

The Better Motive of Salvation

One of the best decisions a person could ever make is putting their faith in the Lord. This decision can and will change your life both on earth and eternity.

People come to the Lord at various points in their lives. What drives people's decision to get born again varies from person to person.

Why get Born-again? Many of us have heard people come and tell us how we needed to be born again. While many of the benefits they front are true, many people get born again only because of the benefits but never move on to the greatest and most crucial of them all – knowing God and having relationship with Him.

- a) This–knowing the Lord, is one of the most un-fronted benefits to salvation, yet at the same time the most important.
- b) Why did you get born again?

One thing I have seen about people getting born-again is that whenever people get born again because they have a need, or want a need to be met, they can be very unstable, unreliable, and they tend to be driven by the need that brought them in in the first place.

This distraction gets them focused on things that could get those needs met, such as the world, sex, fame, attention, power, and so much more.

While being born again has benefits, if such is ONLY and majorly driven by the benefits, their lives won't change much.

Text

John 3:16 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.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

- 1) In John 3:16, the highlight or goal of salvation, is not—not going to hell (perishing), BUT everlasting life or eternal life.
- 2) How we get into this eternal life is not through performance, but through Believing in Him.
- 3) Eternal life is not going in heaven. You can have it now in this life. It is also not living forever. All people live forever either in heaven or in hell, with God or without God, but eternal life of living forever in relationship and intimacy with God.
- 4) Eternal life = Knowing God, specifically the only true God + Jesus Christ.
- 5) The Greek Word from which the word 'KNOW' is translated is "ginosko" and means "allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive," It reveals an experiential type of knowing, not just a mental informational type of knowing.
 - a) According to Thayer's Definition, KNOW is used as "Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman."
 - b) This is revealed in Genesis 4:1.

Desire to KNOW the Lord

Philippians 3:7-11 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto

his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

- 1) Paul was after a real solid relationship with the Lord. He had given up and walked away from everything to know the Lord. What a sacrifice from a very successful man of his day!
 - a) To know God is speaking about intimacy with God, not just mental knowledge or acquaintance.
 - b) Same Greek word—The Greek Word from which the word ‘KNOW’ is translated is “ginosko” and means “allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive.” It reveals an experiential type of knowing, not just a mental informational type of knowing.
- 2) Paul had certain things he had achieved in this life. One thing we find clearly is he did not come to the Lord for benefits. The man wanted to know the Lord. If Paul was driven by benefits, he would not have been able to persevere during all the persecutions and trials he suffered. All those things he let go. He counted loss to pursue and focus on Christ.
- 3) Paul wanted to get the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. He desired to excel in his relationship and/or intimacy with the Lord. While some people seek to win money, prosperity, healing, children, not going to hell, and many more good things, Paul sought to knowing God.
- 4) He further goes and says, “That I may know Him...” This reveals that Paul wanted to KNOW the Lord. It was not about all the bells and whistles that people run after, Paul desired to KNOW the Lord.

The word “KNOW” is speaking about a relationship of intimacy, not head knowledge. Many people do not know that there is an experiential knowledge, not just the mental or intellectual knowledge.

Examples of the needs people come to the Lord for:

They front all the benefits of salvation including not going to hell.

While it is true that a person that rejects the salvation which God offers us through Jesus—will go to hell. This is not the most important benefit of salvation. There is more and there is better.

- o Healing
- o Financial hardship
- o Getting out of prison
- o Forgiveness of Sins
- o Relationship restoration
- o Miracle

- 1) I'm not saying you SHOULD NOT come to the Lord if you have a need or any of these needs above. Nothing can be further from the truth! You should God is your source.
 - a) What I'm saying is that there is something more and better. We should not settle for less. If we are driven by a weaker reason, we abide by a weaker reason.
- 2) God never meant for us just to get benefits and leave, then come back whenever we have need for more. That's not a sustainable nor vibrant relationship. Rather than using the Lord, have a relationship with Him which has benefits. Keep the main thing the main thing.
- 3) You need to make a very conscious decision with intentional steps to go on to a deeper walk Him.
- 4) We need to come unto the Lord for a relationship and intimacy with Him, not just benefits. Yes, there are benefits, but that can't be your goal.

- a) The world offers many and some of these benefits. One has to come to the Lord for something superior and better than the world can offer.
- b) The world offers no intimacy, relationship, or fellowship with the Lord. It offers no eternal life, no peace, no joy, no hope for the future or eternity. It offers nothing good.

Mind Renewal

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- 1) One of the major ways to have transformation is not just saying YES to the Lord. That is important and must be done, but there is more to the relationship than many of us have understood.
- 2) A person must be willing to go through the mind renewal journey or process.
- 3) If they do not renew their minds and get into the Word, they can become very unstable and shaky. They tend to hold on to the desires of the world and the pursuit thereof. They tend to have a stronger pull of the world on them, which can cause them to develop many patterns of the world.
- 4) This mind renewal happens through the Word of God.
- 5) You need transformation. Move away from being benefits focused to intimate relationship.

How do you then know the Lord?

- a) Should just pray and God will do it? No!
- b) Knowing God goes with Knowing His Word. If you want to know the Lord, you need to be in His word. 1 Peter 2:2

Daniel 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*.

a) Knowing God = strength and doing exploits.