

# *Sharing the Salvation Message*

Dear Friend and Partner,

It is God's desire that every person on earth receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. He also desires that each believer grow and develop spiritually.

Jesus said in Mark 16:15-20, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

We must always keep in mind the lost and dying world around us. Everyone around us needs to be ministered to, because every human being has needs. Many people don't know that God loves them, cares for them and wants to meet their every need. Our job, as believers, is to go tell them about the love of God and share it with them by reaching out and giving a hand to those in need.

Ask God to give you the words to say, then in faith, step out and invite an individual, a family, a coworker, a neighbor, or even a total stranger to come to church. Show them that you care, and that you've got their best interest at heart. Let them see your heart's desire is for them to be blessed and to receive all God has for them.

When you see people at church that you don't know, introduce yourself and share your Christian love and friendship with them, for the world needs to see that we love and care for them. Then, God will bless all our endeavors.

I got saved one Sunday night, and the following day, I encountered the first people that I really witnessed to. That Monday, the guys that I worked with and I went to eat at a place where construction guys ate lunch. I walked in, and there were two businessmen sitting in a booth. One was Mr. B. and the other was Mr. E. They knew me because I had gone to school with their kids.

When I walked in there, Mr. E. raised his head and looked at me, and said, "Jesse, how come you're so happy today?" I don't remember being happy. I was just glad that I made things right with God and that

I'd gotten this sin burden lifted off my shoulders. The night before, I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Even though I grew up in church and hardly ever missed a Sunday, I didn't know one scripture--I didn't know John 3:16, or that the Lord's Prayer was in the Bible. I didn't even know that the Bible said, Jesus wept.

I already told the guys that I was walking in with that I'd gotten saved the night before. So I looked at Mr. E. and Mr. B., and I said, "I got saved last night." Cynically, Mr. E. said, "Saved from what?" When he asked that, everybody stopped eating and looked at me to listen to what I was going to say. I didn't know what to say-- I didn't know any verses. I just knew that the night before, I found out that I was going to hell. I was shocked to find out that I wasn't a Christian because I went to church. If that were the case, you'd only have to build churches and Jesus didn't need to come. But, God gave His only begotten Son. If there had been some other way that He could have done it, He would have.

If the new birth could have come through the law, we would have just had the law. But the law was our school master...until the Master got here. Once He came, we no longer needed the law (Gal. 3:24,25). There was no new birth by keeping the Ten Commandments. You could live your whole life keeping the Ten Commandments, but still not be born again. You can confess every sin you ever committed if you could think of it, and ask God to forgive you---and He would---but you're still not born again. You're still not a new creature.

**The only way to be born again is to confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.**

They all stopped and looked at me. Mr. E. asked, "Saved from what?" I said, "S-s-saved from...hell." Both of those men---Mr. B. and Mr. E.-- ducked their heads in reverence and conviction, and said, "Good for you, Jesse." These two men are the first people I really witnessed to after I talked to the guys I worked with.

I didn't know any scripture, so now I wanted to find out what the Bible said. So, I bought a Bible and the Bible on cassette tape and started listening to it. I'd write verses of scripture down. I'd have salvation scriptures, prayer, healing and miracle scriptures, and I'd share them with other people. I'd find somebody who was saved, and the Lord would have me share, for example, scriptures on being baptized in the Holy Ghost.

I put bumper stickers about Jesus on my van and on my toolbox lids--both the inside and outside lids. One snobby lady came in when I was carpeting her house and walked down the hallway to where my toolbox was. She saw the bumper sticker inside the lid, saying, "Jesus is coming." It made her angry, so she took her high-heel spectator shoe and kicked the lid down.

I was a traveling billboard for Jesus. I wore a huge lapel pin that said, "Revival" . I put "Jesus" on everything I could, to let people know. I signed my name on all my checks with the word, "saved" under my signature. A teller at the bank asked real loud one day, "Saved---what does that mean?" She asked,

so I told her what it meant. She wished she hadn't asked, but I didn't want anybody not to know about Jesus. I went all my life without knowing that you had to be saved to get to heaven. I wanted people to know, and I still do. I didn't want there to be anyone who knew me, who did not know Jesus. So every night, if I'd get off work in time, I would go someplace and preach. I'd stand on the street corners, in front of nightclubs and cinemas and follow people to their cars. I was a spiritual stalker for souls, to bring them into the kingdom of God.

There are plenty of places to minister. Sometimes the Lord would lead me on my job to talk to someone about being baptized in the Holy Ghost, or receiving healing in their life. Every day, I was working in several houses. Sometimes I'd work in only one, but I could work in as many as eight houses a day. That would cover a lot of territory. Then, I would walk down the hospital hallways until I felt led to go into a room. I'd walk into a room and ask, "Does anybody in this room need a miracle?" You get all kinds of answers and all kinds of opposition. The devil will rise up.

I was in a hospital room one day to pray for somebody and the nurse got very upset, because we were in there praying. I did it reverently and without confusion, but the spirit that was in her hated that prayer. If you have power, the devil knows it, and he doesn't want that prayer to come forth. The devil knows who's got power and who doesn't, so people who've got a devil are afraid to be around the power. If you've got a demon in you, he's going to be very uncomfortable around the Name of Jesus and the Spirit of God. I learned a lot just by going into places like that to minister.

I would also go to the jail every week. Initially, the leaders of the organization that ministered in the jail told me, "You can come in with us, but you can't say anything about speaking in tongues or miracles." I didn't agree not to. I just stood there and smiled in all the right places, and they said, "Do you want to come next Sunday?" I said, "No, I want to come this Sunday." Why wait? The door of opportunity had opened up.

I would go, and one of these men would give their testimony, and all of the guys in jail would all be listening, and I'd watch the crowd. I'd wait until people would raise their hands to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, and after the sinner's prayer, I'd go over to the one that I felt led to go to. I'd squat next to him in front of the bars and reach my hand in there and introduce myself: "I'm Jesse Rich. What's your name?" Sometimes they still had a real attitude, swearing and stuff. I'd ask, "Do you know what you just did when you prayed the sinner's prayer?" If they didn't quite understand, I'd tell them what they did, and explain it to them. Then, I'd usually ask, "Do you need God to do a miracle for you?" They'd always tell me what they needed. The top three requests were: they didn't have any money; they hadn't heard from their attorney since they'd been in jail; or they hadn't seen their wife. Then, I'd just say, "Well, let's pray and believe God, and agree, that by this time next week, you'll see your wife, or you'll hear from your attorney, or you'll get that rent money. Now, will you agree that if this happens, it'll be a miracle?" Many times, they'd swear and say, "God Himself couldn't move on my old lady, to bring her

in here."

Then, the next week, I'd go in and that's the person I'd be looking for. I'd pull them over next to the bars, and ask, "So, what happened?" They'd go on, "Oh, man, my old lady came in here three times last week, since you prayed!" Or they'd tell about how they got the money for the rent. I'd remind them that they had said that God Himself couldn't do this miracle, and I'd say, "But I told you He would! He did that because He loves you." So I'd show them some scriptures in their Bible that they could pray themselves and use after they are moved or released.

You see, when you get saved, you want to do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5). I was no preacher--I was just a carpet installer--but every day, I'd share Jesus with somebody. God will train and equip you to go forth and share the message. I'd carry a little bottle of oil with me. In James 5:14, it says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church..." I didn't wait for the inmates to call; I'd call upon them, and read them scriptures and show them that they could be healed through the anointing of oil and the prayer of faith in the Name of the Lord. "...the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up..." ( James 4:15). I'd open up my Bible and show them what James said, and I'd carry a little bottle of oil with me. This was the beginning of the Lord using me.

God trains us and we're to disciple others and bring them into the family of God. You can knock on doors...when you do, the devil will tell your head, "This is not your ministry". The people may accept it, or they may not.

You want to have a heart that you desire to work for God: that you want to be about the Father's business, building His kingdom; bringing people into His kingdom. How can people know without a preacher?(Romans 10:14,15) It's our responsibility, each one of us as believers, not to hide our Christian life underneath a bushel. It's to be lived where everyone can see it---Jesus is to be shouted from the housetops (Matthew 5:14 &10:27). Jesus Christ is the most valuable gift in life, with the new birth and salvation. When you get saved, you become a child of God. In the Old Testament, on your best day, you were a servant of God. But when you get saved, you become a child of God! ( John 1:12, Galatians 4:7). Just as Jesus is a child of God, you become a child of God. You're grafted in, and God becomes your Father. God is God to the world, but He's my Father. And He promised He would take care of you. And you learn in witnessing. You learn more about the Bible when you share with others. You give out the scripture that you know. When Mr. E. asked me, "Saved from what?" I just told what knowledge I had - I remembered that last night, they preached a message about hell fire and brimstone.

You have to realize that everybody who is not saved is going to hell . No one will escape it. There 's nothing more important in this life than getting the gospel out. There 's no gray area---this may not be what your mind likes to hear, but it's the truth. You have to tell people about Jesus. They need to know that there's a way out of this world, and that 's through Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel..."(Mark 16:15). Do you think Jesus ever lied? Do you suppose that He ever lied

one time? He said go in to all the world and preach the gospel and he that believes shall be saved, and "...he that believeth not shall be damned"(v.16). If a person does not accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, they can't go to heaven. And there's only one other place to go!

Let's say we're in a room, and the room has one door. If the building catches on fire, we need to go out that door. You may not like the idea that they built the hotel and put one door in, but thank God there's one doorway out! And God made a provision and He made a way out when He gave His Son. He gave us a mediator and we can receive Christ (1 Timothy 2:5). And when we do, we need to tell everybody about it! At the appropriate time, God will anoint you to share with someone about Jesus. If you keep it a secret, you get cold, but you need to tell somebody about Jesus every day. Share a scripture every day; find someone to witness to. You'll get all kinds of responses. I tried to respond to the men who witnessed to me as if I were okay. I tried to act as if I were saved, but what they were saying was pricking my heart.

The gospel is offensive to religious people. The first statement they'll make is, "I don't believe that way. We believe differently at our church." That's a first-class sign that you've got somebody who's not saved. Proverbs 14:12 says, There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Or, you'll get a response like, "There are many interpretations of the Bible. Man wrote the Bible." That's another sign that you're dealing with somebody that is not saved. Look for the signs. Or people will say, "I'm a church member." When they respond, you're going to have to believe God to know what to say, and He will give you words to say. Some people will be very defiant about it. Others will be arrogant, and with others, you'll know right away that you're getting to them. But if you listen to the Lord and allow Him to give you the words in your heart, and allow Him to use your mouth, you'll be able to share with those people.

Sometimes you'll get some demon spirits activated that are in the person, and they'll manifest. That's when you'll need the Name of Jesus to take authority over them. By being filled with the Holy Ghost, God gives you the anointing to be a witness. Jesus told the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem and they would receive this power from on high (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8). And you'll receive power to be a witness. I've witnessed without the power---it doesn't work, it's just head knowledge. But when you witness inspired by the Spirit of God, those words go forth and prick them. Then they'll have to make a decision on what to do with it.

I want to share my salvation testimony with you:

As a child, I grew up attending church on a regular basis. I also attended church activities, helped to serve communion and acted as an usher. I guess I'd always assumed that I was a Christian because I believed in God and attended church.

I grew up and eventually left home to pursue the things of the world. I had a desire to have my own

business and be self-employed. So at 19 years old, I began my own floor-covering business. Things were going well financially, and I was enjoying good times in the world. One day, when I was carpeting an office for a hotel chain, two businessmen walked in, dressed in suits. (I later found out that they were the owners of the hotel.) One of the men spoke up and asked me, "Are you Jesse Rich?"

I replied, "Yes."

He said, "May I ask you a question?"

I said, "Sure."

He said, "If you died today, would you go to heaven?"

I couldn't recall when I'd felt so uncomfortable about a question being asked. At the time, I didn't even know that you could know if you were going to heaven or not. I thought that decisions like that were all up to God...that no one could really know for sure...not in this life, if they were going to heaven. So my response was, "I go to church."

One of the men had a New Testament with him and opened it up and began to read scriptures to me from his Bible. I was nervous and uncomfortable; I was also trying to hide the feeling of how angry I was at those men for putting me on the spot. They asked me if I'd received Jesus Christ as my Savior. All I could reply was, "I go to church." But they said, "You must be born again--saved."

Then, I let them know about all the people I knew who were born again and committed worse sins than I did: preachers and others whose houses and churches that I'd carpeted, and never paid me for my labor. I said, "What about them?" They just kept replying, "What about Jesus?"

I continued bringing up the good deeds that I'd done, organizations that I'd helped and money that I'd given away. But they let me know that there's only one way to get to heaven, and that's through Jesus! As the Bible clearly states, For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (1 Timothy 2:5 and Ephesians 2:8,9).

I felt so helpless, trying to defend and justify myself through my good deeds. No matter what I said, they kept asking me, "What about Jesus?" (In other words-- people, ministers, and churches may have done me wrong, but Jesus never had. They were saying not to let what those people did keep me from receiving Jesus as my Lord and Savior.)

It seemed as if every night thereafter, I'd wake up at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, hearing those men's voices: 'What about Jesus?' I hadn't paid any attention to the instructions they gave me, nor the scriptures they read in order for me to receive salvation. I didn't know how to ask Jesus to save me. But after a few months went by-- with every night waking up and remembering those men saying, 'What are

you going to do about Jesus?'— I couldn't take it any longer. I was feeling so guilty and convicted in my heart about not being right with God. One night, I finally raised up in my bed and said, "O.K. I'll take You!" I didn't know what else to say. I just had a fear that I wasn't right with God. The Bible states in John 3:3, ...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Shortly after that night, I was invited to go to a church service. Up until that time, I'd thought all churches were basically the same. This particular church was what they called a "Pentecostal" church. That night, the pastor preached a message on, "Are You Going to Heaven or Hell?" He read scriptures and Holy Ghost conviction fell. He asked for people to come forward to the altar and kneel to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

After a seemingly long appeal, I finally surrendered and walked down that aisle and knelt. They led me in what is called, "A Sinner's Prayer." It was there, that night, that I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I became what the Bible calls in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "a new creature" in Christ Jesus. All my sins had been forgiven; I had peace in my heart and joy in my soul that Jesus had saved me.

## Tell Somebody About Jesus!

Sharing our testimony of what Jesus has done for us is being a witness to others. The more you witness to others, the more natural it will become.

Always keep in mind that every person needs to know the Jesus that you know. Don't assume that just because a person goes to church and seems to be religious, they are right with God.

Every person needs to be born again. Jesus said, ...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ...Ye must be born again John 3:3,7

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

If the person you are witnessing to tells you that they are saved, or born again, ask them how it happened. Never assume they are saved. If they say they're born again, they won't mind giving you their testimony, but if they show hesitation, you need to pursue the subject.

Just the other day, in Starbucks, I asked a man if he was saved. I knew he attended church regularly, because he'd already told me he did. He said, "Yes, I am." But, I felt in my heart that he wasn't, and I needed to pursue the issue. I asked when he got saved, and he said, "Well, maybe I don't know what you mean by being saved." So, I proceeded to show him from my Bible.

While I was talking to him, a lady who had been listening to our conversation asked me to give her the

scriptures I'd given to the man. So, whether I'm on a train, a plain, bus or elsewhere, I find there's always someone who needs to be ministered to.

When we witness, we don't do it in an arrogant or condescending manner. We do not want to come across as though we are right with God, while others are not.

Make it a habit that you never let a day go by that you don't share Jesus with someone or with "someones".

If we witness every day about how we became born again, we'll stay on fire for God and never become cold or lukewarm. We can have some pretty challenging moments and days in our life that can almost cause us to be consumed with our own problems so that we lose sight of how blessed we are.

Witnessing about Jesus Christ to people on a daily basis not only informs them of the need to be born again, it also helps you, as a believer, to stay focused on the church's number-one priority: This priority is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Encourage other believers to witness— It is one of the greatest blessings we can share with someone else : Tell people what Jesus did for us, as well as what He wants to do for them.

I want to share some scriptures with you that you can read today about witnessing.

## Witnessing Scriptures

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12

And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. Acts 8:25

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. Acts 16:30-32

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:



But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill *me*. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: Acts 26:19-22

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14

## SALVATION SCRIPTURES

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, ***Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*** Mark 10:17

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ***Ye must be born again.*** John 3:3-7

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Romans 3:23-26

**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:9-13

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Mt. 10:32

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. **Luke 19:10**

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **John 3:15-18**

...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. **John 6:37**

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:40**

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. **John 6:47**

...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **John 14:6**

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. **John 20:31**

And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. **Acts 2:21**

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **Acts 4:12**

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 6:23**

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8,9**

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, *of things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:9-11**

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners... **1 Tim.1:15**

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to

be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **1 Timothy 2:3-5**

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **Titus 2:13,14**

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:25**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9**

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. **1 John 4:14**

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. **1 John 5:13**

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. **Revelation 3:5**

There's nothing greater in life than knowing inside your heart that you're right with God. Are you right with God? Do you know Jesus as your Savior? I want to ask you the question that those two men asked me years ago when I was carpeting that hotel room. If you die today, will you go to heaven, or will you go to hell? The greatest decision you can make in this life is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

I'm going to ask you to do something right now. It's to pray the prayer that is next and ask Jesus into your heart and receive forgiveness for all of your sins. Don't put this off---pray it now, while there's still time. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Read this prayer out loud and mean it from your heart, and you can have the peace of God, that the world can never give you, nor take away!

## Prayer To Receive Jesus Christ as Your Lord and Savior

God, I come before You today on my knees as humbly as I know how to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I believe in my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He took all my sins when He went to the cross and He has been raised from the dead, and is alive forevermore!

I receive Jesus today as my Lord and Savior, for You said, whosoever shall call upon the Name of Lord shall be saved. You also said that whosoever comes to You, You will in no wise cast out. So, I have confidence that You will receive me now.

God, I don't want anything to keep me from going to heaven, so I thank You that You always direct my paths in this life.

You said in 1 John 1:9, **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** I thank You, Lord, for forgiving me of all my sins, known and unknown.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21, I am now a new creature in Christ Jesus; old things have passed away and all things have become new! I have been made the righteousness of God in Christ.

Thank You, Father God, for saving me, for forgiving me of all my sins and cleansing me with the blood of Jesus. Now You are my heavenly Father, and Jesus is my Lord and Savior! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE SALVATION OF LOVED ONES

God, I come to You today in the Name of Jesus, claiming the Salvation of \_\_\_\_\_. I claim by faith that they are saved, delivered, set free and baptized in the Holy Spirit. In the Name of Jesus, I break Satan's power over their lives. He will not keep them from coming into the family of God.

Lord, You said in Your Word, ...Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 18:18). Satan, I bind you from their lives. You'll not keep them from receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

Jesus gave me ...power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy... You'll not keep the light of the glorious gospel of Christ from shining unto them (Luke 10:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

Lord, I ask You to remove from their lives any people or influences that are not supposed to be there, and that distract my loved ones from salvation.

Father God, Your Word says, ...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house (Acts 16:31).

It is written that You ...will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

It is written that You are ...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance

(2 Peter 3:9).

Father, You opened Lydia's heart in Acts 16:14. I believe You will do the same for my loved ones. I ask You to send Holy Spirit-led believers across their paths.<sup>1</sup> I pray that their eyes will be opened to the Truth as they hear Your Word!

I cease not to give thanks for \_\_\_\_\_, making mention of them in my prayers; that You, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You: the eyes of their understanding being enlightened; that they may know what is the hope of Your calling and what are the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of Your power to them who believe according to the working of Your mighty power!<sup>2</sup>

Thank You, Father, for creating the right circumstances for the Word to be planted in their hearts. Laborers are being sent forth to minister unto them and Holy Ghost conviction is drawing them to You.

I refuse to fear; I have claimed \_\_\_\_\_ for the Kingdom of God in Jesus' Name. I am standing in faith and love for them. I am not moved by what I see or feel; I am only moved by what the Word of God says. Circumstances are subject to CHANGE!<sup>3</sup> I have God's Word and it cannot fail. The devil is a liar. He cannot prevent the Word of God from reaching \_\_\_\_\_.

