

Salvation Is of God

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5 NKJV)

This verse begins by declaring that salvation is not because of works of righteousness. Repentance and faith are works of righteousness, but they do not nor can they precede regeneration. It is by grace that you are saved. Mercy removed the heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh.

Speaking to Nicodemus, “Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” (John 3:3-6 NKJV)

When Jesus compared the new birth to the physical birth, He made it clear that spiritual birth is not accomplished by us anymore than an unborn child orchestrates his own birth.

This truth means believers must not rely upon clever words or presentations to convert souls, but upon prayer. If salvation is of God, and by His mercy, then we must cry out to Him for our loved ones. Some people think if they can just get their loved one to attend this service or that seminar, they will be saved.

God uses His Word in the process of giving faith to a person, but regeneration is what gives the seed good soil. Without the heart of stone being replaced, the message will fall on ears that cannot hear.

Therefore, Let us pray for God’s mercy!

Father, we acknowledge our dependence upon you. Oh, God we beg you to have mercy upon those we love. We will trust in your justice, but our hearts long to see those near to us saved from your righteous wrath. We cannot do or say anything to regenerate their souls. However, you can. You can set them free so we humbly ask that you quicken them and wash them with your Holy Spirit granting repentance and faith to them.

Lord we pray for all men. We know that not all will be saved, and you will be glorified even by that. However, if it would be possible that no more would perish, grant our petition and set the captives free. Lord, please have mercy on our souls for without that we all perish. Amen.