

Danae: Welcome to Cell Life Church's discussion series, Building a Firm Foundation. When constructing any building you want to make sure that your foundation is firm and sound. You take many measurements and use just the right materials, so that the building will stand against any storm or unsettling of the earth. Well, much like a building our lives must also be built on a firm foundation – principles that can withstand the test of time and the storms of society. Now, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew Chapter 7 with this concept of having our foundation built on the rock which is Christ. Now today we will be discussing an important element of a firm foundation, we will be talking about salvation. What is, why we need it, and how to get it? Now there is a handout available on our website with discussion questions, scripture references, and other information. The discussion questions will also be displayed on the screen at the conclusion of the video.

Kelly: Okay, wonderful. You know we believe that the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is biblically essential. You know there are some interesting terminologies in that statement of what we believe. So we're going to look at what salvation is, why it is the most important decision a person can make in their lives. And you know you hear it said often times and in circles you'll say well I got saved and they'll give a date you know, I gave my heart to Christ at a certain date or whenever, we're going to talk about that. That's what born again, salvation is different terms used for in what this said is regeneration by the Holy Spirit of sinful man. And so we're going to dive in and look at that and we're going to begin by looking at a conversation that Jesus had with a prominent Jewish leader named Nicodemus.

So let's answer the question of what is salvation by looking into what the bible has to say. Jesus is going to refer to salvation or being saved as being born again in John Chapter 3 versus 3-8. It reads Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless you are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked, "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the spirit, flesh gives birth to flesh, but the spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying you must be born again. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear it sound but you cannot tell where it comes from, or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the spirit." Jesus tells Nicodemus that no one can go to heaven or the Kingdom of God unless they are saved or born again. He explains the salvation is through the Spirit of God. In other words it's nothing that I can do personally to be saved, it's nothing that my parents can do for me to be saved and it's only by the Spirit of God. And we learn that we cannot do this of ourselves, and we see that illustrated in Ephesians 2 verses 8 and 9 where it says, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this not from yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

Danae: Amen and I love that first because it shows the amazing beauty of God's grace, and you look at that verse though and you have to think you know if you're not familiar with God's grace or what His grace is, you think well what is that, what does it mean to have God's grace? Well, just like that verse shows you know, it's that unmerited favor,

that unconditional grace where you're not getting what you deserve, and what we deserve when we make mistakes is to be corrected or punished. When you – when a child does something wrong, when a child disobeys their parents, the parent – it's the parent's job to correct them and punish them. Grace is saying well, you deserve this punishment but I'm going to take that away from you. I'm going to take that away from you and that is what the unmerited favor is. And this – and in this case when we're talking about salvation, and Jesus grace and Christ coming to save us, it's what we deserve because of our sin is death, is spiritual death. And it says that in Romans Chapter 6 verse 23 it says, "Sin leads to death." It does because the only way to have eternal life is through Jesus. It says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." And that's what God's free gift is – it's His grace, it's His mercy, it's his gift of salvation so that we can live freely and away from our sin, away from our flesh, and away from our humanness. We have something beyond this life to look forward to through Jesus because of His grace.

Kelly: Amen, amen.

Danae: Now, let's answer the question of why we need salvation.

Kelly: Good question.

Danae: It is a good question. And we hear this a lot, you know whenever we – people find out you know you're a Christian, we believe in God, people say well why do we need this, I'm perfectly fine on my own. I hear that a lot. Well the answer is, our sin separates us from God. Our sin puts this gap between us and God, because God is perfect. He is incapable of sinning.

Kelly: And perfect meaning sinless, holy, righteous...

Danae: Exactly, exactly. And since the beginning with Adam and Eve, sin has separated us from God, for those of you who don't know about Adam and Eve, they were the first humans on earth, the first humans that God created and they sinned, and that is where sin essentially came into the world.

Kelly: Right because before they had sinned, they walked and talked with God just like you and I are talking, it was the same thing until that sin, that sin came and it brought this division between them and God.

