

BIBLE ADVENTURE 3:
SALVATION - What Do I Gain From Salvation?
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John 3:16-17 God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

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Discovery Treasures:

Unfortunately, much of the world thinks that the only thing you'll gain from salvation is "being controlled by God." The sad thing is, this couldn't be farther from the truth! God is not into controlling you, that is why He gave you free will. Free will allows us to make the choices He sets before us. (1 Corinthians 10:13). Do we always make the right choice? No, but that's OK - and that is one reason why we need salvation - we need guidance and forgiveness from God through Jesus. People that see God as wanting to "get rid of the fun" in their lives don't yet understand God wants them to have a happy heart. (Proverbs 17:22). Keep this in mind. . .on one **HAS** to change to obtain salvation, but once they have accepted Jesus they will (over time) **WANT** to change.

Now, moving on to a major good thing you will gain from salvation!

Eternity is a long time. . .it's forever! Eternity with God is something very special gained at the moment of salvation. Yes, you enter your eternal journey with God the moment you accept Jesus into your heart. You may be asking, but why is eternity with God something so special to gain?

Let's look at it like this. Wouldn't it be cool to spend "forever" together laughing, playing, singing, and dancing with everyone you know and love? How about spending "forever" in a place that has no more sorrow, death, pain, or crying? (Revelation 21:3-5). What if you could spend "forever" where God lives? What if you could spend "forever" in a place that Jesus prepared for you? (John 14:2-4). Good news! You can! Salvation is all it takes for you and your loved ones.

And it just keeps getting better! God wants you to **RECEIVE** (Jesus) - **BELIEVE** (in God) - and **ACHIEIVE** (salvation)! He wants you to have salvation through His Son Jesus so that you can gain access to not just that what I've mentioned above, but **ALL** that He has for you both here on earth **AND** in Heaven. That means all of your needs will be met here **AND** there.

If you have salvation you'll **be with God "forever," YAY!** But if you do not have salvation you will spend your "forever" **separated from God in a very wicked, painful, dark and scary, lonely place. YIKES!**

The key to all of God's goodness is found within salvation. He wants us to be ambassadors for Him. He wants everyone to hear this good news about Jesus. He longs for everyone to gain eternal life. But when we're sharing the love and messages of Jesus with others we need to remember that **God will never force salvation on anyone.** He only wants those who truly love Him, and He longs for everyone to repent and come to Him **on their own accord.** (2 Peter 3:9) That's why it's important that we tell our family and friends about Jesus so that they too can have an opportunity to make their own choice as to whether they want to spend their "forever" with God, or not.

When I realized how special salvation is, I became so excited I just wanted to tell everyone! But I soon found out that not everyone was as excited as me. I became discouraged because I felt like I couldn't save the world! I didn't understand what I was doing wrong. But here's the good part. . . God said to me one day (long ago), "Lady Violet, you can't save the world. I've already sent My son Jesus to do that. All you need to do is tell them about Him." (Was that ever a relief!) So back to sharing Jesus with others I went, with excitement, this time knowing that God would do the rest.

Your genuine excitement in sharing with others about Jesus can be an important part of your "good-news-cast" to others - an important part you may never physically see at the time of sharing.

Remember these three things when sharing the good news about Jesus; trust that you know God's voice, fear not, and remember that everyone you talk to has been created by God. Jeremiah 1:4-9 sums up these three things by saying, *The Lord's word came to me: "Before I [God] created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations." "Ah, Lord God," I said, "I don't know how to speak because I'm only a child." The Lord responded, "Don't say, I'm only a child. Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say. Don't be afraid of them, because I'm with you to rescue you, declares the Lord." Then the Lord stretched out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to me, "I'm putting my words in your mouth."*

Learning to hear God's voice helps you in knowing these few important things: which people God is leading you to approach, how not to be afraid, and what to say to them.

It is important to not get discouraged at the immediate outcome of your sharing. Think about the farmers. There are many seasons farmers have to contend with to bring about a healthy crop. There is a season for preparing the ground, a season for sowing seeds, a rainy season, a dry season, a cold season, a warm season, and there are weeds to deal with, but finally - the harvest does come.

It takes more than one farmer to grow the crops. Some things to remember are that one farmer may be the sower, and another a weeder. Another farmer may be the one who waters the seeds that have been sown, and yet another farmer could be the one who picks the harvest. Regardless, each farmer does their part, and no farmer ever gives up hope of a

bountiful crop.

So don't become discouraged if you're not the one who "picks the harvest" because every farmer has an important part and all of the farmers will "reap the benefits" of the harvest they helped produce. . .especially in eternity!

So become a spiritual "farmer," and gain a "forever" bountiful crop for you! Share the good news about Jesus with others. And never give up hope on what you and those you share the good news with will gain through salvation. . .that being eternal life with God in Heaven!

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SALVATION ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:

Memorize John 3:16-17

What are some creative ways you think God could use you to share the good news with others?

Name at least three things you are looking forward to in sharing the good news with others:

FAMILY & FRIENDS ACTIVITY:

As a family, or with a group of friends, plant and grow some seeds. Pay close attention to detail: finding a container, preparing the soil, planting, watering, placing in the right amount of sunlight, tending to it, and watching it grow. With each step, reflect on how this activity relates to sharing the good news with others.

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TIME TO TALK TO GOD:

As a family, or with your friends, join hands and say the following prayer out loud to God. He will listen...I guarantee!

PRAYER: Dear God, Thank you for your gift of salvation, and for someone sharing the good news with me so that I can be with You for all eternity. Please help me to hear Your voice. Help me to be strong and courageous. Help me to see all people as Your creations. And help me become a spiritual farmer who shares Your good news with others, no matter their season, so that they may gain an eternity with You. To You be all the glory and all the praise. In Jesus's name, Amen!