, and angry. Not angry with us, but with sin, that kills us, and causes a lot of suffering!

Only do not be foolish to believe in lies!

2. If You may see christianity not to be like Christ, You are definitely right. But -according to my experiences- You do not have problem with christianity, but only with Yourself. If You could be able to follow Christ, You would not be so bitter. But, my friend, there is a way, that will kill Your bitterness: Do not see the others. They may be lost, but be the man, who is worthy to God, and be the one, who will show, what is christianity. God does not need megachurches, but praying men, and there are so few of them, who are willing to take responsibility and fight for God's will to be done on earth.

Isa 50:2 Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?

Do not wait for the others, and be lost with them. Do not waste Your precious time, but start immediately to pray and help God to pour mercy on the wounded hearts.

3. God does not want You to be lost with the others. As in my first comment, I have told to You, that You are lucky. For the fog broke up, and You do not think that You go to heaven, while going to hell. Christianity today is under great delusion. Some of them has a feeling, that he is cheating himself, and starts to think, but afraid of these thoughts, for they are coward. Christianity is not a brain washing, but reality. I encourage You to think. With clear mind, surely find it real. We must have solid basement, not feelings, and well-learned thoughts of other man! It is better to restart construction, than to lose the building at the day of the judgement!(Mat 7)

4. Prayer works. Only have You just once in Your lifetime prayed like what the Bible tells:

Lk 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Lk 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

I am sure, You have never heard of this. And never seen in the church around You. True christians, in other parts of the world, pray until they get, what they want! For they have faith, and trust in the Lord! It is not an option, that prayer will not reach the aim, (if it is God's will) only we are lazy to pray hours, days, until we reach the goal! They pray, because they trust God and not suspicious, that He will not work for us! They know, that He is perfect, loving father.

4. It is not true, that a new-born christian does not do any sin. It is written in Roma, that it is a fight between flesh and spirit. Before got saved, sin had never been a problem for us. We loved to do sin, only may have been sad because of its consequences. Now, as new-born, our spirit wants to do God's will, that is why we have this cruel fight in our heart. Learn about it.

Re: , on: 2011/9/17 16:43

Romans 8:15 should be your favorite verse Codek.

Response for Assurance of Salvation (dispair) - posted by lastdayswork, on: 2011/9/17 22:19

That was a great response Kono, thank you!

Re: , on: 2011/9/19 2:45

waiting on your response Solomon101, thanks!

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/20 1:35

Codek,

Just in case you are still checking this thread i just listened to a good sermon today that might help you. Its entitled What's Wrong With Jesus Anyway: He Offended Me. Check it out here: www.activeword.org/media.cfm

Lloyd

Re: , on: 2011/9/20 1:57

thanks Lloyd. will take a listen. any help is appreciated.

Re: , on: 2011/9/20 6:49

edit

Re: - posted by andres (), on: 2011/9/20 7:34

codek
amen, a lesson I'm sure you will never forget
andy

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/9/20 14:46

Amen, Codex, me too.

Just who is the Potter and who is the clay?

In Christ: Phillip

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, - posted by revcrook, on: 2011/9/20 14:46

Hi codex I'm a new member so I've just read all your posts. I've pastored for a number of years and have meet several people like you. i would like to ask you a question ,I hope it doesn't offend you . so here goes (are you running from a calling maybe) many time we seek God to our end and not His. Salvation is a beginning of a new walk that he leads us on and not a stroll in the park with Him. My email address is in my profile if you would like to answer privately

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2011/9/20 21:48

Hi Codek I read some of your threads and they are filled with questions & doubts. This is where you are & i believe you are still searching the truth and not happy at all with your past experiences and where you are now.

Im not better than you, even though intellectually speaking I never had any serious doubts after I was saved about God's goodness, character or even his existence. I had my share as a prodigal son runing away from God to live for my own pleasures.

I dont know if you ever had saving faith or genuinly were born again in your past? May be the word of God was planted in your heart but did not ever bear fruit? The most important question is where you are now? Im sure you know your are not in Christ, otherwise you will not let doubt reign in your heart. In Hebrews it says, "without faith it is impossible to please God", you may say I dont have faith because its a gift from God and he has not granted it to me? Or I am not chosen from God before the foundation of the world to be saved in Jesus Christ? So since you cant figure out if you are predestined for salvation, it makes you desperate I guess.

You can go on and on with reasoning and not come to a conclusion. The truth is that by nature our hearts are deceitful and we are very smart to justify our sins. God is just and holy as he is love and merciful too. Outside Christ there is no safety for us but a just retribution for our sins.

My advice is don't put your trust in man-made theologies, and systems. God cannot be put in a box. The only thing that saves us is the Word of God not the opinions of men, even godly men.

