

MIRACLES OF SAVING GRACE

BY

John Waiter Halliday

AUTHOR OF

“Finding Jesus Fully in Our Atomic Age”

“Daily Triumphant Through Christ in These Trying Times”

“Immortal Life”

1950

SIGNS PUBLISHING COMPANY

WARBURTON, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Miracles Of Saving Grace

FOREWORD

MY AIM in preparing this book has been to inspire followers of Christ through these miracles of saving grace in the winning of the lost. To encourage those who may be unsatisfied with their present Christian experience to give themselves more fully to Christ; and to help those who are not converted to find Christ for themselves as their own personal Savior.

J. W. H.

CONTENTS

Forgiveness Through Christ
Right Now Accepting Christ
Two Died for Him
Just As I Am
Abide With Me
Making the Test
Piloted by Christ
Seeker and an Infidel Accept Christ
Leap for Life
Professor Bushnell's Conversion
Transformed Through Christ
Christ's Everlasting Love
Kept by the Power of God
Heart Hunger Satisfied
Conversion of a Minister
Pardoned Through Christ
Saved Just in Time
Bridging the Gap
Signaling God
A Double Miracle of Saving Grace
The Greatest Miracle of Saving Grace

Forgiveness Through Christ

ONE OF the most important phases of one's personal preparation for Christ's soon coming is to have the assurance of forgiveness of all sins. Many professed Christians do not have this certainty. When this important step has been taken, however, the new peace and power that come into the life make it easier to take every other step required in thoroughly preparing for the return of Jesus.

The question naturally arises, "How shall I become assured of forgiveness?" Take the words of Jesus as your guide: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened." Luke 11:9,10. This admonition means that if one is desirous of being forgiven and seeks earnestly for it, he will surely obtain it.

An encouraging example is that of a young man who later became a celebrated Bible commentator, Dr. Adam Clarke. A preacher once asked young Adam, "Do you think that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven your sins?" He replied, "No, sir. I have no evidence of this." The preacher then urged him to pray for it, and he did so. Although in doing so he seemed to enter into mental stress and strain, nevertheless he persevered. One morning he went out to his usual labor in the fields. He began work, but could not continue. So he fell on his knees and tried to pray, but he seemed to lose his strength and could not pray. He tried again, but only thick darkness seemed to settle down upon him. He fell flat on his face, still trying to pray. He appeared to be separated from God, and it seemed to him that the separation would be eternal.

What he could say or what he could do to find forgiveness, he knew not. It was all a great mystery to him. But in the midst of his fearful perplexity words were whispered into his mind, "Pray to Christ!" So he looked up trustingly toward Him, letting his heart go out for the peace and forgiveness that he longed for so deeply. He received what he desired, and his agony of mind passed away! He then examined his conscience, but found no condemnation. He looked for his distress of mind, but could not find it. He did find, however, that a wonderful change had taken place in him. He was filled with an indescribable happiness. A great light and wonderful peace had sprung up in his soul. It seemed to him that he had entered into a new and glorious world.

Do you think that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven your sins? If your answer is No, you can be certain that you can have the same full assurance-and just as readily-as did Adam Clarke. Will you not then seek for it as perseveringly as he did? How much he was willing to go through for the peace and joy of forgiveness! He knocked till the door of heaven was opened to his longing desire. You can do the very same. Jesus eagerly waits to bestow upon you His heavenly peace that passes all understanding. The promise reads, "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7. So if to any extent you find yourself lacking in a thorough knowledge of sins forgiven (and the deep and abiding peace that such a knowledge brings), would not you also be blessed by following Clarke's course. If you pray to Christ as did this young man, lifting up your heart longingly to Him for the pardon and peace that He died on the cross to bring within your reach, would you not receive both abundantly? And if many difficulties seem to stand in your way, would you not still be happier by persevering till victory is gained?

How precious is the harmony with Heaven thus gained, and how great are the blessings received! How glad you would be that you took the decisive step, linking your soul with that of the Savior by offering up to Him words of prayer like these: "O dear Savior, I do lift up my heart in prayer to Thee for the forgiveness and peace it cost Thee so much on the cross to bring to me. I come perseveringly, as Thou has told me to come. And I claim the answer and believe in Thy forgiveness and peace, in harmony with Thy divine promise. With this decisive step taken, you will have a true experience in the full and free forgiveness for all past sins. And forward in a what peace and joy will be yours in going true Christian life!

Right Now Accepting Christ

A MINISTER was earnestly giving his message one night. He was impressing upon his congregation the fact that the most opportune time to accept Christ is when the Spirit of God moves upon the soul. He pressed this fact home to the hearts of his hearers as he said, "When you have a religious impression, the time to act upon it is right then. When you hear God's call and you know you ought to respond, the time to do so is right then."

