



Resting In Your Salvation

By Javier Caballero

Taken from Javier's message at the 2018 CARBC Christian Workers Retreat

I want you to think for a moment about the day you were saved. Remember how you were convicted of your sin. I think that one of the most important things we can do as believers is remember: remember how merciful God has been to us. If you know that you have been saved by the mercy of God, your hope is set on the person of Jesus Christ. That is going to cause you to live differently, isn't it?

The most beautiful thing I have experienced is a clear conscience before God. Have you ever thought about what it means to have a clear conscience? Some of the most tormented people in the world are those who don't deal with sin properly. Faith helps us to avoid the pitfalls and traps of life. Faith brings us peace and security. God has given us the gift of a clear conscience through faith in Christ. What a precious gift!

The fact that the story of your life includes a chapter that's not good doesn't mean the story is over. Know that you will have some wonderful experiences down the road that resulted from serious disappointments, because God is working and because He is not going to give up on anyone until it is all said and done.

If you're committed to the Lord and you're serving Him, I want you to know that the trials and tribulations you face are the very thing that God is using to help you become more like Christ.

In all of the challenges you face, I don't want you to lose the wonder of His amazing and great mercy. I don't want you to lose the wonder of the fact that God has committed Himself to you and will not let you go until the work is done. I don't want you to lose the wonder of the fact that He is truly refining you as a servant and helping you to grow and mature and become more like our Savior each day. I don't want you to lose the wonder of the fact that He has given you the opportunity to know Him and to love Him.

Our faith is a gift. Our relationship with Jesus Christ is a precious gift. This gift is our hope—not our church attendance, not our annual budget, not how many missionaries we support, not how successful a conference we've held. The salvation you have because of your communion with God has to be the foundational truth you turn to, to find peace even in the midst of trials. You belong to the Lord and no one shall ever separate you from His hand.

Javier Caballero is pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Yuba City.



Ken and Terry Doan Honored

In September 1998 Ken and Terry Doan, with their two young boys, pulled out of Anchorage, Alaska, to begin their 3,000-mile drive to Vacaville, Calif. Just two weeks earlier, the members of Orchard Avenue Baptist Church had voted to call the Doans as their next pastor and wife.

The Doans continue to serve at Orchard to today—Ken as senior pastor and Terry as the church's office manager. Ken and Terry say, "The blessing of being at one ministry for so long is the depth of relationships that are built and established. After twenty years in one location, you become like family, and this support has meant so much to us through the years."

During their time at Orchard, God has been faithful on many levels. Through dedication and sacrificial giving, Orchard built a 500-seat auditorium in 2003 and paid that off in less than seven years. The Orchard staff now has two associate pastors and a secretary. The church has also seen the start of many community outreach events over the years. One, called Sheltering the Homeless, is held for one week each February, when Orchard feeds and houses their homeless neighbors for the week. Fall Palooza is held on Oct. 31, and includes, games, music, and plenty of candy. Because of the church's proximity to two highly decorated streets at Christmas, Orchard provides free parking and cocoa to visitors. The latter two events have hundreds of people attend each night. Gospel tracts and church invites are distributed at these events as well.

On Oct. 4, 2015, under the leadership of Pastor Doan, Orchard partnered with Pastor Steve and Karen Borders to start a Hispanic church, Iglesia Bautista Esperanza. God is blessing that ministry in wonderful ways, including the addition of an assistant pastor, Edgar Ramos, and his fiancé, Tyler. Paul Moore, family pastor at Orchard said, "In a time where the term of a pastor is relatively short lived, Orchard Avenue Baptist Church is deeply grateful for the Doans, and to the Lord for allowing the Doans to be a part of this family for twenty years now!"

The Doans were honored by the church with a special celebration on Aug. 5, as well as a paid trip to Italy that they will enjoy later this year.



Pastoral Changes:

Carl Hodson to Thousand Oaks (Calif.) Baptist Church as pastor.
Ken Campbell from Faith Baptist, Stockton, Calif.

Churches Seeking a Pastor:

Western Avenue Baptist, Brawley; Deaf Baptist, San Jose; Faith Baptist, Stockton; Faith Baptist, Strathmore.

Ministry Perspectives:

Holy Spirit Evangelism

by Randall Pollard

I've been a Baptist all my life, literally! Regular Baptist at that! My family's time as missionaries in Brazil under Baptist Mid-Missions helped persuade me that I needed to understand more about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Our churches have really struggled of late in evangelism, and we haven't exactly been outstanding in holy living. Both are areas of the Christian life affected by the Holy Spirit.

A few years back I noticed how the Holy Spirit was really the active agent in evangelism in the New Testament. These made me think, "What if we've so overreacted to the Charismatic movement that we've quenched or grieved the Holy Spirit so that we're not really even listening to His directing in our lives?" I began asking God to show me. I prayed for several months that He would fill me with the Holy Spirit (I think that much is okay, since Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled) and to use me to share the gospel by His leading.

One day about two years ago I prayed like that before going to play soccer at the local sports club. On that day, Arad, new to America from Iran, showed up; I had briefly met him before. I walked in and Arad greeted me: "Hey Randy, you know how I remember your name?"

"No."

"Randy C _____," some professional wrestler he had seen on TV. Since I'm big, Arad associated me with him.

Just then, I heard my voice answer back, "And you know how I remember your name?"

"No."

"Your name is in the Bible!" (Just that week I had stumbled across his name in my Bible reading. Yup! First Chronicles 8:15.)

So how do you suppose that 18-year-old Iranian youth in America responded to that? He said, "Oh, well maybe this is why I need to change religions!"

Was this the answer to my prayers? Could that be the Holy Spirit leading? So I invited him for coffee. For an hour Arad hung on every word as I shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with my new friend. In a later conversation, I suggested that he ask God to show to him if Jesus is real. Weeks later, Arad called me to tell me that he had trusted in Jesus as his Savior. This past year I had the immense privilege of baptizing Arad at Sierra Baptist Church. He's very happy with his new faith!

Arad brought his mother, Anna, to church. She was amazed by the love she felt. We got her a Bible in Farsi

See Holy Spirit cont.