1 Timothy 2:4 it says that God, "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth." It is clear from this bible verse that God desires the salvation of sinners. He made hell for fallen angels and not men, the Father sent his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You may have read , heard the gosple alot of times but your remedy is only in the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross for you. Will you believe by simple faith the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ on the cross or continue in your unbelief?

There is the solution of your problem - the CROSS - Jesus died for you and rose again from the dead the third day and has been ascended at the right hand of the Father and very soon will come back for his Bride and to reign on this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Are you willing to come to the cross and believe Him from the heart? In Romans 10:9 says, "if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"

Are you willing my friend to bow on your knees today and pray from the heart to God to save your soul in Jesus Name or do you wanna continue in your own way and keep the heavy burden of sin over your shoulders?

My opinions are worthless but God's word is what matters. I hope and pray you will make the right decision from the heart to have full confidence in what Jesus has done for you on the cross and accept Him today not tomorrow as your Lord & Savior.

Just remember Jesus Christ is an ever-flowing fountain of grace and He is willing to save a poor sinner who repents of his sin and comes to Him by faith.

Someone said that, "divine mercy is an ocean that is ever full & ever flowing." There is boundless mercy from God if you repent and a fountain of grace to save you if you believe Jesus.

Shalom,
Redi

Edited

Re: , on: 2011/9/21 0:08

Elected

thank you for the post and I believe that's part 1 of the gospel. yes you must believe and confess he is christ. I have to ask you this question because there are many imposter christians even on this forum who know the bible like the back of their hand but do not follow Jesus's second commandment. They do not love their brothers as themselves. That's what confuses me. How can someone be so sure of their salvation, know the bible inside and out but do not love their brothers like themselves.

Do you give your time, money, effort for your brothers that can't help you out? The people that aren't your friends, maybe the losers of society, the outcasts, mentally retarded or other people who are needy?

Because if you read the bible, Jesus often talks about these people. He talks about inviting the people that can't repay you to your feasts not just your friends. He also says "whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me" Yet all I see, even on this forum is people who know the word and can spit back 5 verses within 5 seconds yet they don't love their brothers. Actually in terms of love, they are like the world and never put others welfare above their own. To me, this sounds like a pharisee. You need part 1 and 2. It goes hand in hand.

I can't say I love Christ if I reject even "least of these" because the bible says when I reject the least of these, I reject Christ. So unless you're loving your brothers, you're not a true christian.

I have yet to find one so let me know. Because in my time of great need, none of these bereans have lifted a finger to help me get a job, or anything. I know a guy who drives a \$60k car and he wants me to drive over to his place when I have literally nothing left in my bank account.

I don't get how we selectively see these things in the bible. We see one and not the other.

So I ask you Elected, how have you loved others more than yourself? I'm curious.

I point out money, not because I want to, but in the last 2 years, I found out, it's a very good if not the best indicator of people's hearts. Because I was willing to dish out mine but I received none back. Even on this forum, I think money is a good indicator of people's hearts. I just found out how much people love money. Because I can sit here all day and list all of the verses I want but only actions speak. I

Re: - posted by Kono (), on: 2011/9/21 2:32

Dear Codek,

As I saw Your reply, I can tell You, it is important to do those things. However, our job is not to help the poor only, but to do the will of God. And it is another dimension.

You are a bit confused about christianity, for YOu have seen a religious group who called herself church. Do not worry, God will show YOu the best way of living practical christianity. Noone is christian, who is not similar to Christ. You are absolutely right.

As I see, You are an unsettled must. In some month You will be a good wine. It is the Spirit's work in You.

If You do not mind, allow me an advice:

Do not forget, that God calld us not to do things for Him, but to be in the correct relationship with Him. Noone can serve Him without a strong relationship with God. The more stronger the relationship is, the more YOu know how to serve Him.

I have seen several times, that brothers helped to homeless guys, I did so. But I do not help to anyone except I speak to him/her first (homeless).

But I have seen several times much more glorious service.

There is a lady in our church. She is gipsy, but faithful to God, since was saved.

Before she got saved, she made abortion, addicted to cigarettes, alcohol, had bad mouth. Now she is one of the most lovely members of our church. When first came to church, YOu could hardly find teeth in her mouth, but someone took her to her own dentist to make a denture.

It was really hard to find her a job, but finally the church found her one. With a low, but sure salary. She has been working there for almost 10 years now. As she earns very little, had to rent small flats in very bad state. Finally, someone bought her a small flat. It is not finished yet, only structurally. We, the church will finish it.

The priority is important: the church, as the family of Christ is much more important, then comes the others.

Because if You help the homeless with a house, but could not change his way of living, You have thrown out money on windows. If YOu help to born-again people in their (real) needs, surely find the best place.

Keep in mind, that first is our relationship to God, and second is our relation to His family. And from the remaining energy and money, You can support all the others.

