

# The Power Behind Salvation

When many people approach the subject of the need for salvation in the life of an individual, they will, most of the time, start with a discussion of sin and man's need for a savior. From that point they will move to the "Roman road" approach to present man's fallen state and direct them to the cross of crucifixion and lead them to call out from their fallen state to ask for cleansing. If sin is the starting point, then truth is denied.

While this may be an effective approach, it does not start at the beginning of the story and it does not approach man's need of salvation from God's perspective.

## **John 3:16 (NAS)**

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**

God's view of man's need is through the lens of love and not the lens of sin or fallen nature. When God looked at the need of man for redemption, it was a view of what love could do, "love covers a multitude of sin" and not what sin had done.

In John 3:16 the central characters are God the Father/Creator, Messiah our Redeemer and lost humanity. The theme of the passage is God's great love and not sin's captivity. The object of the verse is the power of love to triumph over the work of sin and failure.

Through the first Adam, failure entered the earth and sin and death began to reign. But, in the second Adam, success entered the earth and love was again loosed to reign, for whosoever will.

Love was lost in Adam's fall because sin and death have no part in love. In the resurrection, the price of purity was paid and love could once again be loosed to reign in the hearts of redeemed men.

The love pictured in John 3:16 is the God kind of love, that conquers all, and forgives all, and redeems all, and fails none. This love did not begin as a remedy for man's fall, but was in place and at work, before man ever needed its work or a savior, in whom it was made manifest.

### **Matthew 6:8**

**“...for your Father knows the things you will have need of, even before you can ask Him for them.”**

A friend of mine told me, “the presence of the need is evidence of the supply.” Before man would even need a Redeemer, God had supplied a savior and “laid in store,” His plan of grace for man. The plan was in play, before man ever needed it.

Our great God is in the long term answer business. In fact, it is His “modus operandi” to complete the end of a matter, before He allows a matter to begin.

### **Isaiah 46:9-10 (NAS)**

**“I Am God, there is no one like Me, I declare the end from the beginning, and from ancient times, I proclaim things which have not yet been done, I say, My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish My good pleasure,”**

And so it was, with the plan of salvation, before man needed a savior, love had given one, to cover a need which did not yet exist. The end, salvation, was in play before the beginning, treason was acted out. In fact Revelation 13:8 spells it out, when Messiah is called our sacrificial lamb, slain (in the plan of God) before the founding of the world, was put into play.

It was an act of love that made a way back to God, before man and his treason would even necessitate such a need. Truly it is said, “before you ask, I will answer.”

God loved His “begotten” Son, and He loved His created son. His love knows no boundaries, and He would show “no respect of persons.” His love was such for His created son that He extended His begotten Son, as a covering and atonement.

### **John 17:24**

**Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

The Lord Jesus, our Messiah, was the instrument through which the Father God would demonstrate His love to man, even in man’s lost and dying state.

In God's love gift to man, two very different aspects of love are demonstrated.

First love is seen in an expression of the Father as a giver. God gave His gift of life (John 10:10b). Messiah stated, "if you have seen me, you have seen the Father." I am a visible, tangible expression of Him. Our Savior gave His all, in representation of the Father, who had already given His all (John 3:16).

Second, love is seen in the things our Lord allowed and endured. He showed the 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 degree of love as He embraced hurt, suffering, separation, judgment and dying. A surrendering in love, that covered all. The Father's love gave, forgave, covered, atoned and freely flowed to "whosoever." The Son's love paid the price.

Redeeming love was given at great cost, so that man could freely reap its benefits and blessings. We must understand that God loved the man He created, so deeply, that He would give His most valued possession to buy him back, to redeem him from eternal destruction.

Man, after the fall of Adam, was in hock so to speak, to the devil. God ransomed him, by paying the price to retrieve him from satan's clutches.

God's love was there for man, "in the beginning" of the world, making a way for man to re-enter the love he walked away from. Man turned away from God's love, but God's love never turned away from man.

God created sons to Himself, in the first Adam. When that level of love proved unfaithful, God introduced a greater, purer level of love, in the person of His begotten Son. Man, created in love, Adam the first, failed. God then gave pure love to man, in Adam the second, because love conquers all, and love, never fails.

