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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

8 Warning Signals

There are eight warning signals we can look for to help us maintain our living in the spiritual life dynamic: 1) our loss of peace; 2) our loss of having a relaxed mental attitude; 3) agitation in our souls; 4) activation of the emotions with anxiety usually the first, then anger; 5) the activation of the rest of the sin nature; 6) leaving Bible Doctrine to pursue after our lusts or emotions; 7) getting into false doctrine; 8) the introduction of divine discipline. When we detect any of these in our souls that is **our warning** to get back into the spiritual life of faith in the Word of God!

Warning number one is when our peace is gone, then we are vulnerable to the attack of the devil, or pressure, or problems getting to our souls. So we need to get back to the Word of God, prayer, confession of sin and claiming the promises of God by faith. The word for “*keep your hearts and minds*” in Philippians 4:7, “*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*”, is *phroureo*, which had the idea of a guard posted on the walls of a fort, or around a military encampment, whose job was to detect the presence of the enemy and then sound the alarm to the rest of the troops. **Peace** is put here as this “watchman on the wall” telling us that when we lose our peace something is up in the spiritual field and we need to wake up and deal with it. So that's where we get into these eight warning signals.

Warning number two is if we don't pick up on having lost our peace, then we need to pick up on the loss of the relaxed mental attitude of *agape* love. Love is the spiritual atmosphere that should be operating in our souls and if it is absent, it should serve as a warning that we are not living in the spiritual life dynamic and need to get back to it. “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*” 1 John 4:18

Warning number three is if we haven't picked up on the first two, then we certainly should by the third one because it is so obvious. When our souls are in turmoil, when they are agitated and stressed out, then we should realize by that time that we are not living in the spiritual life dynamic and are now losing the well being of our souls. “*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” John 14:27 Now we need to diligently start applying ourselves to faith, prayer and the Word.

Warning number four should be when we start having problems with our emotions: fear, anger, guilt, grief, envy, human love or human happiness. Now when I say having a problem, I don't mean that we are caught up temporarily in an emotion, but get over it shortly by going back into the spiritual life dynamic. Instead we are becoming **entrenched** in some emotion and it now is starting to take over our life and controlling us. If we are bound up in fear, anxiety and worry, or in anger, or any other emotion, then we need to see that we're having a problem. The fourth warning signal is blowing telling us we need to get back into the faith rest dynamic and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Warning number five is where we are caught up in or controlled by one or more of the 28 categories of lust: power, approval, social, sex, chemical, money, ambition, crusader, revenge, criminal, pleasure, materialism, security, gluttony, stimulation, entertainment, to be loved, to be happy, to have fun, for love, success, retirement, missed love, covetousness, wanderlust, blood lust, information lust and technological lust. “*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*” 1 Peter 2:11

Warning number six is when we find ourselves abandoning the faith rest life or Bible Doctrine; all the concepts related to grace, faith and truth and are now busying ourselves with, or going back out into, the things of the World System like Demas. *“For Demas hath forsaken me, **having loved this present world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”* 2 Timothy 4:10
This is our clue get back to the Lord and his Word.

Warning number seven is if we find ourselves caught up in false doctrine. We need to remember back to those times, when we were under the sound teaching of the Word of God in some little local church that the Lord put us into, where we really learned the Word of God from some dear Pastor. He taught the doctrines of grace, faith and truth and we were learning and growing under his ministry. So this should be a clarion call that we have gotten away from the true spiritual life and need to get back to it by, once again, the faith rest life, the filling of the Holy Spirit and learning Bible Doctrine.

Warning number eight is one that will accompany warnings three or four and gets worse the farther down we go. It is divine discipline, which God will bring alongside the self-induced misery in our lives. It goes back to the idea that our bad decisions bring with them bad consequences, but because we are too dumb or stubborn to realize that we are messing our lives up due to our willful rebellion over not wanting to live in the spirit and not the flesh; he has to bring in discipline to snap us to attention. This discipline is not designed to punish us, (although it may feel that way), but to correct us.

The eighth and overriding warning signal for the believer to return to God, to his Word and living by faith in the filling of the Holy Spirit found within the spiritual life dynamic is **divine discipline**! When all other warning signals fail to get our attention that we must return to the Lord and Bible Doctrine, then the Father will step in with divine discipline, which is designed to correct the problem and get us back on track. *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”* Hebrews 12:6 *“Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.”*
Hebrews 12:12,13

Now, if all of this fails, and there are believers who are so rebellious that this is what happens to them, then the Father will have them taken out under the sin unto death. Now this may take place over a long period of time, or a short time, but either way it will be painful. *“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is **a sin unto death**: I do not say that he shall pray for it.”* 1 John 5:16

Even if we're able to successfully deal with the allurements and pressures of the world system, and the attacks of Satan, we still have the problem with the flesh nature with its lusts, pleasures and emotions. That's why it's so important for us to be able to recognize the eight warning signs to help us get back on track living in the new nature and not the flesh. Hopefully we can catch ourselves by the first three, rather than later on. A doctrinal dynamic that we can apply will really help us in this area and that is the concept of **turning**. My Online study of “Repentance, Conversion and Faith” goes into greater detail, but suffice it to say it's a **turning of the soul to God**. The word *epistrepho* referred to the idea of the turning of the soul to God and even though it is often used in the matter of salvation, it still applies to Christians on a daily basis. We get caught up so much in our lives and what is going on around us that we neglect our walk with the Lord. So *epistrepho* is that dynamic of turning our souls back to God, his Word, the filling of the Holy Spirit and just being occupied with him. Obviously if a Christian has backslidden from the Lord he needs to do this, but we can prevent that by doing this each day, by turning our souls back to the Lord for that sweet fellowship with him. Pastor Mike