Was the preacher right? Indeed he was. How appealing is the God-inspired invitation: "Today, after so long a time; ... today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 4:7. Then to those who hear God's call, the appealing question of the Apostle Paul comes as an urgent warning, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:3.

The convincing words of the minister deeply touched a young man in the congregation. God had spoken to him, and he realized that his golden moment to accept Christ had come. He arose from his seat, stepped out into the aisle, walked down to the front, and said, "It shall be right now that I take Christ as my Savior!" That was all, but he meant every word of it. He had accepted Christ as his Savior, and the great problem of his life was settled.

The next morning the young man went to work as usual in the sawmill where he was employed. Christ was dwelling richly in his heart, and he began singing as an expression of his happiness. Song after song sprang from his lips, and he sang at his work all morning. But just before noon he became caught in the machinery and was fearfully injured. When the men got him out, he said faintly, "Send for the preacher that preached in the church house at the foot of the mountains last night." He was soon found, and he hastened up to the mill. Bending sympathetically over his dying young convert, he took him by the hand and said, "Charley, I have come. What would you like to say?" There was a smile on Charley's face that only Heaven could bestow, and he faintly pressed the minister's hand and said, "Wasn't it a glorious thing that I settled it in time?"

How often the tender invitation of Jesus is whispered into the heart in time to save, and how glorious it is when it is accepted in time! Just as soon as the heavenly invitation is accepted and the soul surrenders to Jesus, a son is born into Christ's heavenly kingdom. This always brings joy to the soul. No wonder Charley sang so freely and so fully!

Have you settled this most important matter of accepting Christ as your own individual Savior? If not, as you have seen the glorious results of so doing, would you like to do so? Jesus Himself longs inexpressibly for you to give yourself to Him. With Him by your side by His Spirit to help you, you would be victorious in living for Him. So will you not do so? if you will, then say as did Charley, "Right now I take Christ as my Savior!"

How glad you will then be! How you will rejoice in being able to say, "Wasn't it a glorious thing that I settled it." How happy Jesus will be over you! And how happy the angels will be as they rejoice over you before God, your heavenly Father!

**"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today For a soul, returning from the wild;
See! The Father meets him out upon the way, Welcoming His weary, wandering child.**

**"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today, For the wanderer now is reconciled;
Yes, a soul is rescued from his sinful way And is born anew, a ransomed child."**

WILLIAM O. CUSHING

Two Died for Him

THE SEA sparkled and the birds sang sweetly one beautiful morning after a fearful storm. On shore a lady and a sailor stood beholding a ship, the wreckage of which showed the strength of the storm. After lamenting any loss of life that may have occurred, the sailor asked, "Do you know the Savior?" The lady then asked him how long he had known the Savior, for all was well with her soul. He replied, "It's nigh on to, five years. ... Never will I forget it, for two died for me."

"Two?" she questioned.

"Yes, ma'am, two. My Savior died for me eighteen hundred years ago on Calvary's cross, and my mate died for me just five years ago, and that brought me to my Savior."

Then he told of the shipwreck when his mate died in his stead. In a terrible storm the vessel was driven on a rock. Signals of distress brought out a lifeboat from the shore. It hardly seemed possible for it to reach them, but it did. The women and children were first taken ashore. Then the sailors knew that some of them must die, for the ship would surely sink before the lifeboat could reach them the fourth time. So they drew lots to know who should go and who should stay.

"My lot was to stay in the sinking ship. What a horror of darkness came over me! 'Doomed to die and be damned,' I muttered to myself, and all the sins of my life came before me. Still I made no outward sign, but, oh, ma'am, between my soul and God it was awful! I had a mate who loved the Lord. Often he had spoken to me of my soul's welfare, and I had laughed and told him I meant to enjoy life. Though he stood by my side, I could not even ask him to pray for me. I wondered why he did not speak to me of the Savior. I understood it afterward. His face, when I once caught a glimpse of it, was calm and peaceful and lighted up with a strange light. I thought bitterly, 'It is well for him to smile; his lot is to go into the lifeboat, to be saved.' Dear old Jim, how could I ever have so mistaken you?"

"Well, ma'am, the lifeboat neared us again. One by one the men whose lot it was to go got in. It was Jim's turn, but instead of going into the lifeboat, he pushed me forward, 'Go you in the lifeboat in my place, Tom,' he said, 'and meet me in heaven, man! You mustn't die and be damned! It is all right for me.' I would not have let him do it, but I was carried forward. The next one, eager to come, pressed me on. Jim knew it would be like that, so he had never told me what he was going to do. A few seconds, and I was in the lifeboat. We had barely cleared the ship when she went down, and Jim, dear old Jim, with her. But, madam, he died for me!"

