

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

June 7, 2021

How Little of God Can I Get?

To many in the church, the term “*saved*” simply means, “*the minimum experience or the minimum amount of God a person must have in order to go to Heaven.*” Some will say, “Not me.” Well, maybe not, but don’t be too quick to answer. Do you have a child, or other loved-one who had a religious experience sometimes in the past, but is not presently living for God? How do you think they really stand with God? If you are honest, you will probably answer something like “*I know they are not where they ought to be with God, but I believe they are saved.*” Translation: “*I believe they have at least the minimum experience or minimum amount of God it takes to get to Heaven.*” Even believers whose walk has degenerated into a dead form, often tell themselves; “*Well, at least I’m saved.*” In almost every group in Christianity today, the word “*saved*” has come to speak of the minimal Christian experience or the minimal amount of God they believe it takes to get to heaven.

To illustrate this point, all I must do is to ask how many have ever been to the funeral of someone who was lost? The truthful answer is that we all have. It’s just that, at their time of departure, we lay hold of some minimal standard to announce

their arrival at the pearly gates. They may have lived their lives scoffing at, or avoiding a real relationship with Jesus Christ, but surely that is not what matters now. We remember when they were baptized or when they confessed Jesus as Lord many years ago. Occasionally they referred to “the man upstairs,” or some other irreverent, disrespectful term. They even allowed someone to pray for them on their death bed. So then, somehow, someday, we “*know*” they must have been saved and are now in a much better place. We know they didn’t have much, but surely, they had the minimum that God requires. Will such a person have boldness in the Day of Judgment to say, **“O Mighty God, I know I don’t have much of you, but I just did not want more than was actually required?”** Since when did God become the God of the minimum?

The Apostle Paul said God has *“called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* II Thessalonians 2:14. God has no minimums and no stopping points. He has never called a sinner only to repentance. From the moment a sinner first hears the gospel, or feels the touch of God, they are being invited to sit with Christ in heavenly places and partake of His glory. God is inviting them to be made free from sin and receive the riches of His grace. He is beckoning them to be filled with His Spirit and to experience a life of miracles.

I have heard all my life that God is calling people to repentance, but the truth is, God is calling people **through** repentance. He is calling them **through** faith. He is calling them **through** the

cross. He is calling them **through** the baptism with the Holy Ghost. He is ever inviting men and women to come and partake of the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ. Yes, there are many things He calls us **through**, but there is just one *“hope of the calling.”* Ephesians 4:4. There will be repentance and faith. There will be deliverance of sin through the power of the cross. There will be the baptism in the Holy Ghost, but none of these are a stopping point in Christ. God offers no minimums. He only offers *“the unsearchable riches of Christ.”* Ephesians 3:8.