Father, Your Word will not return to You void, but it will accomplish that which pleases You.<sup>4</sup> I believe You have heard my prayer and have granted my request.<sup>5</sup> I am rejoicing with confidence, knowing that You are at work in their lives to will and to do Your good pleasure.<sup>6</sup> Thank You, Father, that \_\_\_\_\_ are saved according to Acts 16:31. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Luke 10:2 <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 1: 16-19

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:18 <sup>4</sup> Isaiah 55:11

<sup>5</sup> 1 John 5:14,15 <sup>6</sup> Philippians 2:13

The Ministry that All of Us Can do:

The Ministry of Helps

Most of us, as believers, have a desire in our heart to do something for God. We may feel that we don't do enough, and wonder what we could do for the Lord. We start out dedicating our life to God by telling Him that we're willing to do anything He wants us to do. We do our part by praying and interceding daily for those who are in authority over us, our minister and our loved ones, as well as supporting the gospel financially, and volunteering to work in the ministry of helps.

If the Lord didn't specifically call you into a public ministry (an office such as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher), your ministry as a believer is found in the ministry of helps. The ministry of helps was ordained by God to assist the minister in getting the message out. It is vitally important, in building the kingdom of God, that each person in the body of Christ find out from God what his or her place is. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:28 of God setting forth the offices of the church.

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. We can see examples of the ministry of helps in the Old Testament, when God called Aaron to help Moses, and also when Elisha was called to help Elijah in Exodus 4:27 & 1 Kings 19:19-21.

You can also read in Acts 6:1-8 of some called into the ministry of helps in the early church. We will always need the ministry of helps. It doesn't get a lot of public recognition, but it is important and valuable in building the kingdom of God. It's an honor to serve the Lord, whether in a public pulpit ministry, or alongside and behind the scenes, in the ministry of helps. Ministries need helpers. If that is all we do the rest of our lives and are never seen of men, we will still receive the same reward if we are faithful in whatever we do joyfully for the Lord. As we stay humble, compassionate, tender hearted, and not wanting to be seen of men, but wholeheartedly wanting to serve the Lord in any capacity, we become a true servant of the Master.

The ministry of helps was the ministry that I wanted to work in. I wanted to travel around with an evangelist, help set up his crusades, usher in his meetings, and work his book table. To be able to work along with the minister, stand by his side and to do whatever he needed to be done would have been the greatest thing to me. I felt that it couldn't get any better than that, but the Lord had other plans for me. When I pursued those avenues, the Lord shut the doors and said that He had called me to preach and to minister publicly.

We see other examples of the ministry of helps in the following verses: Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. Phil 2:25

There is the ministry of laboring in prayer found throughout the scriptures such as we read in Colossians 4:12: Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. This is part of the ministry

of helps, just like tithing and giving.

There is a ministry of being an exhorter, which comes under the ministry of helps. These are people that have an anointing to exhort the congregation and even individuals, and what a great help they are in the work of the Lord! We read of examples of exhortation in Romans 12:7,8 Acts 15:32, and in 1 Corinthians 14:3: Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:7, 8 (See also Acts 15:32 and 1 Corinthians 14:3).

Partnership falls under the ministry of helps, such as the time Peter lent his boat to Jesus to help get the message out, as you can read in Luke 5:1-11. Becoming a partner with a ministry helps build the kingdom of God. We read in Philippians 4:10 - 19 about some partners of Paul's ministry. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all and abound, I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Imagine what an honor it would have been to be one of Paul's partners! Read 2 Corinthians 8:23 & Philemon 17.

The key to the ministry of helps is to do it whole heartedly and joyfully to the Lord, and look to Him and Him only for your reward. The work of God needs committed people to help serve so that the minister is able to keep himself in continued prayer and minister the Word of God.

**Pastor Jesse Rich**

**JESSE RICH MINISTRIES** (212) 501-8839  
P.O. Box 237170 NYC N.Y. 10023  
www. JesseRichMinistries. Org JRM ©2004

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