Danae: Exactly and you know, and so all of this have this division because we're human and because we make mistakes and because we sin. And you know we all make mistakes you know Romans Chapter 3 verse 23 says, "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Kelly: Right everybody.

Danae: Everybody we all make mistakes and you know there's not this huge list of like okay well this is worse than, this isn't so bad and you know, I guess we can forget about this, there's nothing about this. All have sinned, all have made mistakes, all have fallen short. Every last one of us from the moment man sinned, God created a plan of reconciliation through Jesus and that is salvation, and that is why we need salvation. It is through God's plan as saving us from ourselves.

Kelly: Right so that sin separated us and then God said I need – we need to get back together, I need to bridge that gap once again and that's when the plan of salvation took place, wonderful.

Danae: Exactly, exactly.

Kelly: And we read in Isaiah 59 verse 2 the bible says but your iniquities have separated you from your God, your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. You see what this is simply talking about is because of that separation that happened is that you have this light and this darkness now light is everything holy, everything beautiful, light is God. He is righteous, He is pure, He is perfect and then you have sin. Sin is darkness, leads to death the bible tells us. And so if I were to have this like full, this room right now full of light and then to bring darkness in, that's impossible, I can't, I can't bring darkness in with light, they do not associate with not one another. You can have a dark room, or you can have a light room. You can have a dim room, but you can't have light and dark. It's impossible. It doesn't associate. [0:10:00] And so God cannot be in the presence of sinful men and because of this He had to send Christ because God is Holy and He needed the solution and the solution was to send His son Jesus to die for our sins so that we can be reconciled once again because Jesus was that perfect, that perfect sacrifice that needed to be paid for our sins to bridge that gap. And so Jesus came and he bridged that gap so that we can now have that relationship once again with God. You see Jesus was born of a virgin and he led a sinless life. He performed miracles. He died on the cross, he rose again. So we ask the question then how do I receive salvation?

Danae: Yeah, exactly so now we know why need it but then it's like okay, how can I attain it, how can I receive this salvation? Well, like you said, Jesus was born of a virgin. Led a sinless life, performed miracles and died on the cross and rose again.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: And through him and our acceptance of him is how we receive salvation.

Kelly: Yeah.

Danae: We look at Romans 10:9 and 10 it says, "If you declare with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: Right there, is how we do it.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: We declare with our mouth. We believe in our hearts. We have faith that God raised Jesus from the dead. That God brought Jesus to earth to save us from sin. That He died on the cross for us and He rose again three days later to save us. It is with our hearts that we believe and then afterwards it is with our mouths that we prophesy it. Exactly we confess it. We say Lord you are God. You are Jesus. You are the savior of my heart. You are the savior of the world

Kelly: Right.

Danae: And I believe in you and you are my Lord.

Kelly: So this verse then is telling us, that it has nothing to do with us

Danae: Exactly, has nothing to do with us.

Kelly: We don't have to do anything other than believe.

Danae: Exactly, well we can't do anything other but believe. We can't do anything but believe, we can try but no matter how hard we try and work towards this we are always going to fall short.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: Like I said we all fall short. So we can work towards it so what we have to do is, we have to humble ourselves before God.

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: Humble ourselves and say, "Lord I have sinned, I am human and I have made mistakes and I am so sorry." And we go to Him and we ask for His forgiveness. We ask for His salvation and saying, "Lord, save me."

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: Help me, and God is just so amazing that He says, "Okay."

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: Okay.

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: I am your God, you confess that I am your God, I am going to save you. I am going to start your life with a clean slate. You are going to start over. Your sins of your past are no more you are a new person. And that's what salvation does.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: That's what salvation does.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: Exactly.

Kelly: Amen.

Kelly: Let's look at Isaiah 1:18, where it says, "Through your sins, though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Danae: I love that, I love that, there is so much hope in that verse. There's so much hope and that's what salvation brings us, is hope.