As the ship went down, Tom said in his heart, "If I get safely to land, Jim shall not have died in vain. Please, God, I will meet him in heaven! Jim's God must be worth knowing, when Jim died for me that I might get another chance of knowing Him."

It did not take long for him to find the Savior, but at first he did not know how to begin. He was continually seeing Jim go down with the sinking ship with the quiet smile of peace on his face, day and night awake and asleep. At the beginning he seemed to think more of Jim than of the Lord. Then he bought a Bible, for Jim had loved it so. But before he began to read it, he offered up a little prayer, telling the Lord how ignorant he was about the way to heaven, and asking Him to show him how to get there. Then he began reading the New Testament, but after reading several chapters he became discouraged, for every line seemed to condemn him. So he said to himself, "It's no use, Tom. There is no chance for you. You have been too bad." But as he closed his Bible, suddenly Jim's last words came to him with power: "Meet me in heaven, man!" So he opened the Bible again and kept on reading it in all his spare moments. Then he told how he found the Savior:

"At last I came to that part about the two thieves, and the Lord saving the one; and I thought, 'Here is a man almost as bad as I am.' So I dropped my Bible and fell down on my knees and said, 'Lord, I am as bad as that thief. Will You save me just like You did him?' My Bible had dropped down open, and as I opened my eyes after praying this, they fell on these words: 'Verily I say unto thee shall thou be with Me in Paradise.' I took them as my answer. So I went down on my knees again and thanked Him. Of course I was very ignorant, but bit by bit I saw the way of salvation-how Jesus had died instead of me and taken away all my sins by His precious blood."

There are many who feel much like the sailor: that they are too wicked to be forgiven. They behold their sins, but not the Savior. Let them behold Jesus as He breathes out His spirit into the hands of

Miracles Of Saving Grace

His Father. "Father," He cries, "into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Luke 23:46. The mighty God, who rules the universe, was still H's Father, even at the very moment of death. Does not that fact ensure Christ's power to save and reward to the uttermost the worst of sinners who turns to Him for salvation like the thief on the cross?

There are those who long to meet their faithful loved ones in heaven at last, but know not the way. But as they persevere in their search to know the way, the dear Savior, with infinite tenderness of compassion, opens up the way before them and encourages them to put their trembling hand in His and let Him lead them all the way to the Paradise above. They may have been deeply sunk in sin, but as they turn to Him like the dying thief and grasp His wonderful promise that they will be with Him in His matchless kingdom, the peace of Heaven enters their hearts, a new and holy life is begun in them, and they go forward with rejoicing in the faithful service of their Lord and Savior.

Just As I Am

JESUS calls to us to come to Him just as we are, no matter what our sins are or how great they may be, or how heavy may be the burden we carry because of them. His great appeal is, "Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28,29. Many take their own way in trying to be saved: Some simply try to be good; others try to live like Christians; and still others try to reach heaven by their good works or great efforts. All these imitations fail. They will not lead us to Christ, nor will they lead us to heaven.

When we at last respond to Christ's tender invitation to come to Him, He lifts from us our heavy burdens and lets us go free. Our sins are taken from us, and our souls' needs are richly supplied, so that we may live happy and victorious Christian lives. For all this we have the promise, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. When we come to Jesus just as we are, we come to Him just as He is. We are finite. He is infinite. He makes all the changes necessary to transform us into true followers of Him.

Let us consider two striking examples of those who have had this experience. The first is that of Charlotte Elliott. She longed to come to Christ, but knew not how. So she went to a saintly man well along in years and asked him the way. He said, "It is very simple. You have but simply to come to Jesus." Then she said, "But I am a very great sinner. Will He take me just as I am?" "Yes," he answered, "He will take you just as you are, and no other way." So she made up her mind to go to Jesus just as she was, and said to him, "If He will take me just as I am, then I will come."

So she went home and tried to come to Jesus in the simplest way she could. Then taking pen and paper and putting her thoughts into poetry, she wrote down her simple yet complete and touching way of coming to Jesus, the first two stanzas of which are the following:

**"Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bids me come to Thee.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**"Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."**

In due time the words were set to most appropriate music by a leading composer, William B. Bradbury, and they have doubtless won a great number of people to Christ.

Then there is the story of a certain transformed drunkard. He had fallen so low that his family had disowned him, and even his wife had cast him off. One night, footsore and penniless, he stumbled into the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. Someone was singing "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." It just

