

Hebrews 9:12

Redemption Fulfilled

We have spoken of the reality of the Love of God. We have been reminded that the eternal redemption accomplished by the work and person of Jesus were always the plan of God. This redemption is NOT an afterthought, it is the purpose of God accomplished in the fullness of time. He has chosen us before the foundations of the world, called us with an effectual calling which at the instant of its working made us alive through regeneration... with that regenerating work of the Holy Spirit God also imparts to us faith and makes us repent... This is not a partial thing, it is a soul transforming, mind renewing, desire imparting reality that alters every single part of who and what we are... and it is ours because of Christ Jesus and His finished work for the redemption of His own bride!

I. TIME INVOLVED ETERNITY

- A. Three tenses regarding our salvation are used in Scripture

1. Past tense - you have been saved - this is justification

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”
(Ephesians 2:8, NKJV)*

2. Present tense - you are being saved - this is sanctification

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1Corinthians 1:18, NKJV)

3. Future tense - you will be saved - this is glorification

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” (Romans 5:9–11, NKJV)

- B. Each of these statements are true and none of them removes any truth, power or glory from the others. God is the God who IS, but He is also the only God who ever was, or ever will be. He

transcends time, for He created it so that we, who are infinitely less than He is, could relate to the world He created.

- C. Since we were chosen IN CHRIST before the foundations of the world, and He is the Lamb slain from the foundations of the world; it is true in a sense to state that we have always been saved... however, we exist in time. And the time in which we live is part of the process. But it does not control the truth OF our salvation. Merely our experience of it IN TIME.
- D. The entire work of our salvation begins and ends with God Himself. It starts with His own free and Sovereign choosing of a people for Himself, and since that choosing was accomplished before the foundations of eternity that choosing also included the NEED for redemption, so that we could know God in the fullest possible sense, AND the method by which that redemption would be accomplished.
- E. So not only is time INVOLVED, time is the servant of the God of salvation. It is part of the structure of how He chose to save. The time that it takes for us to navigate through the life that has been

appointed for us, is also the time God Himself ordained for its fulfillment, its eternal accomplishment. This comes down entirely to a matter of faith. We either believe God about all that this implies or we do not. We either affirm joyously that God is God over all, or we think that He is not able to manage the world He made and the manner of its working. He has NOT surrendered one gram of His power even in the manner in which He has ordained for the responsible action of His creation, the accountability that mankind bears for our own actions, and the ultimate judgment those actions will face. All works according to the will of the Maker, and according to His eternal purpose.

II. THE GIFT OF FAITH

- A. Faith can be defined as the perfect marriage of knowledge, conviction and trust.
 - 1. Blind faith does not save,
 - 2. we must KNOW the One (at least in some degree) who we believe will save us!

3. But neither does faith that vacillates continuously regarding whether or not to actually believe what we know... in the end knowledge and conviction bring trust.

4. Trust is Reliance upon the thing known and believed... it is the difference between the abstract and the action. Faith casts itself upon the Savior knowing that in Him alone there is hope.

B. But from where does this faith come? It comes from God alone.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

C. It is important to make a fine point of distinction here... faith does not save. Faith in Christ does not save. Jesus Christ saves THROUGH faith. The actual nature and working of faith itself is always pointed AWAY from self and UNTO Christ. As soon as we begin to think that faith is something we have to DO rather than something that we possess as a gift from God it becomes a work... faith is a gift... it is a vehicle that God provides to carry us to Jesus. Riding in

an Uber does not make you the owner of it, nor even the possessor in the strictest sense, you are merely an enjoyer of the benefit.

D. The specific object of faith matters

1. Jesus' death on the cross as payment for sin.

a. Intentional

b. Required

c. Voluntary

d. God-ordained as the only path to forgiveness

2. Jesus' Resurrection

a. The evidence that God has accepted the payment on our behalf

“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

(Romans 4:23–25, NKJV)

b. The promise of His victory over death in our place

“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you

also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:10–11, NKJV)

c. The absolute promise of God that we will be forgiven on His account

“giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:12–14, NKJV)

3. Jesus' final victory and Return

a. He has triumphed over every single foe

1 Corinthians 15.20-28

b. His victory is being manifested according to His own plan, and is NOT under the control of anyone or anything

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

(Ephesians 1:22–23, NKJV)

c. His victory is for His glory AND our good. Our best possible good

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His *Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*
(Romans 8:28–30, NKJV)

III. FAITH BRINGS REPENTANCE

A. When we believe, when faith has its way in our hearts and we see Christ as He is and us as we are in truth, the immediate consequence of faith doing that work is repentance. We cry out for mercy, actually believing that what God said, He said to us AND He both intends to and is able to fulfill ALL that He has promised... this is the essence of faith in action - consider Abraham...

