

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

They Met The Lord Jesus They Were Never The Same

Bob Gessner

The transforming power and beauty of Christ

There are people today who say they met the Lord Jesus. Yet they continue to live the same way and to be the same person that they were before they met Him. Impossible! We can never be the same if we have truly met the Lord Jesus by faith. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW" (2 Cor. 5:17). "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, *are being transformed* into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Cor. 3:18)

1. There was a Samaritan woman who met Jesus at a well where she came to draw water. They conversed together. As she talked with Him, her old ways and ideas were brought to light and they crumbled before Him. She left her waterpot which represented her original mission and went away with a new mission. "And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF THE WOMAN who testified, He told me all that I ever did." (Jn. 4:39) Jesus put a message on that lady's lips that was never there before.

2. There was a man born blind who met Jesus on what he thought would be just another day of his dark and boring existence. He was told to go to the pool of Siloam and wash off the clay that Jesus had put on his eyes. He went and washed and received his sight. The religious leaders about him sought to refute his testimony of what Jesus did and tried to convince him that the Man who did this miracle was a sinner. The more this man thought about what Jesus did and who He was, the more convinced he was of His greatness. Because he refused to change his opinion of Christ, he was cast out of the synagogue. "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, Do you believe in the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is He Lord, that I may believe in Him? And

Jesus said to him, You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you. Then he said, Lord, I believe! And He worshiped Him" (Jn. 9:35-38). This man not only walked away with physical sight which he never had from birth, but he also walked away with spiritual sight which he never had from birth.

3. There was a woman named Mary Magdalene who met Jesus by the tomb where they had buried Him. She had met Him before because He had cast seven demons out of her. (Mk. 16:9) She thought they had buried Him and she would never see Him again. She stood outside by the tomb weeping. When she turned around Jesus was standing there, but she did not know that it was Him. Then He spoke her name. "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." (Jn. 10:3,4) She knew His voice and would have fallen at His feet, but Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." (Jn. 20:17) Mary Magdalene ran to the disciples with a message that she never would have believed possible. The Lord Jesus Christ was alive, who once was dead, and He lives to die no more. "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart."

4. There was a man named Zacchaeus who had heard much about Jesus, and there was a great crowd gathered to see him. Zacchaeus had no physical ailments but he felt a great need to meet Jesus. He climbed up a tree to see Him, but before he knew it Jesus was there calling him by name to come down. How did Jesus know He was up there and how did He know his name? He made haste and came down and received Jesus joyfully. He listened to the words of Jesus. Dying of spiritual thirst, he drank in every word that was spoken. "Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." (Lk. 19:8) This proclamation did not save Him. This proclamation gave the evidence that he was already gloriously saved and a great change had taken place. This

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Triple Security

by Carl Knott

Ecclesiastes 3:14 declares, *"I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it nor anything taken from it..."* A principle is stated here about the quality of God's work: it is forever and completely sufficient. If we apply this to the subject of salvation, we come immediately to the key question in salvation. Is it man's work, or God's? Does man save himself, or help save himself, or help maintain his salvation once obtained? Is salvation God's doing, or man's? If it is in any way man's work, then it is not secure, but if it is God's work, then *"it shall be forever."*

According to the Word of God, man is not his own savior. In Psalm 27:1 David said, *"The LORD is my light and my salvation."* In Psalm 37:39 we read, *"...but the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD."* In Isaiah 12: 2 the prophet states confidently, *"Behold, God is my salvation."* *"Salvation is of the LORD,"* declared Jonah. These are just a few of the many texts, all of which describe salvation as a work of God, not of man.

In John 10:28 our Lord states, *"...I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish."* His very name, "Jesus," indicates that *"He shall save His people from their sins."* (Matt. 1: 21) The Apostle Paul affirms that *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,"* not to "help sinners save themselves." Hebrews 5:9 tells us that He is the author of *"eternal salvation."* Scripture makes it abundantly clear that salvation is a work of God, and for that very reason each one who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and eternal life is secure forever. The believer is secure because it is God Himself who saves and keeps him. We certainly have responsibilities in the Christian life, but keeping ourselves saved is not one of them.

In fact, the believer has triple security. God the Father keeps us. *"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* (Jn. 10:29) We are saved and safe in the Father's hand. Whoever or whatever would take us from that mighty hand would have to be greater than God the Father, but He is *"greater than all."* It would have to be more powerful than the Father, but *"no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* Our Lord used two absolutes in this declaration. First, the word *"all,"* and then the words *"no man."* Those allow for no exceptions. Who is strong enough to get us out of the Father's hand? Who is stronger than God? No one! Therefore, the believer is secure in the Father's hand.

But the child of God is also secure in the hand of the Lord Jesus, God the Son, for in the preceding verse, John

10:28, He says, *"And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* Eternal life is a gift from Him, not something we earn. It is something God gives, a work of God. And the Lord Jesus says that those who receive this gift from Him *"shall never perish."* There is no uncertainty here. No expiration date. God the Son guarantees it, with no ifs, ands or buts, no conditions added. How can it be? The Lord continues, *"neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* Each believer is in His hand, which means He is personally involved in the safekeeping of the saints. For a believer to become lost, he would have to be plucked out of the Lord's hand, and the Lord affirms that no one will do that. It has never been done and never will be. Because keeping us is God's work, not ours, and He cannot fail! Safe in the Father's hand, and safe in the Son's hand, as if one were over us and the other under us, protecting our souls. What could be better? And yet, there is more!

The Scriptures teach us that not only the Father and the Son, but also the Holy Spirit is involved in our eternal security. Consider Ephesians 1:13-14. *"...In whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory."* (NKJV) Let's think for a minute about what this teaches about the security of our salvation. First of all, when we believe, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. This is not an emotional experience nor something that comes later in life. Each believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit when he believes. The seal is a mark of ownership, and also a security device. We are marked as the property of God and protected by the Holy Spirit. He is called the *"earnest"* (KJV), or *"the guarantee of our inheritance."* The Holy Spirit personally guarantees that we reach our destination (heaven) and receive our inheritance (life eternal in glory with the Lord). Our arrival is not guaranteed by us, but by the Holy Spirit. Our conduct as believers guarantees nothing with respect to salvation, for the work of salvation was done by Christ at Calvary. When we trust in Him the Holy Spirit seals us, marks us as Christ's, and indwells us, personally guaranteeing our inheritance. And how long does He do this? Until we commit a certain sin? No, for the text says, *"until the redemption of the purchased possession."* That's the "expiration date" we might say. As the earnest, or down payment, He guarantees that we will receive the inheritance. When is His work as the guarantor done? Not until we reach glory and enter into the fullness of salvation there in the Father's house. This is the third powerful ingredient of our eternal security.

We are safe in the Father's hand, and secure in the Son's hand, and sealed within by the Holy Spirit who guarantees

