

**DISCIPLESHIP 3  
GOD'S PLAN  
SERIES**

**UNIT IV - LESSON 3, 4  
REASONS TO CULTIVATE SALVATION - 1  
REASONS TO CULTIVATE SALVATION - 2**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
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## **UNIT IV - GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**

### **LESSON 3 - REASONS TO CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION # 1 - THE FATHER'S CHASTISEMENT - HEBREWS 12:11**

In the previous lesson we talked about God's plan of salvation, which salvation is a 3-fold salvation.

Philippians 1:6 describes this plan of salvation as:

- salvation which God in Jesus Christ has begun;
- salvation He is continuing to complete;
- salvation which will be completed by Him (God) in the day of Jesus Christ.

**"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."**

2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 10 is also speaking of fold salvation, we read, (God) **"Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."**

This beginning salvation, delivering us from so great a death, which deliverance is wholly the work of God without any help from us has delivered us, saved us from the guilt and condemnation of sin. It has saved us from the eternal punishment of sin in the lake of fire and has through the new birth in Jesus Christ given us an eternal **STANDING WITH** God as His very own dear child.

The 2nd phase of the 3 fold salvation is a salvation which God our Father is in the process of working in us. This phase of salvation is delivering us from the power and control of the sin, which sin, Paul in Romans chapter 7 verses 17 and 20 says is dwelling in us.

This phase of our salvation is progressive and here we as co-labours of God are instructed in Philippians 2:12,13 to cultivate our salvation. To cultivate that new creation which we have become as a result of our new birth in Jesus Christ. We are to cultivate our salvation, as you would cultivate a garden, for the purpose of bringing forth good fruit. Amen?.

Now in this lesson we want to begin looking at the reasons for being co-labours with God, cultivating our salvation (That is allowing our Father God, through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to mold us into what He wants us to become.)

Before we look at the reasons for yielding ourselves to God, let us understand two truths (facts).

First and of foremost importance is to know and understand that nothing and/or no one (not even yourself) can take away the salvation that God has begun in you. You are a **CHILD OF GOD AND HAVE BEEN SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE IN THAT STANDING.**

Ephesians 1:13,14 says,

**"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were SEALED with the Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest (or guarantee) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."**

Again in Ephesians 4:30 Paul tells us that our salvation is SEALED by the Holy Spirit and thus made sure.

**"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."**

Secondly, let us understand that with or without you being a yielded vessel, God will accomplish His purposes in your life. Amen?

WHY THEN, if we have an eternal standing with God, eternal life and God is going to accomplish His purposes with or without my yielding and consent, WHY WORK YOUR SALVATION?

Why not just continue doing what we have always done? God is going to complete the work He begun, so why should we put out any effort to Cultivate our salvation?

The first reason we want to look at for entering into a co-labor relationship of cultivating our salvation with our Father God is a **NEGATIVE REASON - GOD'S CHASTISEMENT.**

- Hebrews 12:1-11(6)
- Ephesians 4:30
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19

If we grieve the Holy Spirit by continuing in sin, by not cultivating our salvation (that is getting the sin in us out of us) we will eventually quench the working and moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- Genesis 6:3

Specifically, what will grieve, quench the Holy Spirit and eventually cause the Spirit to stop striving with the believer? WILLFUL SIN!!! Hebrews 10:26-27 says,

**"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery Indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."**

Willful sin will be judged with a consuming zealousness (zeal). the Lord says, Exodus 20:5,

**"...I the lord Thy God am a jealous God..."**

Now the purpose of judgment on the part of God is to DEVOUR THE SIN (adversary).

In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 we have of an example of this as Paul instructs the Corinthian Church to deliver the one who is living in sin with his father's wife to satan, for the destruction of the flesh (sin) that he might be saved.

In Matthew 18:34 the unjust servant is delivered to the tormentor until the sin is devoured

**Take note:** a case of miseries in your life may indicate that you are under the hand of the tormentor because God is judging willful sin in your life. JOB is a classic example of sin being judged by God permitting the hand of the tormentor to be upon the person who is not himself judging the sin in his life.

Isaiah 5:1-7 speaks of the child of God (the believer) as being the vineyard (garden) of God and that living in willful sin, unrepented sin will result in God removing His hedge of protection

Matthew 21:42-44 tells us that not falling on Rock (not repenting of sin) causes the Rock to Fall on the one who is living in willful sin.

Oh, let us understand that WILLFUL SIN will bring the judgment of God upon that sin with the purpose of getting rid of the sin through repentance.

You see, if you will not willingly get the sin dwelling in you out of you, God in His grace and mercy will help you get it out.

Now what is WILLFUL SIN? Willful sin is sin which we commit knowingly and voluntarily. It is sin which comes out of our will (soulish), out of our desire to do what we want to do. It is indulging our flesh.