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2011/9/21 2:49

Codek,

Thanks for your honest reply. I am not better than you and there have been times when I have been backsliding and am not proud of it, especially recently when I was separated my separated spouse chose to divorce me for know biblical reasons. I was angry and bitter and went back to the world. But God in His mercy allowed my mom to have a second stroke and she survived it thx God and she is gradually getting better. This thing shook me up and brought me to my senses to repent of my sin and seek God with my heart till I find Him.

I have shown genuine love in my past for other people because the Holy Spirit produced that in me and even had to give money as young christian to a man who was not sincere because i wanted to share the word with Him. As I have loved genuinely people from my heart when walking close with God as christian, I have also been hypocrite and selfish, indifferent or unloving too when I had been backsliding.

You see its not about me but about Jesus Christ, if we believe Him and let his life live in us we will be in the light and love others because the Holy Spirit will give us a supernatural love but if a christian lives in the flesh, for the world and in sin he is can't love unconditionally because he is in darkness.

All I can say now is that God is cleansing my heart and sanctifying my heart by his Spirit and i'm being revived and finding again a new joy in Jesus.

Codek I know that there are many hypocrites in the church today but that does not justify you or give you any excuse before God. God's word and character does not change and if we dont believe God we make him a liar. He offers a full salvation in his Son, to you and me too. I chose to believe and I pray God to increase my little faith. Do you want to believe that's the question? You have a free choice to accept or not the gosple invitation that God offers to you thru his Son.

What others do is their responsibility before God, not yours. You and me will be held account with our choises we make in life and if we believed and obeyed the gosple.

You are a smart person and know alot from the bible, we can go on day and night arguing about scripture but that does not avail anything if the will is stubborn. God alone can soften the heart but we can resist his grace if we continue in unbelief and rebellion.

I pray you seek God will with all your heart and if you search for Him diligently you will find Him and he will give you peace.

Re: , on: 2011/9/21 4:46

Elected,

Thank You for your honest response. I respect you being able to admit your faults. I'm not saying Christians have to be perfect but I need people to admit fault, and try to right wrongs, basically, they have to care.

A couple of questions, were you saved before you last backslid? Or were you saved when you came back recently after what happened to your mother?

It's not many Christians are hypocrites, MOST CHRISTIANS are hypocrites and if you go to one of those megachurches, you have a better chance winning the lottery than being saved.

The biggest disconnect here is that no one understands the fact that I am trying to believe. Why would I waste so much time on this forum if I wasn't. People say it's all up to you and it's so easy to do it. Well it's not. If I could believe today, I would do it and end all of these threads. I have a lot of things I need to get done that's not getting done because I spend a considerable amount of time on these forums.

To be honest, I don't think you would have come back to God if you didn't go through the recent experience with your mother. If that didn't happen, maybe you would still be the world today, so you can't flip it on like a light switch. God has to put something there.

If I have to number how many times I tried to believe in God and thought I had a genuine conversion at the time, it would have to be about 10, maybe more. I tried and tried again but I always questioned my salvation.

There are just too many discrepancies of what's supposed to happen when you are saved. There isn't one formula.

If we're supposed to be regenerated how come, I didn't feel the Holy Spirit empower me. I didn't have this overwhelming power over my sins. I felt the same. Don't we all eventually feel the same. I look at other people and they look the same. What is this change you are talking about. I see the same sin nature.

Where's the people really trying to love others? Why does Jesus mention loving the least like himself or outcasts or people that can't repay you when no one does it. There is a lot of things Jesus talks about and no one who is "saved" does it. A lot of these saved people are unimpressive. I thought you are supposed to be filled with the Spirit and regenerated. I see no change. What about fruits? Another gray area as well.

How come I don't have real people in my life that are true Christians that I could fellowship with even though I've been seeking a fellowship so long. Why do I have to go on an internet forum to learn about God? Every church I've been in the last 10 years were filled with fake Christians. I'm talking about people teaching Rick Warren doctrine.

Can I get a break here? Am I not seeking God?

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/21 5:47

hi, i am old and have been saved for almost 50 years. the bible says that whosoever that will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. do not make it harder than God makes it. His yoke is EASY and His burden is LIGHT. performance has nothing to do with it for if it did we would not have needed a redeemer to redeem us. Jesus said that He came not to condemn the world but to save it. if you think i am going to send my son to cut a covenant for man that i would let man walk a way from this provision as a mere human than how much more your heavenly father keep those who call upon His name. you must have problems with your dad or as a dad not to understand this.

Re: , on: 2011/9/21 6:21

"you must have problems with your dad or as a dad not to understand this."

After reading Elected's response, I felt as if God was telling me that he was going to send me to hell because I keep rejecting him. It's always my fault. My efforts are never good enough. That's how bad it is. He keeps saying see that's why you aren't saved. You can't even do a simple thing like believe. I feel like God's agenda for me is to make me suffer as much as he can here while giving me false hope that I might be able to go to heaven and then ultimately to send me to hell forever to suffer forever and ever. to maximize the pain.

