

The salvation of my soul

I am a human in search of the salvation of my soul, first and foremost. I trust that God will help me to achieve this goal. Whatever I may go through in the sojourn of this world's journey, be it trouble, turmoil, sorrow, problems, or joy, honor, and praise, all of which will not change my steadfast goal of seeking the salvation of my soul...

Whatever my status or degree is, whatever my capabilities are, I heed, first and foremost, the salvation of my soul. What do I profit if I gain the whole world and lose myself? (Matthew 16:26). For the end of my faith is the **salvation of my soul**. (1 Peter 1:9)! I trust that God's redemptive plan for me will rectify my foot steps in the path of salvation. Through good or bad, winning or losing, honor or humiliation, appreciation or injustice, and through all kinds of events, God seeks to purify me, discipline me, and to prepare me to eternity.

He wants me to be a sanctified bride, without blemish, to Himself. He wants me to be qualified for the kingdom (Ezek. 16). He is able to do so if I become responsive to His will and through His guidance, consolation, testing, and discipline.

Even though discipline is perceived initially to be grief rather than joy (Hebrews 12:11), nonetheless, it brings fruits of righteousness and goodness in my life (Romans 8:28).

I believe that the most important support to achieve the salvation of my soul are four factors:

1 – **Steadfastness in the Holy Church:** For she is the rescue ship and the harbor of salvation. And she is the factory that produces saints and sends them to heaven. And she is the treasure chest of the divine grace which nourishes the soul and fills the spirit. She is the beacon that lights the way of the sojourners through her pure teachings, life giving sacraments, its fathers, and its saints. **She is the mother who gives birth to many children for God.**

My steadfastness in the church strengthens my steadfastness in Christ and builds my life in Him. I can not live with Christ outside of the fellowship of the church, and there is no salvation for me outside the church.

2 – **Holding on to the Biblical commandment:** The commandment of love, the commandment of purity, the commandment of forbearance and forgiveness, the commandment of prayer, and the rest of the commandments which are everlasting life (John 12:50). As written in the psalm: ***“Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction”*** (Ps. 119:92)

The commandment is my support, my light, and my strength. The more I follow the commandment in my footsteps, the more they become steadfast, successful, and in the right direction.

The commandment is essential for my salvation, it provides me with spirit of wisdom and discernment, therefore, I cherish it, and continuously ponder upon it. And I try to delve into the depth of understanding it, and ask from God the strength to fulfill it in my life.

3 – **The spirit of perseverance:** I need to always persevere and without ceasing in order to attain the salvation of my soul in fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). I need to practice patience and be constantly vigilant. If I falter, I would cry out with Prophet Micah, saying: ***“Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.”*** (Micah 7:8).

I also need to continue trading with my talents, continue to behave faithfully, continue to participate in building the kingdom, and witnessing to it no matter what the challenges may be.

4 – **To be adorned with Humility:** for humility smashes all the snares of the devils, it always makes me reliant on God and not on my own self, and it confirms in me the spirit of discipleship for my Fathers. Humility always makes me endure all hardships with thanksgiving. And it protects me from being proud no matter how much I become successful and famous, for all goodness in my life is a grace from God. And I am nothing but a cheap clay pot which God has honored by putting the treasures of His grace in it so it became of a value. Without grace, it goes back to dust and ashes once more.

Lord Jesus... Help me to attain the salvation of my soul, for other than my salvation I desire nothing in life.

القصة يوحنا نصيف

fryohanna@hotmail.com