

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH AND URIAH
#10 - THE EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION
MEETING CHRIST BY THE CAMPFIRE





The music played softly in the background. In the stillness, the strumming of the guitar blended in with the chirps of the night birds and the occasional croaking frog. It was summer camp, but this evening was different.

Tonight was the final night for the week of prayer, an entire week focused on spending quality time getting to know the Creator. Uriah decided to come because two of his friends from church encouraged him. He didn't know many people and yet he seemed to make so many friends within the first day.

There was a speaker, Pastor Greene, that spoke every evening about the love of God. Uriah was familiar with several of the messages, but there was something about this final night.

With all of the campers standing (some with hands lifted toward the sky), a few made a decision to follow Jesus and give their hearts to Him in baptism. Pastor Greene paused his sermon and picked up the guitar. The song he played was well-known, but this time it sounded different. It seemed personal. It was as if Uriah was the only one in the campsite. The group sang softly, and Pastor Greene looked directly at him (or so it seemed) and asked, “Have you decided to be a follower of Jesus? Are you aware of God’s immense love just for you? Will you accept the life Christ desires for your life...?”

A tear welled up in the corner of Uriah’s eye as he thought about the love of God. He reflected on his life and how he never made a public decision to follow Jesus. “What if God allowed me to come to camp just to make a decision to follow Him?” He thought.

Pastor Greene made his appeal and He knew he needed to make the bold decision and accept the invitation. The next few moments were surreal. Pastor Greene began to answer questions as he was thinking them...

1) “How am I saved?” Uriah thought. Pastor Greene started his appeal by saying “Salvation comes only through Christ.”

Acts 4:12 - “_____ is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” .

John 14:6 - Jesus answered , “I am the way and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the _____ except through me

2) Uriah shrugged the thought off, but a new one came in. “I’ve done too much and I could never do enough good things for God to accept me.” It was as if the pastor could hear him as he continued saying, “We will never be good enough. That’s why God extends His grace and mercy to us.”

Titus 3:5 - “...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He _____ us through the washing of rebirth and _____ by the Holy Spirit.”

3) Before Uriah could get his next ideas together, Pastor Greene’s next statement blew him out of the water. He said, “God is going to take you on a journey. It’s called the process of sanctification – where He matures us into the men and women He wants us to be. The growth is slow at times, but God never gives up on us.”

Philippians 1:6 - “being confident of this, that he who began a good _____ in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

4) Pastor Greene continued, “Some of you may be asking, ‘Pastor Greene, How do I respond to God’s move in my life? What does that look like?’”

Philp 1:9-11 - ‘And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.’”

5) “You may be wondering how this works. Well, I’m glad you asked,” Pastor Greene said with a chuckle. “Once we accept Jesus as our Savior, He will work inside of us through the Holy Spirit. He literally wants to dwell inside of us each and every day.”

Romans 8:11 - “And if the Spirit of him who _____ Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the _____ will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”

6) With the campers engaged on his words, Pastor Greene shared, “One of the biggest challenges to accepting Christ, is looking at others and wondering why we aren’t growing as fast as they are. The apostle Paul, who wrote the majority of the New Testament, admonishes us from his experience, that Christians continue to grow and develop daily. The more we learn about Jesus and His love for us, the greater we recognize our need for Him.”

Philippians 3:13-14 - “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the _____ for which God has called me _____ in Christ Jesus.”

7) “When we come to Jesus, three things take place,” Pastor Greene shared as he closed his message.

- **Justification** is to be declared right. It addresses one’s past. It is **imputed** righteousness. Once we accept Jesus, He forgives us and looks at us Just-if-I’d never sinned.
- **Sanctification** is to be made right. It addresses one’s present. It is **imparted** righteousness where Jesus, through the Holy Spirit working in us, helps us to mature every day until Jesus comes.

- **Glorification** is to remade right. It addresses one's future. It is **realized** righteousness. This occurs when Jesus returns to take His people to heaven.

Uriah slid out of his row to walk up front when he heard Pastor Greene invite the campers to make a decision for Jesus Christ. He felt a peace flood his body as he knew that accepting a new life in Jesus was the best decision he could have ever made.