

## RECEIVING THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS WITH INEXPRESSIBLE AND GLORIOUS JOY

TEXT: (I Peter 1:8-9, NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

INTRODUCTION:

1. "With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:7-8, NIV).

### A. Assumptions

1. "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 1:4-5, NIV).
2. "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39, NIV).
3. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).
4. "I die every day—I mean that, brothers" (I Corinthians 15:32, NIV).
5. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10, NIV).
6. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV).

## I. HOW THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST

### A. They Waited

1. "They all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV).
2. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9-13, NIV).

### B. They Worshiped

1. "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" (Acts 1:14, NIV).

### C. By the Laying on of Hands

1. "Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:17, NIV).
2. "When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:6, NIV).

#### D. By Hearing the Word

1. "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message" (Acts 10:44, NIV).

### II. THE ROLE OF THE ALTAR

#### A. Most Important Time of Service

1. Do not send children to the restroom at the beginning of the altar call.
2. Pray for the moving of the Spirit at this point in the service.
3. Be prepared to pray with seekers.

#### B. Working the Altar

1. Be observant
2. Be in tune with the person praying.
3. If the individual is not praying out loud, ask if there is something they would like for you to pray with them about.
4. Be prepared to pray a prayer of repentance with them.
5. Do not shout in their ears.
6. Do not spit on them.
7. When laying on hands, be gentle.
8. Do not shake their heads.
9. Use discretion when praying with when praying with the opposite sex.
10. If there is no significant change in the person's praying in ten minutes, don't push them to keep seeking.
11. Be alert to what is happening in the rest of the sanctuary.

### III. TOUCHING PEOPLE

#### A. Be Friendly

1. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24, KJV).
2. "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30, NIV).
3. "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:3, NIV).
4. "He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap" (I Timothy 3:7, NIV).

#### B. Build Relationships

1. "Now he had to go through Samaria" (John 4:4, NIV).
2. "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6, KJV).

#### C. Pray for Common Sense

1. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30, NIV).
2. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16, NIV).
3. "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (I Corinthians 14:40, NIV).
4. "But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless" (Titus 3:9, NIV).