

Life Outside the Box!

Part 1: "Salvation!"

Think About It... When mankind fell, everything went "inside the box" and "under the lid!" We were hemmed in and banging our heads against the "lid!" Then Jesus came w/a plan *completely* outside the box! Now life is outside the box!

Just finished w/marriage "outside the box!" Society has an *idea* of marriage... God has the *design* for it! The Great Mystery! Two-made-One! Giving and living in love that alters its course for the sake of another! Inseparable, impenetrable, inextricable!

Marriage is Better Outside The Box!
Everything is Better Outside The Box!

Take "salvation" for instance!

Hebrews 2.1-4 We must we keep a firm hold on what we've heard so that the truth doesn't leak out. If the word delivered by angels was binding and every violation had a penalty, *how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation which was delivered by the Lord*, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him... *salvation validated by God with signs and wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His will?*

Salvation was meant to be an out of the box experience! And that is not true of most believers! For many it is just feathers in the bottom of the box of life!

In-the-Box Salvation! A religious experience you inherit from family... A sacred add-on to your life; giving you assurance of life *after-here*... A private relationship you have with God that makes little difference/public life... A subject you only talk about in "proper" circles! An "experience" with God that keeps Him at a reasonable, respectable distance... An experience w/God where He is like a mafia "father-in-law..." An experience w/God that is like a black and white movie... An experience w/God as an "entitlement" manager!

And the enemy of our salvation loves that kind of salvation! Hates losing you to salvation... But there's nothing he can do about it once you're "bought..." Once he's over it, he doesn't mind your salvation if it can be kept in the box! So no one sees your light... No one hears about your story... And no one joins you in faith! But our salvation was meant to take us out of the box!

Out-of-the-Box Salvation! A transformation revolution that stirs the lives of family and friends... The old man is dead and the new man begins living "now..." A personal relationship with God that permeates every aspect of life... A subject you shout from the rooftops! An adoption that draws you near to your God's chest! A fearless relationship w/the God of Creation, Master of the Universe, who you call "Dad!" A daily adventure with God shot thru w/living color! A God who supplies all you need on the pathway to your mission!

1John 3.8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. In text, He did that before and at the Cross... But He continued to do it after as well because He passed the initiative onto us! ***The only reason we were left behind was to destroy the works of the evil one!***

Left behind... Preeminently, to destroy the works of sin and death by proclaiming salvation in Christ! Then to reclaim every broken body, mind, heart and spirit! And restore lost hope and mission and purpose! *What else if not this? And how?*

By sharing our lives and stories with everyone in the realm of our influence!

Matthew 28.19,20 "Go!" Therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and I will be with you always, even to the end of the world! **Acts 1.8** Be witnesses of Me both in Jerusalem (your

city) and Judea (your county) and Samaria (your region) and the uttermost parts of the earth... but don't try any of it without the power of the Holy Spirit...

No Substitutions! Can't substitute world missions giving for neighborhood watch! Can't minister to family and not care about the city! Cannot do one part and leave the other undone! **Mt23.23** Need the Holy Spirit to do it all effectively! **Acts 1.4** And He is available! **Lk11.13**

SWAIGTDWWIKN?

Frame up my story in aspect form! Aspect: a specific vantage point, an exposure facing a particular direction... You can't tell a life story without taking a lifetime to tell it... So pick a relevant topic and speak up!

Like Courtney... She just posted her story on fb; maybe two pages of typing! Aspect: being drawn by the Holy Spirit, thru Stefanie, via VBS! "Just coming to give something and lead kids to Jesus!" Instead, came and had an encounter w/Him and saw her own brokenness! **And people near and far responded with tears of empathy and joy!**

Frame up many stories in aspect form! The beauty of His life in you is composed of many "facets!" Each one comes alive as you are turned or the light is changed! Marriage? "I have a facet for that!" Sickness/money/addictions/ whatever the topic... *sparkle!*

Be prepared to deliver your facet, convenient or not! "Be instant..." **2Tim4.2** "Don't be ashamed of the good news of Jesus in your life for it is the power of God to save people who believe!" **R1.16** "How can they believe in Him if they have not heard about Him and what He does?" **R10.14**