My view of God is just like my earthly Father because that is the only side of God, I was allowed to see. I have never seen this loving God. Although I prayed for it, I have NEVER seen this loving God.

All I remember is pain, pain, frustration, confusion, betrayal and more PAIN, PAIN, PAIN, PAIN, PAIN, story of my life
edit

Re: - posted by Kono (), on: 2011/9/21 6:56

Dear Codek,

You must listen to what we tell, if two of us told the same, before You have told us anything about Your father.

Remember?: "Even Your father can be cruel and highly protectionist. Even sometimes for our own father, we try our best, but as a protectionist, nothing is good enough for him to love us! That is not God. That is man, brother!"

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2011/9/21 12:09

I was born again when I was 18 years old and I never doubted my regeneration, it was a real experience to me. By burden rolled away and I felt light like a feather. After I had prayed on my knees and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I knew someone or "something" had come in my heart and it was the Holy Spirit.

I have doubted the assurance of my salvation when I have been backsliding but I have learned a great deal about God's unconditional love during those times when I was walking in my own ways. I have deserved hell so often in my life but God has been patient and merciful with me.

Codek, Satan is the one who always discourages someone who seeks the truth and plants doubts in his mind to question the love of God. And the sad truth is that you had a father who abused your mom and that you reflect that unfortunately in your understanding of God's nature and character.

It's true there are too many hypocritical Christians in the church today, we are living the last days and the love of many is growing cold and many also are deceived by doctrines of the devil and go to church to hear a preacher who will make them feel good and give them a false hope and assurance of their salvation when they are living to please their flesh, who love the ways of the world and bear no fruit of the Spirit or live a godly life.

I have had this problem myself since I was a young Christian, it's not easy to find a church where Christians love each other and live honest lives for God. But these are the very last days before the second coming of Jesus and he predicted the apostasy of the last days. Most of the churches we see today are worldly and living in Babylonian captivity. Many have made a shipwreck of their faith and have forgotten the mercies of God in their past.

Here in SI, I'm sure there are some honest Christians who want to see you come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I am not even worthy to share the gospel with someone else, when I look back in my past I really made a mess of my life, to the point that I lost hope that God will restore me again and forgive my sins and even doubted whether God still loved me. But I have discovered that when I search for Him diligently from my heart, he may tarry but sooner or later will show me mercy and give me grace.

You find it very hard to believe but even when you can't there is still hope for you, you can pray God to give you the desire to look with your whole heart for Him and that he will enable you by the Holy Spirit to believe in his Son. God will not re

sist an honest man who is willing and puts his heart to come to the cross for forgiveness of his sins but will assist Him and draw him by his Spirit to Jesus Christ.

What else can I say but repeat to you the simple but yet profound gospel of Jesus Christ, may God grant you the saving knowledge of his Son.

Edited

Re: , on: 2011/9/22 4:01

But isn't it possible that I was saved at 15 when I first thought I was saved? After reading your testimony, I had a similar experience when I was 15, when I accepted Jesus as savior. Then because every prayer was rejected and NOTHING EVER WORKED, my faith dwindled to what it is today. I never felt the love of God. Even when I rebelled, there was no love of God. How can anyone remain a Christian when he doesn't feel the love of God, his grace, his mercy?

If I understood the love of God for me, I could trust him and this would be a strong relationship. When I prayed to God in all these years, God always gave me a "snake for a fish", "a scorpion for an egg".

reference

Luke 11:11-13, "11 Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"

That's why I can't trust him. Every prayer remained unanswered. I always got the short end of the stick. And I thought it was because I didn't have enough faith. Now, I willingly committed financial suicide because that was what I felt God was telling me to do. He said don't trust in man's ways, trust me, seek me first, put the kingdom of God first, love your brothers first and I will provide for you. I haven't been answering your prayers because you never went all out for me, like Abraham, he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, you have to be willing to risk it all, then I will show up. So as a response, I gave up everything to say, "Hey God, I trust in you and I'll prove it by putting it all on the line"

The end result is that I am screwed royally, there is no coming back from this and now this just is another prayer request that went unanswered, another time I stuck my neck out for God and got murdered, but this time I am really DEAD. There is no coming back from this.

That's why I feel like my life is like Job's life. I tried so hard to be accepted by him and I gave up my life to know him (my life is literally ruined right now) to have a relationship with him BUT I KEEP GETTING REJECTED, I'm not rejecting God.

Even when I was looking for a church, I was DECEIVED into going to these churches where 99% of the congregation are not saved, it's all about humanism, or it's all about healing and doing miracles because of your pride, or it's other crazy stuff. He made me do this alone, isolated. That's why I have to go on an online forum for spiritual help, because I HAVE NO ONE IN MY LIFE I CAN GO TO.