Kelly: Yeah.

Danae: You know, we are made new and born again through salvation. Through Jesus and his sacrifice and our acceptance of his gift, our pasts are wiped clean.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: And our sin is no more.

Kelly: No more. That's right, you know. So we look at salvation and as we've talked about this, we realize that a few things here – I'm sinful and my sin has separated me from God. The only way to bridge that gap is accepting His Son as Lord and savior. And so, then, how I do that is simply by believing and asking that He comes into our lives. He forgives us of our sin. We have to acknowledge that we are sinful...

Danae: Yes.

Kelly: We need to do that. I mean, I think we all realize that we all make mistakes, we do bad things but that sin that we do, that's our separation and so in order to reconcile that we must accept the grace that Christ has extended to us through His finished work on the cross. And so today maybe you are listening to this or watching this and you haven't put your trust in Christ. You haven't taken that step. Maybe you've thought about it and

you have put it off and let me tell you the Holy Spirit is saying, yes, now are the time. Now is the time, don't delay anymore. We aren't promised tomorrow.

Danae: No.

Kelly: We aren't promised tomorrow and boy, God is just waiting for that reconciliation, waiting to have that relationship. And so, if you've never asked Jesus to come into your life and to become Lord of your life, I would ask that you would just pray with me. We are going to take a moment and we are going to pray and as I pray just agree along with me, all right? Let's pray.

Father God, thank you so much for sending your son to die on the cross, so that I can be reconciled with you. I have made mistakes. I have done things that I shouldn't do. I have caused pain in your heart. But I thank you God that you forgive, when I ask for forgiveness and so Lord I take this time and say Father forgive me, for what I have done. I accept your Son as Lord and Savior and I pray that he will come into my heart, make me a new creation so that I can once again be reconciled unto you as you designed me to be and Father, help me to serve you, to get to know you more as I go through my days. Lord Jesus I just thank you. Thank you for coming into my life, for making me whole. For cleansing me off my sin in your name, Amen.

Danae: Amen.

Kelly: All right, Praise the Lord. If this is your first time asking Jesus into your heart asking him to come, forgive you of your sin, I want to encourage you to go on to our website. [Celllifechurch.org](http://Celllifechurch.org) and click on the 'I said yes to Jesus' button. What that does is that it just sends us a note. It gives us an opportunity to pray for you. If you do not have a Bible, we want to be able to send a Bible to you. The Bible is God's instructions for us here on earth. We had a webisode in this discussion series entitled the Bible and the purpose of it. I want to encourage you go back, watch that and learn about who Jesus is and all these things about just getting to know him more. We are blessed that we can be in fellowship with one another through these webisode, through different articles that we can read, most importantly the Bible, just getting to know him more.

Luke 15:10 says, "That in the same way I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the Angels of God over one sinner who repents. So you know what that means friend? That means that right now the angels are rejoicing. To those of you who surrendered your life to Jesus, there is a party going on in heaven and what a beautiful thing, how wonderful, how wonderful that is, Salvation, God's gift to man.

Danae: It's amazing.

Kelly: Yes.

Danae: Amazing.

Kelly: Yes. What a beautiful thing. Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to bring salvation to man. That's why he was here. He wasn't simply just a prophet, just a teacher, just a good man, no. He was God in the flesh. This is a free gift for us to receive. It is God's way of bringing us into relationship with Him. And so if you did say, yes today, I want to encourage you, tell somebody. You could email us. You could leave a note for us on our Facebook but go to somebody tell them, say, "Hey, guess what I did?" Because boy, it's just wonderful if we can proclaim what God has done in our lives. It encourages others around us. We want to thank you so much for joining us today. We want to encourage you to contact us, if you have any other questions or comments, you can visit our website of Facebook page, our YouTube channel, and you can also follow us on tweeter, iTunes and Stitcher. We want to invite you to join us next time as we discuss the Holy Spirit. Bye-bye.