

What Will God Do For You?

This week, we began a study of “The Story”, a retelling of the Bible in chronological order. In our first lesson we were reminded that God originally planned to be with us but because Adam and Eve chose to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, in other words, because they rejected God’s way and chose to go their own way, all humans have a sinful nature. Part of that nature is a need to feel that we are in control. A feeling that through our own power we can achieve a full and happy life but until we give control of our lives to God, we are only fooling ourselves. Once we give control over to God, wonderful things begin to happen and this is part of God’s plan to restore us to a right relationship with Him. If you attended the Bible study this week you already know how special, you are to God. So I want to make sure everyone here today understands that too.

As I began to think of the things God does for us, I started with the basics of food clothing and shelter. I then added water, air to breath, and warmth from the sun. There is also rain and snow, granting growth for plants, and the different seasons. As I thought about this list, I realized that what I put down were the basics of life that God gives to everyone whether they believe in God or not. Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims receive rain from the sky and warmth from the sun just like the solid, Bible-believing, congregation of Calvary United Methodist Church.

So then I realized I needed to go deeper to get to the list of things God does only for those who believe in his son Jesus Christ. Some of you can already begin the list with the most obvious thing.

1. God saves us. The word salvation comes up hundreds of times in the Bible. It is used 46 times in just the book of Psalms: Ps 27: 1; Acts 4: 12 Acts 13: 26; I Peter 1:8 – 9. These scriptures and hundreds of others make it clear that salvation is a gift from God given only to those who believe in and profess the name of Jesus Christ.
2. God gives us his Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 It is available upon request. Luke 11:11 The Holy Spirit is only given to those who believe in God, but it can also be removed from the one who sins. Ps 51:11. It speaks for you when you need to witness for God. Luke 12:12 It gives you power and is all the proof you need to know that your eternal reward is assured. Romans 8:9, 26
3. God gives us His grace. This gift is the undeserved pardon of our sins. Acts 10: 43; Acts 26: 15 – 18; Col 1: 11 – 14 grace and power are often mentioned in tandem. God’s grace gives us the power to preach to others the good news of redemption available to everyone who believes in Christ. But how will they believe if they have not heard? And how will they hear if no one proclaims the good news? (Romans 10: 12)
4. God gives us eternal life. John 3:16; John 5:24; Titus 3: 4 – 7. God’s original plan was for us to live forever Him in a perfect garden.

God still wants to do that with us and so His plan includes eternal life.

God gives good things to everyone, the just and the unjust, the good and the bad, but there are certain things that he will only do for those who believe in the one whom he sent, Jesus Christ.

The people of this community need to know these things. This is the good news that we need to share with them. We obviously can't wait for them to come to church on Sunday morning to hear this news. We have to take it to them. Our task is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and we can no longer afford the luxury of sitting back and waiting for them to come to us. God is calling people to come to him, but just as Jesus did, so we must do—go to them where they are. God loves us and wants to be with us. What a God!