



REJOICE IN SALVATION

This month, we celebrate the most amazing event in history - the day God rose from the dead so all could have eternal life. Many of us have heard this message for years yet its power remains. We were lost, separated from God, deserving of death. Yet, in His mercy, God chose to give us life (Ephesians 2:4-5). We will spend eternity with God!

But salvation isn't just a future promise; it radically changes our lives from the moment we surrender to Christ. Here are just a few of the ways salvation impacts us now:

- **Peace with God and Direct Access to Him** (Romans 5:1, Hebrews 4:16)
Sin separated us from God, but now we are His friends, co-heirs, and children.
- **Forgiveness of Sin and Freedom from Sin** (Romans 6:6, 8:1-2)
Sin has lost all power! We are forgiven and free to follow Christ.
- **New Identity in Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:17)
We are new creations, being transformed more into the image of Christ.
- **The Presence, Gifts, and Fruit of the Holy Spirit** (John 14:16-17, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
The Holy Spirit empowers us, guides us, and is a constant source of strength.
- **Purpose and Meaning in Life and in Trials** (Ephesians 2:10; Romans 15:13)
Every day, even hard ones, have eternal significance as we follow God.
- **All We Need for Life and Godliness** (2 Peter 1:3-4)
God gives us all we need to live a godly life - wisdom, strength, and peace.

While salvation is a present reality, there are times when it feels distant or irrelevant to our daily lives. We know we will eventually go to heaven, but that doesn't always help with the challenges we face right now. We may feel dry in our faith or distant from God.

David also felt this way. He prayed, "Restore to me the joy of salvation" (Psalm 51:12). If you're feeling this way, keep pressing into God. Let your spirit connect with His. Meditate on truth from the Bible about who God is and what He has done for you. And keep worshiping. This is the one chance you have to worship God when it's hard.

Eternity is coming! Soon every tear will be wiped away. Pain will cease. And we will stand face to face with God. We have great reason to rejoice!



Devotional Study

APRIL

Rejoice in Salvation

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Write down how this passage describes salvation.

What other verses or words come to mind when you think about salvation? Why are they meaningful to you?

2. Look at the list of the benefits of salvation. Read through some of the verses as you personally do devotions as you won't have time to look them up as a group.

Which ones stand out to you? Why do these benefits feel significant to you right now?

What benefits would you add to this list?

3. How would your life look different today if the benefits of our salvation didn't start until you went to heaven?

How can you live with greater awareness of the current benefits of your salvation? How might that impact your daily life?

4. Read Revelation 21:1-7. Reflect on the truth that this is your future.
How does having knowledge of eternity impact your life?

5. Read 1 Peter 1:18. Your salvation came at a cost. How does this impact how you think about salvation?