As John 17: depicts, there was a family love, shared by God the Father and God the Son. A life giving love, that only obedience can appreciate. Hebrews 5:8 informs man, that Messiah, though a son without sin, learned obedience (a yielding to God's love) by the things which he suffered (allowed to happen). The first Adam did not learn this obedience, since he deviated from what love had said do.

Perfect love demands perfect acceptance. God the Creator placed His man in a garden utopia. It was a place where need, lack or suffering were not known. Man was given everything he would need to experience happiness and full supply.

Into this utopia God placed a test of man's obedience. A tree of the knowledge, of good and evil. God was not seeking robots who were programmed to love and obey Him, but men who would choose to trust and obey. A test would prove man's love and obedience to Lordship.

Lucifer had been successful in causing a revolt in Heaven, by enticing, through reason, angels (created beings) to depart from the living God to yield to Lucifer's deception. As long as the Angels remained one with "God said," they were in harmony with the creator. Once they departed from submission to the Creator's rule, they fell from grace.

From Matthew 6:10 the will of God is clearly defined. "Thy kingdom (rule) come into manifestation so that your will, will be fully complied with, on earth, the same way it is in heaven." In heaven, when the will of God was violated, Lucifer and one third of the angels who rebelled against the Lordship and will of God, were cast out, due to their lack of submission.

In the garden, the Lordship and will of the Creator would have to be upheld, the same way it was to be in heaven. Heaven or earth, God is the same, His will is supreme.

Lucifer, satan, the devil, took on the form of a created being (some believe it to have been a cat) and assumed a position in the forbidden tree. He appealed to Eve by example. He showed her the tree, he ate the fruit, (he was not under the restriction not to eat) and Eve, seeing Lucifer partake of the fruit, with no harm, entered into the deception and ate of the fruit.

Adam however was not under deception, he took the fruit from Eve and violated the will of the Creator by eating it. Submission was broken, love violated and God's rule challenged.

As long as Adam dealt with God out of his heart/spirit, they had harmony and fellowship. But, when Adam allowed himself to be led out of the realm of obedience and submission, into the realm of reason and natural calculation, he fell from grace.

Because of rebellion by way of treason, created man had to be driven out of the garden of full supply and divine provision, and into the cursed realm of work, labor and "self effort."

When Adam the first, sought to be one with the Kingdom will, plan and purpose of God, everything he needed was "added to him." When he violated God's love, he was banished from the outpost of heaven and its supply, to the land of labor, lack and self effort.

But, even in man's treasonous, fallen state, the love of God made sacrifice for them, clothed them with the skins of the sacrifice and gave them a prophesy of redemption.

The DNA of God in man was corrupted. Through disobedience, the blood line was polluted and man was incapable of fulfilling God's command to rule, under Him.

#### **Genesis 1:26-28**

**The Godhead agreed, God said let us make man in our likeness (image, a duplication in kind) and we will allow them to rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over everything that creeps on the earth.**

Man, in his treason, was outside submission. This took him out of fellowship with God the Father. Outside submission to God, man could no longer represent the rule of God. The spiritual tie was broken. Once man forsook likeness with God, to lower himself to the realm of reason, Lucifer became his lord and mankind was in bondage.

Man was now damaged goods, and could only reproduce damaged goods. Fallen man needed a Redeemer, to pull him out of the miry clay of failure.

The cycle of sin would be repeated in every child born of woman, until a blood transfusion of pure sinless blood could be reintroduced into the earth.

Sin is inherited or passed down from father to son. Sin is the fruit of rebellion and disobedience, passed down from father to child through their polluted blood. (The father determines a child's blood type)

The sin of failing to yield to Lordship can only be overcome by the act of yielding to Lordship. Rebellion is broken when submission is manifest.

Salvation is then the act of submitting to Lordship and embracing the free gift of the Son of God's love.

What God does for man in salvation is described in ***Colossians 1:13 (NAS) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.*** The way the work of salvation is accomplished is laid out in ***Romans 10:9-10 (NAS) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*** But it is all a work of God's love:

**Ephesians 2:4-8 (NAS)**

**But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;***

The story of salvation is a love story. Man failed, and to be redeemed and restored he needed a redeemer. One who would pay a debt He did not owe, to redeem a man through faithfulness, who had defected from faithfulness.

**"God remains faithful, when man is faithless" Romans 2:4 (NLT) ... "can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?"**