Willful sin often begins with the child of God saying something like this, "**I know I should or should not do this or that, BUT...**" Then comes the rational, logical excuses for doing or not doing it.

Here is seen an attitude of God as a gray haired Grand Father who will allow His children to do what they please as long as they don't do anything really bad.

Or, an attitude that believes if you have a good reason for not doing what you know you should do that God will agree with you and thus excuse your disobedience.

Willful sin, also can and often does have it's beginning in defiance and rebellion against God. It manifests it's self in a stubbornness that says, "I don't care what God says, I am going to do what I want to do."

**THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CHASTISEMENT** is seen in Hebrews 12:11.

**"Now no chastising for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless AFTERWARD IT YIELDETH THE PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS unto them which are exercised thereby."**

**WHY CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION? Reason # 1 simply stated says,**

***"Even though the eternal consequence of sin has been removed from the born again child of God, there still remains for the child of God, the temporal consequence of not yielding to the will of the Father which according to Hebrews 12:6 is Father God chastising and whipping those whom He loves when they are disobedient."***

## **LESSON 4 - REASONS TO CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION # 2 - THE BETTER RESURRECTION (PART 1)**

In our last lesson we began looking at the **REASONS** for being co-labours with our Father God in the cultivating of our salvation. That is, why we should cooperate with God, being willing to allow our Father God to mold us into what He wants us to become as His children.

**WHY?** if when we were born we were saved, delivered from the eternal guilt and punishment of sin, that is the eternal consequence of sin; and if God is going to complete the work He has begun in us even if we don't cooperate with Him. **WHY?** should we put out any effort to live a Christian life, cultivating our salvation?

Why? Reason # 1 which we talked about in the previous lesson simply and clearly stated is this:

Even though the eternal consequence of sin has been removed from the born again child of God, there still remains even for the child of God the temporal consequence of sin which according to Hebrews 12:6 is Father God chastising and whipping those whom He loves, when they are disobedient.

Now the purpose of these corrective measures on the part of our Father, however severe they may be, is to produce fruits of righteousness in the lives of those being corrected by God.

Therefore, to the extent or degree to which we actively get involved with God in the cultivation of our Christian walk, that is getting ourselves, our attitudes, our thinking, our way of life, lined up with God's Plan for our lives, to that degree we will not have to be on the receiving end of our Father's corrective measures.

Now if avoiding the correction of God is not motivation or reason enough for ordering our lives according to God's Plan, the Holy Spirit would reveal to us in this lesson another reason for cultivation our salvation.

**REASON #2**, which we will talk about this lessons says, **FOR THOSE. WHO YIELD THEMSELVES IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD AS INSTRUMENTS AND VESSELS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ORDERING THEIR LIVES ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN THERE WILL BE A REWARD.**

What is the **REWARD** (prize) for overcoming the sin which dwells within us. Hebrews 11:35,

**"Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection."**

Philippians 3:11 identifies and describes that better resurrection as an **OUT-RESURRECTION**, that is a resurrection out from, distinct from, **BEFORE THE GENERAL RESURRECTION** of those belonging to Jesus.

**Point of clarification.** The Greek word translated resurrection in Philippians 3:11 is ec-anastasis. In every other instance in the New Testament resurrection is a translation of anastasia NOT ecanastasis. Ec is a Greek prefix which means out, in front of, out from.

Thus the literal translation of ec-anastasis in Philippians is out-resurrection not resurrection nor is it resurrection out from the dead.

With this understanding we can see what Paul is saying in Philippians 3:11-14.

**"If by any means I might attain unto the out-resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching unto those things which are before. I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF God in Christ JESUS."**

Now that we might see this more clearly we need to look at what the Bible says about the Rapture and resurrection.

### **THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**

The Rapture means the departing or catching away of the church, spelled out in 1 Thes. 4:16-17.

Evidence for the rapture is certainly not insignificant. The Doctrine of the Rapture of the Church has various interpretations and doctrinal positions in the evangelical churches.

- Pre-tribulation rapture
- Post-tribulation rapture
- Mid-tribulation rapture
- Overcomers, Pre-tribulation rapture with carnal church going into tribulation.
  - 1) Out or better resurrection, Phil 3:11; Heb 11:35; Rev 3:10; Lk 21:36; Rev. 4 (Saints in Heaven before Tribulation begins); Rev 12:5
  - 2) Church in Tribulation, Rev 7:14-16; Rev 13:7; Rev 12:6,13,14,17 (Woman = church)
  - 3) Church will not go through "Day of God's Wrath" Rev. 6:17; Jer 30:7; Rom 5:9; 1 Thes 1:10; Rev 15:1-4 (Cf. Rev 4:6)

***Thus the BETTER RESURRECTION which is the prize, the reward for being co-labours with the Father in the cultivation of the garden of the soul is an escaping of the suffering under the persecution of the Anti-christ during the 1st 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation by means of the Rapture.***

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### **END of Series**

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