



Part 1: Saved for God's Presence

Acts 2:22-39

We are saved for God's presence.

I. Twin Gifts of Salvation in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38

The great work of Jesus Christ for you and I – God’s great gift of salvation – is the gift of forgiveness of our sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We are forgiven so we can have a right relationship with God. God never offers relationship with Himself at the expense of His holiness.

Relationship with God comes to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is the third person of the Trinity.

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4-5

“The necessary element in the spiritual life is the Holy Spirit...He is the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ.” – Andrew Murray

II. God's Presence Amidst God's People (Exodus 33:14-16)

“The Lord replied, ‘My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ Then Moses said to him, ‘If your Presence

does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? **What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"** (Exodus 33:14-16)

- God's Presence filled the Tabernacle (Ex. 40:35)
- God's Presence filled the Jerusalem Temple (1 Kings 8:11)
- God's Presence departed the Temple (Ezekiel 10)
- God's Presence filled Jesus from conception, and Jesus is the 'temple-in-the-flesh'
- God's Presence dwells in His people individually (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16)
- God's Presence dwells among His gathered people (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:22)
- God's Presence will dwell with His people forever (Revelation 21)

"...the Spirit is not merely an impersonal force or influence or power. The Spirit is none other than the fulfillment of the promise that God himself would once again be present with his people...The Spirit is God's own personal presence in our lives and in our midst; he leads us into paths of righteousness for his name's sake, he 'is working all things in all people,' he is grieved when his people do not reflect his character and thus reveal his glory, and he is present in our worship, as we sing 'praise and honor and glory and power' to God and the Lamb." – Gordon Fee, *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*

III. The Holy Spirit is the Third *Person* of the Trinity.

- The Holy Spirit has the characteristics of a person.
- He loves (Romans 15:30)
- He has understanding (1 Corinthians 2:11)
- He has a will & makes decisions (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- He experiences grief (Ephesians 4:30)
- He helps us in our weakness (Romans 8:26)

"Where the Holy Spirit is not honored as the one through whom the whole of life and power of the gospel salvation is to be effected, it is no wonder that Christians have no more of the reality of the gospel than the Jews had of the purity of the Law. For the New Testament without the coming of the Holy Spirit in power over self, sin, and the devil is no better a help than the Old Testament without the coming of the

Messiah.” – William Law, quoted in *Fresh Power* by Jim Cymbala

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen. – Augustine

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 2:37-39. What does Peter connect with our salvation in Christ?
2. What has been your experience with teaching on the Holy Spirit?
3. Has your understanding of salvation in Christ been more “transaction” and focused on forgiveness of your sins or more “relational” with access to God’s presence through the Holy Spirit? What difference do you think it makes how one sees salvation?
4. What is your response to the story Doug told of the depressed woman healed of her depression? Have you ever knowingly experienced the Holy Spirit’s obvious manifestation?