Think about it, what would drive a man to do what I did, I willfully ruined my life for Him in the worst economic time ever, there are no jobs, no nothing, to know him because that's what I thought he was asking me to do. Now, I even know what it's like to contemplate suicide. And that is something I never experienced in my life ever. I never thought I would ever be there. Contemplate doesn't mean doing it but I know what it feels like to have that cross your mind.

Much like Job, when he was suffering, God was rejecting him the whole time until he spoke to him. Is this all a crazy test?

The difference between your testimony and mine was when you wrote

"I have doubted the assurance of my salvation when I have been backsliding but I have learned a great deal about God's unconditional love during those times when I was walking in my own ways. I have deserved hell so often in my life but God has been patient and merciful with me."

He never showed me this unconditional love. I always felt like the unwanted kid, the opposite of the favorite. And if he didn't show you this unconditional love, you could still be questioning your salvation.

Do you get what i'm saying? And if this is the Devil telling me these lies, why doesn't God speak to me and get the record straight when I'm seeking Him with EVERYTHING I GOT. I GAVE UP MY LIFE TO SEEK HIM AND NOW I'M DEAD.

WHAT AM I DOING WRONG? WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?

Re: Feeling Lost and Rejected by God - posted by Questor, on: 2011/9/22 4:44

Codek,

All I can see in your many posts is your feeling of being lost and rejected by YHVH.

There is much I would say, many questions I would answer, but feel that an open forum is not quite the place for this in your situation.

If you would like to, contact me at questor@earthlink.net, and we can begin to talk about your situation in depth.

I am only a believer with a Bible, but I have some experience with what you are going through and would glad to share your struggle, and help you if I can.

Q.

Re: , on: 2011/9/22 4:50

I 100% agree with you but I only do this because I have nowhere else to go. When I say, I have nothing left, I kid you not, I am not joking.

I have maybe one or two acquaintances I met through people on this forum. But I can't keep monopolizing their time, it's not fair for them either. The other church going people I know are either going to straight to hell or just tell me "i don't know what to tell you"

GOD SHOW ME THE WAY. IM DYING HERE. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT.

I do apologize to everyone on the forum who has to experience this. I have nowhere else to go and I pray for the day when I don't have to write these annoying, awkward posts and bug the heck out of people I don't even know. If you know any other places or forums or whatnot, please email me at codek1424@yahoo.com.

Re: - posted by Questor, on: 2011/9/22 4:58

I understand your panic and the fear you feel, but I have the time, and I am willing to share it with you, regularly, daily, (or even), as our schedules allow.

You will not be lost if you are seeking YHVH so strongly...only by His call upon you would you even care about being saved. Your sense of not reaching Adonai is because of the fear that the Adversary is shedding into your mind and heart.

Stop freaking out, and take a deep breath, and then contact me!

Q.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/22 6:33

hi, the joy of the Lord is your strength... you have none because you have enjoyed the attention you get in your pity party so you remain weak and sad, but with attention. the only enemy you have is yourself and you must not live just to draw attention to yourself. it is egomania at the highest level. a person must give their lives to Jesus to have eternal life and be Christ centered and not self centered... some people are going to go to eternal torment (with none to listen. do not choose to do this. nobody wants to be around a negative cry baby and that is what you have chosen to be. do not blame anyone else. you must choose to follow Jesus and His love, and joy will follow you all the days of your life. jimp and im done

Re: , on: 2011/9/22 20:24

jimp

I'm not doing this for attention. I'm doing this to solve a problem. Once the problem is solved, I will go bye bye with these posts. If I wanted attention, I would go out, make tons of money and meet people, party, socialize.

I could understand getting caught up in a pity party, but I know enough that pity parties isn't really going to solve the problem, I need to solve the problem.

thank you for your post as tough love is needed at times.

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/23 1:55

several people now have explained to you that:

"the bible says that whosoever that will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. do not make it harder than God makes it. His yoke is EASY and His burden is LIGHT. performance has nothing to do with it for if it did we would not have needed a redeemer to redeem us."

(jimp's words)

Codek, salvation is easy, discipleship is not.

Elijah cried out, Lord, only I am left in all Israel (as righteous). God rebuked him gently saying, hey there are 7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

Jeremiah preached for 40? years and was dumped in a dungeon and treated rather poorly. He didn't shake his fist at God saying "How dare you treat one of your children this way."

Cornelius was told when sent to Paul "I will show him what things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Paraphrased).

So suffering isn't the issue, though you may see it as an issue. You compare yourself to Job. Codek, I lovingly tell you you are not like Job. He was righteous and was tested by God to prove to Satan that he would be righteous though not blessed. He passed that test. You (again in love I say this, and am not bitter in any way) "tore a strip" off me in an earlier post because of some things I said. You are not standing in a position of faith towards God despite trials as Job did, but are doubting God in your trial.

You say God doesn't speak to you. God speaks to you through the word primarily, go to His word for clarity. Be led by the Spirit, but expect to get things wrong sometimes. Even Paul wasn't sure about some things. They tried to go into Asia but the Spirit did not permit it. He had a vision and they CONCLUDED that they were to go into Macedonia. They didn't know for sure, but assumed that's what the Lord was indicating.

Psalm 34:7 Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. if you set the Lord, the One written of in the word, as your delight, then He will fill your heart with His desires. Your desires will be His. Not completely, you will still have to identify what is of your flesh and what is of His Spirit.

He is already doing this. Your desire for a right relationship with Him is His working in you. But have faith! Delight yourself in Him, though it has cost you everything. He has declared that it is to be so. Though I don't know, only God does, if it was the Lord's will that you give away all your possessions, here you are in the situation, what will you do with it. God will work with you in whatever situation you are if you will give yourself to Him again.

Lloyd

Re: , on: 2011/9/23 2:34

Re: , on: 2011/9/23 3:36

Try memorizing Hebrews chpt 12.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/9/23 16:18

Codex, how many of us really know what it is to be born again? Jesus told Nicodemus, you must be born again, even to begin to understand the things of God. What does it mean, replied Nicodemus? Jesus used the wind to give him an answer. Do you know where the wind is coming from? At that time the answer was, no. Do you know where it is going, no. We know where the wind is coming from and where it is going and can see the effects of it, because we now have a better understanding of meteorology.

If God is our Father, what does it take to be a Father? It takes Seed, (sperma) of God for Him to be a Father.

1 Peter 1:23, says we are born again of the incorruptable Seed of the Father which is Christ the Word. Paul was raised up from his mother's womb to bring this message direct from Jesus Christ Himself, in Paul, to fulfill the Word of God. This mystery by Paul's Gospel, "My Gospel", this mystery which is, "Christ in you the hope of Glory", which Paul speaks of in all his epistles, specifically, "In Christ", 146 times.

This is like the wind, or a woman being pregnant, some know immediately they have new life in them, some it takes time until the life begins to move, some don't know until delivery.

Being born again of the incorruptable Seed of the Father is Paul's message. If you want to know what this new life means to those who have been born again, new creatures in Christ, new Life in us, then study Paul's epistles, especially Eph 1, which is highest of what God has to offer those who have been born again, chapter 3 is also in this category.

No matter what we do, we cannot make new life come to us, it takes the Life of the Father to give new life to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Col 1:26-27. This is our only labor. Even this labor is according to His labor, which works in us mightily. Col 1: 28. The harder we try the less we accomplish, the more we try to govern our life in accordance to what we think God wants the less is accomplished in our life for the Kingdom. We also must be very careful in all we do, thinking it is of God, because we have a liar and deceiver who wants to be our god, he only kills and destroys and us thinking we are doing what God wants, then comes joy of Satan, he has gotten us to blame all our problems on God.

If Christ is born again in us, God will never take that away, Christ is in us and with us forever, our new life, if God would take away His Fatherhood, He would be an abortionist, God forbid.

We must enter His Rest, whom God says the wicked will never enter. But we that are His children by birth, have already entered that rest, most of us just don't believe it.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: Salvation - posted by jezuspl, on: 2011/9/24 22:45

I've been read all the posts so far and I was just wondering too I've been seeking Jesus for 2 years maybe not as much as Codex for like 10 years or something but I've been seeking for 2 years and am a senior rite now in high school and it's pretty cool how ur Korean-American Codex cuz I am too, not saying that your situation is cool but I can relate and it's an encouragement, Codex was discussing how he's been seeking for a decade but no help whatsoever and feels as if God isn't speaking to him, I'm just curious and please no judging but love and me too I'm not really convinced that I'm saved or born-again because I don't think that I believe in the gospel personally, but what I wanted to ask was why do people seek so hard and try different things yet they don't seem to come to that CRAZY PEACE that only comes from looking to Jesus and even trying to look to Jesus for me nothing really happens and it's even harder because I have Satan whispering in my ear or myself telling myself about bringing condemnation...why do some people just get saved on the spot when they hear the gospel?

O and codex i hope this helps and i watched it but didn't really get any heart change but maybe when you watch it it'll help...<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJ-LZiF8NTc&feature=related>

Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/24 23:11

salvation experience is different for different people. Some have dramatic experiences and others, like myself, it wasn't particularly so. Some remember the day and events clearly, others can't peg down a specific day, or can't remember the events that well.

A few verses that have come to me for Codek, and you jezuspl is:

1Jo 4:9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We don't look for a demonstration of God's love except this: He sent His Son to die for us. Any other warming of the heart or other thing is insignificant compared to this. I don't say this to condemn you in anyway but to show you to look no further than this for your confirmation that God loves you!

Jhn 16:27 "for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God

1Cr 8:3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

1Jo 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

These verses show that when we put our faith in Him we come to know God.

Lloyd

Re: - posted by jezuspl, on: 2011/9/24 23:13

yeah but when you're saved you know without a doubt because god gives you assurance

Re: - posted by jezuspl, on: 2011/9/24 23:59

hey codek did you watch the vid? o yeah do you have a fb?

Re: No Matter How Much you Pray, Repent, Plead, Obey If God Doesn't Choose You, , on: 2011/9/25 3:53

The title of this thread is a reproach when seen on the Homepage of SermonIndex. What sort of witness is it to those "searching"? It's a blatant lie and I pray that those seeing this title will look in their Bibles at how many times Jesus said "whosoever will" and whosoever calls upon the Name of The LORD 'will' be saved.

Just call in sincerity and don't pay attention to the few on this website that belittle Jesus Who paid for the "sins of the world" by a torturous death.

Forgiveness and a new life is free to all who will call out to Him in sincerity.

The Bible says that there are those who will muddy up the Good News of Jesus, but read the New Testament, without anyone's commentary on it and see that Jesus never turns ANYONE down that comes to Him with a sincere heart - not looking for anything but forgiveness and a true One-on-one relationship with Him. He created us to love and to have children that Love Him and His Commandments in the New Testament were written to "protect" His children and He said, If you Love Me, you'll desire to keep His Words.

He said, Behold I knock at the door - whosoever opens - I will come in and dine with Him and he with me.

This is to "whosoever" reads the title of this thread but haven't posted here. Jesus died for the sins of the world and invites ALL to come and be forgiven and made new and enjoy His Love.

Though 3 may post against Him on a forum - do not let that keep you from talking to Jesus Himself and read His New Testament about Him and see that He is Good and a purely Loving GOD - "not willing that ANY should perish" and ignore t

he nay-sayers - please - for you're own soul's sake. He loves the world and will accept anyone who calls out to Him for forgiveness, and to be invited into one's life to change us into His Image as we walk with Him. He is The Good Shepherd and His Sheep will KNOW His Voice and follow Him. John 10.

"Whosoever will - Come unto Him" He doesn't lie but He is lied about by humans. Pay them no mind and just read a New Testament alone and see the Great Love He offers "whosoever will" call out to Him. Amen.

Re: Presdesination towards Hell --can you be lost, even if you really want to be saved? - posted by BroFrank001, on: 20

Please consider the following quote from the Scriptures (brace yourself, it isn't one of those nice feely passages!).

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Hebrews 6:1-6

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

And this will we do, if God permit.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

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If there ever was a person who should go to Hell, it is myself. Born and raised in a Christian home, I became a backslider at the age of 12, to go my own way. --Forgot to mention, also became an Atheist-a real one. What is a real Atheist? Since this is a Christian site, perhaps you will understand what I say when I say that I was possessed with a spirit of unbelief.

I gave myself to it, so that I could go my own way.

Yet, because I was a backslider, I had an advantage that many others do not have: I started to realize that I really was missing something. You see, when you are saved you are a part of God's Universe: the world makes complete sense to you. He is your Father, and you can look up at the sky, and say, "That's a beautiful series of pastels, You are painting in the sky this evening, Father." You know Him, and that makes life truly worth living. In fact, if things go bad, (really bad) it only makes you look forward to one day leaving here, to be with Him--and then, amazingly, you find that you don't have to go to Him, He comes to you (Jn. 14:18). Anyway, to get back to what happened when I backslid.

I found that I couldn't come back.

Really, I prayed, and what have you, but couldn't make it back. What was wrong? I know that your situation is a little different from mine, because I actually have a text that logically locks me out (or, maybe it is similar, come to think of it--your pretext would be assuming you're not predestined . . .).

For me, the answer was in the text that says that the real backslider crucifies Christ afresh. (I know, some reading this will say, "You can't loose your salvation!!" --Forgive those of us who simply believe the Scriptures: read 2 Peter 2:21,22, and the implication of Rev. 3:5 --are you saying that Jesus was bluffing, in this passage? You don't know the Lord (excuse me, Don't understand Him - see Matt. 23:23 and meditate on it for a week or two))

So I had to "walk the aisle" again, and shame myself in public and RUN FOR MY LIFE! I mean that, I cut every bridge with the devil that I could think of. I let loose my girlfriend, you name it. I know, modern "churchianity" would seldom dare to tell you to be so radical. I'm just telling you what I went through.

--And the Lord was STILL way off, away up in Heaven!

What was going on????

It was not until receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit (another subject, altogether) that I started to realize that the assurance

ance was there (Romans 8:12-16).

