

Letter 437
On Closer Scrutiny
2016-01-21

Dear Dan,

A variety of thoughts have occurred to me periodically in the last year or so concerning my own salvation. In Letter 03 Volume 01, I tell how I got saved. But is the event recounted in this letter actually when I got saved (born again)? Or, is there more to it that still needs to be discovered?

As I have been contemplating these thoughts, I have come up with a little different time-line than I have previously described. Please allow me to explain.

Scripture says that:

*“... And it shall come to pass that
whoever calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.”*
Acts 2:21

In Letter 02a I describe the first prayer that I remember praying on my own when I was about 5 years old. According to the verse above, I was saved at that time. This was when I was involved in my first (and only) tricycle wreck. I became so frightened that I prayed to the Lord Jesus. That is when I called on His Name to save me from potential coyotes and other danger.

So later, when I was thrown out of the car by an evil spirit (see Letter 02b), I was “pre-qualified” for angelic protection, since I was already “in Christ” when this happened.

Additionally I have reason to believe that prior to this I was dedicated to Christ by my parents shortly after being born, at the Church of the Nazarene in Portland, Oregon.

Given this fact, how then should I characterize what happened at the camp meeting when I was seven, and went up to the altar to pray, and found myself weeping uncontrollably until after everyone else left?

And because of the Gospel Message of holiness before God I heard, I was indeed repenting for my sins at the conviction of the Holy Spirit. But this was also the Lord Holy Spirit anointing me with His gifts at that time, setting in me a heart of compassion for the lost, the suffering, the abused, and the dysfunctional.

This was also the Lord Holy Spirit weeping for me, knowing that I would have to endure some really weird shit in my life from Satan and His resources.

Given this viewpoint, how then should I characterize what happened at the camp-meeting

(see Letter 04 Volume 01) when I was fourteen and spoke in tongues? This was the power of the Lord Holy Spirit being manifested on, in and through me, enabling me to speak with languages from Heaven, and then later as I matured in the knowledge of Christ to grow in a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit and His angels.

And then there are these two supporting facts. My Mom told me one time that she found herself in an argument with my Dad about going to Church. She was pregnant with me at the time, and she decided it was more important for her to attend Church than to have peace with Dad.

That firm decision on the part of my mom is very likely what brought salvation into our house so that later on Dad would give his own heart to Jesus.

But my own awareness of Jesus first appeared when I was two or three and still living in Portland. I had occasion to accompany my Mom to a Christmas service. I saw a bearded man at the front of the church, who was one of the actors portraying Joseph or one of the Wise Men, and, seeing one of the bearded men, I said out loud to my Mom:

“LOOK MOM, THERE’S JESUS”.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus