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Salvation

You cannot be saved by Jesus alone. You cannot be saved by the Spirit alone. Salvation requires the concerted effort of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

All authority (ἐξουσία) is delegated to Jesus (Matthew 28:18): but, salvation requires more than authority.

Power (δύναμιν) is delegated to the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8): but, it takes more than power to be saved.

Behind the Son's authority and the Spirit's power, we find the Father delegating out of love (John 3:16): it's "of the Father's love (ἠγάπησεν) [we are] begotten" from above.

Yes, the Son performs mighty miracles: but the Father has concurred in their design and the Spirit empowers them.

Yes, the Son's death on the cross pays the price for our sins (Matthew 20:28; I Peter 2:24): but, not without the agreement of the Father and the Spirit.

Yes, the Father, Son, and Spirit have together gone to great effort in preparing your room for you (John 14:2): but, they won't force you to

come home against your will. So, your will has a part to play in your own salvation: you must want to come home.

If you sincerely want to come home, the Spirit will be there to carry you and lead you all the way on your journey home: He will also help defend you against your enemies and teach you how to defend yourself.

Yes, you must take up your cross and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24-26): but, the Spirit will provide spiritual eyes to see the road, and direct each step of your feet. When your cross gets too heavy to bear, He will provide help to carry it.

Yes, you will have enemies along the way: Jesus provides for your protection by the Spirit (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Yes, you have enemies. Satan lured you away from home to begin with (1 Peter 5:8): but he used the leverage of your own lusts and desires to defeat you (Ephesians 2:3; James 1:13-15).

Yes, you have friends too, longing to see you come home (Luke 15:7,10). So, you see, salvation is really a family affair in which the Father, Son, Spirit, and even powerless you, without any authority, play key parts: but angels, Christians, and even your enemies are there watching (Hebrews 12:1-17).

Yes, salvation is much more than a split-second decision; it begins with decision, it ends with final arrival home; in between these, it is a somewhat difficult journey (Matthew 7:13-27). Be prepared to walk a great distance under considerable duress: it is the sorrowful, suffering way of the cross.

Soli Deo Gloria.

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