

Isaiah 12:2

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation.

Let me ask you a question. If you died today where would you spend eternity? Do you know for sure where you would go? There are only two choices - heaven or hell. You may not be sure where you are going. You may **think** you **know** where you are going, and you may even **believe** you know, but you could be terribly **mistaken!** *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* (Proverbs 14:12) If there is one thing that you **must** be absolutely **sure** about, it is about your salvation - where you will spend forever!

Some people don't even think about Jesus, salvation, or where they will spend eternity. They just live from day to day, doing their own thing, living their lives just like it was just "their own life!" Some people purposely live their lives against God - they purposely worship Satan, the god of this world, (2 Corinthians 4:4) instead of the Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth. Other people realize their need for a Savior - they see their sins which they have committed, and that they are separated from God because of them. They learned what Jesus did for them - that He died to take those sins away and that they didn't have to live with them anymore! (or the condemnation of them!) *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.* (1 John 3:4-10) They also learned that Jesus gave them **power** over sin and that they didn't have to sin anymore! They found out the truth and the truth (Jesus) set them **free!** (John 8:32) Do you think you are ready, or not, because one day, ready or not, it will be the day you meet Jesus face to face - and it could be today! Will you be heading home to heaven, or will you be making your eternal home in hell? Do you know for sure where you are going, because you can be sure!

Let me ask you another question. Do you hear God speaking to you or not? *Verily,*

verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the **door** into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the **door** is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (John 10:1-3) Let's face it: God's sheep (His children) hear His voice! Now therefore **hearken unto me, O ye children:** for **blessed** are they that **keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed** is the man that **heareth me**, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth **life**, and shall obtain **favours** of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death. (Proverbs 8:32-36)

Are you a follower of God (His sheep) or are you a goat? When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the **sheep** on His **right** hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His **right** hand, Come, ye **blessed** of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (Mathew 25:31-34)

There is a big difference between a goat and a sheep. The environment has to be protected from a goat, but the shepherd has to protect a sheep from its surroundings! We must depend on **God** to defend and protect us as His sheep. Another way to distinguish sheep, is that they are led by their shepherd - by his voice! They are submissive to him and will follow his voice and trust him to lead them to food, water, and safety. If a person's characteristics are more like a goat, they will take things, push you, eat anything and everything, buck you, destroy things, be opinionated, obstinate, and control you! A goat isn't led by anyone - it does the leading and its goatherd has to follow him! Instead of grazing and staying with their herd, like sheep do, goats wander around searching for whatever they want to eat. They are opinionated, stubborn, independent and sometimes destructive! As the Church, the Bride of Christ, we definitely want Jesus, our Great Shepherd (and husband) to lead us and take care of us!

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23)

NLT

Likewise, ye **wives**, (us) be in subjection to your own husbands; so that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the **hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a **meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price**. (1 Peter 3:1-4) Since we are the **bride of Christ**, we want to be pleasing to Him, right? The most important thing to God is who we are on the inside, which is where He looks when He looks at us! If we truly have the **Spirit of God living inside of us**, (if we are born again) then we will have a **meek and quiet spirit** because those are **God's characteristics!**

Don't ever think God is weak because He is meek though! **Meekness is a strength**, not a weakness! It actually means that God is **humble**, which is what we become as God's sheep. Also, don't ever think that God never says anything because He has a quiet spirit! The Greek word for "**quiet**" in this verse is hesuchios, which means **peaceable and undisturbed**, which is also what we become as God's sheep. (bride) Just think about it: If God is speaking, leading, protecting, guiding, and providing for us, why wouldn't **we** be humble and peaceful? We have the Great Shepherd leading us around, and He loves us so much that He laid down His life for us - He died for us!

Do you realize that God speaks to you every day? He is trying to lead you, protect you, guide you, help you, and bless you daily, but the people who aren't focused on God don't even know it! *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.* (Isaiah 26:3) The people who are only concentrating on what they are doing in this life on earth won't hear the Spirit of God. They won't hear the Lord when He tells them not to go somewhere or not to do something because it could be dangerous. They won't know when He tells them to go somewhere where they will be blessed! God's children avoid accidents, even death! We get good jobs - He leads us to them! God's children get good deals and good ideas - we are blessed! God guides us, gives us direction, provides for us, increases us, heals us, and prospers us and satisfies us in every way! He gives us His peace, His joy, and all His love! We belong to Him - We are His children and He takes care of us abundantly! He is El Shaddai, (the all-sufficient One!) Our God is **more than enough!**

I want you to know that God loves you very much! He loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for you - in your place, to bring you into right standing with Him! He invites you to accept His gift of salvation by receiving His Son, Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of your whole life! He wants to bring restoration to

you in every area of your life, spirit, soul, and body! Believe in God and in His Word (Jesus) - the living Word that came down from heaven, died, and rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven victorious over the devil and his ability to harm you in any way! Repent of your sins - turn from them and turn to God for salvation! Believe Him, receive Him, confess Him before men, and stand strong in Him! Remember: If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything!

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3) That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead**, thou **shalt be saved**. For with the **heart man believeth unto righteousness**; and with the **mouth confession is made unto salvation**. (Romans 10:9-10)*

Jody