

Day One

Read John 3 + Acts 9 -

What is the highlight, the connecting theme, between today's chapters?

Salvation always involves the supernatural calling and regeneration of a “dead, hardened heart” from His sovereign eternal election. This process always involves the gift by the Holy Spirit of a broken, contrite heart which immediately breaks forth in humble repentance as one recognizes Jesus’ total claim on the life of the one given a clear revelation of Jesus Christ.

“You must be born again!”

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

What record might best illustrate the “born again experience” from God’s election from eternity past?

What passage shows us Jesus’ sovereign, unilateral, monergistic, saving, elective grace through the Holy Spirit to bring about this miraculous change? **What does salvation look like from God’s side?**

Acts 9:1-22

[v] 3-6 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “**Who are You, Lord?**” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “**Lord, what do You want me to do?**” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

*What parallel does Scripture provide as an explanation of this saving work from man’s side and perspective? **What does salvation look like from man’s side?***

Romans 10:9-13

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[v] 9-13 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek [non-Jew], for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

1 Corinthians 2:13-15 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

"Bon Appetit" = a warm French phrase to wish for one to have a good appetite and to enjoy their meal.

"Merci" = "Thank you." This is the lovely French reply to the above well wishes. By God's sovereign mercy and grace He turns spiritual realities into spiritual energy for which we can only say, *"Thank You, Holy Spirit, for Your never failing mercy to reveal these things to us babes."*

Luke 10:21-22 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and **revealed them to babes**. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and **the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**"