“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but

was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.””

(Romans 4:19–22, NKJV)

B. The specific good promised (Christ-likeness) also causes us to be aimed in a different direction from what we had always gone before. In repentance for sin, we press TOWARD Jesus, our desires and longings have been remade in the likeness of His own and they alter every single part of our lives.

1. God is our passion and love
2. Jesus is our model and source
3. The Holy Spirit is our power and companion...

C. NOTHING is the same as it was and NOTHING will ever be the same again... and yet, there remain constant opportunities for us to both believe and repent.

1. Our failures bring sorrow and repentance
2. Our victories bring gratitude and joy even while we repent of the little parts of them that were not on target...

3. Our hopes are sanctified and brought under Kingdom influence, our dreams take on a perspective that is neither selfish nor vain, our purpose is transformed into the earthly echo of heavenly song... and all of this can only be seen and understood through the eyes of faith, that source of constant connection and power that comes from God and returns to Him.

D. Faith rests in the past tense fact of our Justification

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21, NKJV)

1. Because of Him we ARE accepted, we are welcomed, we are loved...

E. Faith participates in the present tense reality of our Sanctification

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the

cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1–2)

1. Because of His victory and eternal worth we desire to be like unto Him and have been given both the promise and the power of its efficacious working in our lives... YOU WILL BE MADE LIKE UNTO CHRIST!! God does not ever fail in His promise, and His promise is YES, IN Jesus Christ!! Every promise is yes!

*“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”
(2Corinthians 1:20, NKJV)*

F. Faith looks forward in anticipation of the promised redemption of all things...

1. Again look at Hebrews 12.1-2
2. We look forward as did He. The promise and the joy set before Him was His power of endurance, His triumph is ours! We look unto HIM. We trust HIS ability to safely secure and redeem everything He has made for His own glory!

IV. WE ARE ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

A. We are no longer outcasts and strangers, we are sons and daughters of the Most High God! He is our FATHER

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:15–17, NKJV)

B. Not step children, full and complete heirs, CO-Heirs with the King of Kings Himself. Not the weird, unwanted, uninvited cousin that brings his old RV to Christmas and blows up the sewers... but the children of the King who has a place at the table, a room in the mansion and an open invitation to come and sit on your Daddy's lap! He LOVES you, and has called you His own precious possession...

C. With that place comes your own inheritance.

1. You are going to inherit the earth. Not this broken one, but a new one, made over and made perfect. It will not have sin, it will not have decay. It will be perfect...

2. You are going to inherit a place with the Father forever
 - a. Seated around the throne
 - b. Access to the glory
 - c. Beholding the face of the Beloved AND the face of the Father unfiltered and full...

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:11–13, NKJV)

3. You are going to, and have already, inherited a name. The family name yes, but more... a new name that perfectly captures all that you are and have been made in Christ. It will be glorious, it will be yours and it will be the gift of identity in Christ that is stable and true, not ever based on what anyone would ever say or think (including you) but rather based upon who and what God says you are... that identity purchased by and given by Jesus Christ alone!

““He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ”
(Revelation 2:17, NKJV)

V. THIS ALL BRINGS PERSEVERANCE

- A. God has promised, He will not fail.
- B. We are safe in that truth NO MATTER what may come our way. God saves, we believe. Our part in this is that belief, that God enables and empowers, but it remains OURS. He does not believe for us, He empowers us to believe. And believing God enables us to hold His hand and walk through the things we do not understand.
- C. We learn to trust His character, His nature, His will and His ways... and trust does not always have total clarity in the details... but we do learn to rely upon the parts we DO clearly see and understand. His character is the first and finest part of our understanding. We know and confess that God is good! We know and confess that His

will is perfect! We rely upon His promised mercies confessing that His mercies endure forever! These things do NOT come from us. The confidence we enjoy is itself a gift from God. He assures us that

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1:6, NKJV)

D. HE WILL COMPLETE what He has begun!!! Let that sit with your soul, often. You do not have to see HOW or WHEN, you only need trust that HE WILL!! When nothing makes sense spend time reflecting on the redemption accomplished in the death of Jesus. Spend time remembering who your Father is, and how much He has loved you, even when you hated Him. Spend time pondering the deep love of Jesus that was the motivation of His incarnation, suffering and glory... spend time soaking in the reality that this work is NOT yours, but His and that He has already proven to the uttermost that His love is the unwavering bedrock of our souls.

E. He has fulfilled all He intends for us, and its revelation will come in the fullness of time... an

unopened gift, this is not Schrodinger's cat! It is
already real, already true, the fulfilled
Redemption purchased by the blood of Jesus is
already yours!!