

## **SAVING YOURSELF**

Act 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

**Act 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Act 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Act 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Act 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**Php 2:12** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Php 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Php 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

**Testify** - Bear witness to. He bore witness to the promises of Christianity; to the truths pertaining to the danger of sinners; and to the truth respecting the character of that generation.

**Exhort** - He entreated them by arguments and promises.

**Save yourselves** - This expression here denotes, preserve yourselves from the influence, opinions, and fate of this generation. It implies that they were to use diligence and effort to deliver themselves. God deals with people as free agents. He calls upon them to put forth their own power and effort to be saved. Unless they put forth their own strength, they will never be saved. When they are saved, they will ascribe to God the praise for having inclined them to seek him, and for the grace whereby they are saved.

Jud 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Jud 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jud 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jud 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

1. **By being faithful to the House of God and the things of God:**

a. **One of God's Attributes is Faithfulness:**

Deu 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

b. **By setting our Priorities for the things of God.**

Psa 27:4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Psa 27:5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

2. **To Save ourselves we must have an consistent prayer life and a life of constant giving**

- a. Christianity is a life of self denial and a life of constant giving

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

- b. **Giving is an Attitude:**

Mat 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mat 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

**SFC Slogan for SFC “One Lost is to many”1**

- c. You give every day. It is either a negative or a positive gesture, but you do give out something. You give yourself to many things in life, why not give yourself to something that will increase instead of decrease you?

**Illustration** : The parents of a young man who was just killed in the war gave their church a check for 500.00 as an memorial to their love one. When the presentation was made. Another war mother whispered to her husband. “let us give the same for our boy.” The father said, “why, what are you talking about? Our boy didn’t lose his life. The mother said, “That’s just the point, let us give it because he didn’t.

**The Word Give means**: To make over or bestow without receiving a return; to confer without compensation; to grant or confer, to bestow freely or fully; to devote, surrender, or apply; to yield.

**To saved you must live for a greater purpose than yourself:**

1. A candle must give of itself to the point of being consumed to give light.
2. To give light to this world, you must be consumed by the love of God for a lost and dying world that need Jesus Christ.

**JESUS TAUGHT US TO GIVE**

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1. **To save ourselves, we must be consumed by His mission:**
2. He gave us His love and compassion when no one else cared. He gave us His Power, Blood, Word, His promises, he gave us the ministry, eternal life, hope, a purpose, direction, deliverance, a mission, sacrifice as he poured out his life for a sin offering.

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

## NATURE TEACHES US TO GIVE

1. All rivers run into the sea: (Ecc 1:7)

Ecc 1:7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea *is* not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

2. The earth constantly brings forth yields, year after year, (Oil, gold, coal, potatoes, corn)

Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

3. **The sun gives warmth, the moon gives light (tides)**; The stars give light, The clouds give shade and rain; The trees give oxygen, fruit, shade; flowers give beauty, comfort to the hurting, sign of love to those you love,
4. **But when it comes to man, it is a choice to give or to keep from giving.**

## TO THE MINISTRY IS GIVEN THE CHARGE

1Ti 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

1Ti 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1Ti 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: **for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.**

**IN SO DOING, THOU SHALT BOTH SAVE THYSELF AND THEM THAT HEAR THEE.**

**Closing Story:** Thru Rochester, New York, runs the Genessee River between steep and crooked banks. One evening a gentlemen who lived in the city, had just arrived by train from a journey. He was anxious to go home and meet his wife and children. He was hurrying along the streets when he saw on the bank of the river a lot of excited people, what's the matt he shouted. They replied, "A boy in the water!" "Why don't you save him? He asked.

In a moment, throwing down his carpet bag and pulling off his coat, he jumped into the stream, grasped the boy in his arms and struggled with him to the shore. As he wiped the water from his dripping face and brushed back his hair, he explained. "Heavens, It my boy!! He had plunged to save somebody else's boy and ended up saving his own boy.

Story of the star fish: To this one it makes a difference.