The Lord promises to give His Holy Spirit to all who will ask (Lk 11:13). I was so confounded in these issues (by contrary teachings) that I once felt the Spirit descend, and heard the wind, but resisted His coming. I had to be desperate enough to allow God to take control.

Now, I am NOT encouraging anyone to attend a particular type of church, etc. There is mess out there, in all of them (if not, when I attend, it arrives:)

No, the answer is deeper than that. I do believe that the Lord had a definite reason for standing back, while I sought Him. HE didn't want for me to even consider sliding back again (this thought comes to me, when hearing of those who go forward to be saved, after slipping back into sin, week-after-week-after week).

I have been walking with the Lord, past that return to Him for over 30 years now, and I have seen Him do things that, if I weren't there, I wouldn't believe it was possible. So, don't give up, my brother. He has something special for you--but it is probably on a road less traveled.

OK. You want to know what I mean, in plain English. If you have read any of my earlier posts, you may notice my bent towards Bible prophecy. It's not a bent. We are heading into the Tribulation. The church in the US is largely a Laodicean church: rich and prosperous, but short of spiritual substance. The Lord may be preparing you for what is ahead. This can only be done when you are truly desperate enough to totally, and absolutely, surrender to Him (Prov. 27:7).

Try secret (emphasis: secret -- Matt. 6:1-6) prayer and fasting. God is real. He will answer you (Jer. 29:13, 14). When He does, remember to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

Be blessed in Jesus.

my website: TheUPlook.com

Re: - posted by jezusppl, on: 2011/9/25 12:24

So your telling us to be desperate, i just don't get it though if God says whosoever why in the world does it take SOOO long and very confusing walk to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Could you mind telling me your testimony? Yes i found your words encouraging and reassuring! Thanks!

Re: , on: 2011/9/25 16:39

Re: - posted by jezusppl, on: 2011/9/25 17:43

Yeah i know what true christianity is i've listened to those hell-fire preaching pastors and i know that it takes frekin heavy loads of sacrifice, and it ain't easy to enter into the kingdom of god, not saying it's done by works but saying that kind of like the rich man when Jesus told him to sell everything he had, but he left in sadness or whatever like anguish or something, and then later Jesus said that it was hard for rich people to enter into the kingdom of god! Yeah man, if you have anything that'll help me then please PLEASE encourage me with wise words and i'd be grateful...Jesus Bless!

Re: , on: 2011/9/25 17:47

hit me up

Re: - posted by jezusppl, on: 2011/9/25 18:55

im on yahoo messenger and are you on?

Re: , on: 2011/9/26 16:16

Please continue to pray for me because it's still a struggle and I pray that I may continue to seek God and that this will not be here today, gone tomorrow type of thing.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/9/26 16:32

Codex, Do you believe in the Name of Jesus Christ, that He is the Son of God? If you do what does scripture say? If you believe scripture, you must believe you are saved. If you are saved, where is Jesus Christ? Not seated at the right hand of the Father, which He is, not in this place, not walking beside you, and all the other worldly sayings when you are a born again son of the Father. Christ is in you. The Son of God Jesus Christ is in you. The Father sent the Holy Spirit at the request of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is in you also, Even the Father whom the Son has brought with Him and now make their abode with you.

In Christ: praying you receive the revelation of the Christ that is in you, as Paul states by his revelation, 146 times, in Christ.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2011/9/27 0:54

Jesus-is-GOD

"What sort of witness is it to those "searching"?"

I'm the one who is "searching". Think of Paul before his conversion. Does it really look like I have that sound foundation?

I didn't write this to blaspheme God. It was a cry for help. I'm sorry if it was offensive but I can't lie.

You wouldn't expect Saul of Tarsus before he was saved to lie to you and say Christians are Great and I believe in Jesus, right?

Re: - posted by Dawn10379 (), on: 2011/10/3 2:08

codek,

I read parts of this thread a few days ago and it really disturbed me. I stopped coming to this site a while back but I check once in a while to see what is new. Anyhow, I was reading the Bible tonight and I feel the Lord would like me to share these verses with you...

Job 35:9-16

9 "Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out;
They cry out for help because of the arm of the mighty.

10 But no one says, "Where is God my Maker,
Who gives songs in the night,

11 Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth,
And makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?"

12 There they cry out, but He does not answer,
Because of the pride of evil men.

13 Surely God will not listen to empty talk,
Nor will the Almighty regard it.

14 Although you say you do not see Him,
Yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him.

15 And now, because He has not punished in His anger,
Nor taken much notice of folly,

16 Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain;
He multiplies words without knowledge.Â”

- I hope His words are a blessing to you and that you realize that the enemy delights in the things you have said on this thread. You are either for Him or against Him...do not lay the blame on Him like Job did.

Blessings.

Dawn