



6/13/25

This week on the Chosen and Cherished podcast, we talked about how power and freedom are found in the Holy Spirit, and not in our own strength. Honestly, no matter how many times I remind myself of that, my natural default is to try to muscle it. We have to be intentional and persistent to stay under the care of the Holy Spirit. Do you need that reminder, too??? If you'd like to hear the episode, just click on the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Titus 3:3-8

Titus is a letter written by Paul to Titus, a believer in Christ and leader among Christians. Paul highly respected him and commissioned him to help get other leaders in place at the churches in Crete. This letter is a guideline Paul sent Titus to follow.

In this passage in chapter 3, Paul is reminding Titus who we WERE without Christ so that he would remind others. What he says here is true for ALL believers. No matter how good anyone thinks he was before salvation, he was without hope, a slave to his corrupt passions. It's so important that I understand that, or I will not grasp the incredible debt Jesus paid for me... a debt I absolutely could not pay.

Before Paul spoke of his own slavery to passions and pleasures before salvation in vs. 3, he told Titus to remind ALL the believers what it looks like to NOT be enslaved to our selfish passions in vs. 1-2.

He said a life in Christ would include...

- Being submissive to rulers and authorities... That takes humility*
- Being obedient... more humility*

- *Being READY for every good work... That takes a single minded focus. I cannot focus on selfish desires AND focus on doing what pleases the Lord (good works)*
- *Speak evil of NO ONE... yikes! Speaking evil of ANYONE is rooted in selfish passions. I am seeing this in my own life. I'm finding that if I really evaluate why I get angry... it's because MY kingdom is being stepped on. I have no kingdom!!! I need the Lord to help humble myself and crush my pride!*
- *Avoid quarreling... Fighting with others never produces the righteousness of God. This does not mean, "sweep it under the rug" or "stick your head in the sand." It means "pursue peace and unity with each other." In fact, the Greek transliteration says, "Be peaceable."*
- *Be gentle... because Jesus is gentle with me. Being harsh is NOT power. It takes far more power to be gentle than to be harsh... in fact, it takes supernatural power... from the Holy Spirit.*
- *Show perfect courtesy toward all people... the Greek transliteration says, "Showing ALL humility toward ALL people." "Humility toward God is not true humility unless it's expressed toward others" (Andrew Murray).*

NOW I come to vs. 3 where Paul speaks of his own need for a Savior. This is really significant because Paul was a Pharisee before Jesus saved him. He was a religious leader who followed the law of Moses to a tee! But even Paul speaks of how before salvation he (and other believers) was...

- *Foolish... not wise like people believed because of his position*
- *Disobedient... What? He was a religious leader! But when Jesus came, he did not obey the truth but rejected Jesus... seeking his own power and credit.*
- *Led astray... by a desire for power over truth.*
- *A slave to various passions and pleasures... A SLAVE... unable to free himself from them.*
- *Passing his days in malice and envy... because it feels powerful and righteous, but it goes completely against the heart of God.*
- *Hated by others and hating others... It was not a peaceful life. It was a life where people would form alliances but not friendships... where they would stab each other in the back if it meant getting what they wanted.*

This is in some way who we ALL were before Christ. This is NOTHING like who Jesus is. He proved it on the cross. He was no fool... wisdom is found in Him. He was obedient to the point of death on a cross. He was never led astray, not once. He was the servant of God and the servant of man... never serving Himself. He had no malice or envy but continued to treat even those who opposed Him with gentleness and respect. He loved the world and died for us even when we

hated Him.

So... when the goodness and lovingkindness toward man came from God the Father... Jesus Christ our Savior... when He appeared, He saved us. No works of ours could save us. We had no hope of change. We had no way of turning from our selfish passions and pleasures that would lead us to eternity in hell without Him. JESUS saved us. "For our sake, He (the Father) made Him who knew no sin (Jesus) to become sin FOR us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

It was God's MERCY that saved us. He did not treat us with the wrath we deserve, but He had compassion for us and became our sacrifice. By His mercy, He washed us. This washing was a regeneration and renewal that came through the power of the Holy Spirit. So... He took us as we were in our foolish, selfish, helpless, corrupt state... and saved us. And He gave us new birth and renewal. We're not refurbished, damaged goods for Him. We are new in Him, renewed so that we can be free from the old person we were.

Through Jesus our Savior, God the Father richly poured out the Holy Spirit on us because we could not do anything in our own strength to be free from slavery to sin. Just like God miraculously set the helpless Israelites free from slavery in Egypt, He has miraculously set me free from a much worse and eternal slavery.

He did this so He could justify me... He put me in a legal position of being treated as justified... just as if I'd never sinned, just as if I'd always obeyed, just as if I was just like JESUS... who the Holy Spirit is now transforming me to be like. Romans 3:23-24 says, "For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a GIFT, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." He took me from being completely hopeless to having a confident expectation, which is biblical hope, that I am secure in Him... a whole new person, a whole new identity, a whole new future. Because I am justified, God has made me an heir of eternal life in heaven with eternal hope.

Paul said, "This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to INSIST on these things." Everything said about our salvation in Jesus and our regeneration and renewal from the Holy Spirit is absolutely true. Insist on this truth... for a purpose... "so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works." What good works? The good works described in vs. 2. Our motivation for devoting ourselves to good works is not that we can earn salvation, but our motivation is gratitude... BECAUSE we have been given the free gift of

salvation.

"These things (these good works) are excellent and profitable for people." Everything God calls us to do is excellent, honorable, and beautiful. Nothing He calls us to is bad or evil. Everything God calls us to is profitable, beneficial, useful to people. I can know that everything I do for the Lord, if He has called me to do it, will be excellent and profitable. It will never be wasted. That makes me excited about serving Him. I never lose in the end.

O Lord, it all starts with faith. I start by believing who You are. My faith helps me to receive Your gift of salvation, regeneration, and renewal. And by Your power, I am able to do the excellent and profitable works You've called me to do. I need to be reminded of these things so that I can stay focused on what really matters. What really matters is everything that matters to You.