

Put God First
(Work Out Your Salvation)
Part 6

“⁴¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Before you come to meet God through Jesus Christ our Lord you were dead in your sins and transgressions. Therefore as you come now to God you need to live in holiness and not to continue to live in sin. You need to

1- Not to follow the ways of this world: *“In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.” (Ephesians 2:2)* If you have received Christ and are still living in worldly way, and in disobedient complying with Devil and its power of darkness, then you must know that your salvation is in peril.

2- Not to gratify the craving of your sinful nature by following its desires and thoughts: *“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.” (Ephesians 2:3)* If you had received Christ but you are still open up for sin and for gratifying your flesh desires and thoughts then your salvation is in peril if you will continue to live in this way. ⁴¹⁶ *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:16-21)*

There are Scripture we can read that a believer or even a worker who do the ministry still can lose his salvation if he is not living God's will and do what God wants him to do as you can read in the following Scripture:

A- In the parable of the talents Jesus spoke and did the following to the servant who took the one talent and did not do what was expected from him to do: ⁴²⁸ *Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:28-30)*

B- In the parable of the faithful manager Jesus spoke the following: ⁴⁴² *The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³ It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴ I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.” (Luke 12:42-46)*

One more think you need to understand in regard to your salvation. When God took you away from the world of death and He saved you from your sins and transgressions, that is all in order for you to do the good work that he prepared for you to do. God had prepared for you the things that you need to do, therefore you need to put God first and comply with His instructions and with His plan that He had ordained for you and not to do your own.

Many people they try to go ahead of God's plans for them and they will put forward their wishes and ambitions, their sinful desires and thoughts to replace what God wanting them to do. God did not save you to do what you want but to do what God wants from you to do. Even so many who will put forward what look like good plans, but as long as they are not God's plans, they are rejected and needed to be put aside.

To put God first and to work out your salvation you need to be obedient and precise to the plan that God had ordained for you to pursue.

My Dear and Beloved: ⁴²¹ *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:21-23)* Serve God by doing what He is telling you to do and in the manner that He ordained, and do not persist in doing what you want to do even if it seem good, so that you will not loss the promise of salvation and the place that God prepared for you in Heaven as you obey the message and agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I surrender my own plans and will, Lord I will abide with what you had planned and ordained for me. Protect me and provide for me till you come and take me to heaven, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*