

The Flying Free Podcast with Natalie Hoffman, Episode 355 - Do You Need Someone to Rescue You?

Heads up, friend: What you're about to read is a raw, unedited transcript straight from the robots. That means you'll find some weird words, funky punctuation, and moments that make you go, "Huh?" If you want the real experience (and to actually know what's going on), I recommend reading the polished article, listening to the full episode, or watching it on 1.5x speed with captions on. Your brain will thank you.

Natalie: What if everything you've ever been taught about salvation was wrong? I'm not talking about losing your faith. I'm talking about finally finding it. If you've lived in fear that God's love depends on your obedience, this conversation will shake the foundation of that lie, and maybe for the first time, let you experience what being rescued is really all about.

Let me take you to a hotel room. I'm sitting on the bed surrounded by 20 years of journals from my marriage, and as I read through page after page of pain, confusion, and prayers for God to fix my situation, I make a decision and decide to divorce my husband. In that moment, the moment that everyone told me would separate me from God forever.

I experienced something that I can only describe as euphoric joy. The Holy Spirit's love floods. My heart and peace fills my entire being. I experience my salvation not because I earned it in that moment, not because I finally did something right, but because maybe for the second time in my life I actually believed I was already saved.

I believed God loved me. I'm gonna use that word a lot, belief, and you're gonna, you know, hopefully by the end of this episode, you will see what I'm talking about when I say the word believe. I believed that not only did God love me, but I truly believed that he was powerful and good, and that belief that is what allowed me to experience what was already mine all along.

But here's what I wanna talk about today. I think a lot of Christians don't actually know what salvation is. I mean, we say we believe, we say things like, if you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and that God raised 'em from the dead, then you will be saved. We talk about receiving Jesus into our hearts.

We tell our children, receive Jesus into your hearts, right? We pay lip service to grace, but we don't actually believe it. How do I know? Because of how we live. I spent decades of my life striving to be obedient, trying to work out my salvation with fear and trembling, and I mean real fear, not the reverend all kind.

I was terrified that God wasn't gonna accept me, worried that I would make the wrong decision. Was I gonna take the wrong turn? Was I gonna go fall down some slippery slope into sin? Everywhere I turned, I was afraid, is this the right choice? Is this the wrong choice? I stayed in this emotionally and spiritually abusive marriage because I believed God disapproved of divorce.

The people around me also believed this. They would quote that verse from Malachi about how God hates divorce, and then I would feel trapped. What I didn't know then, and what they didn't know, and maybe they still don't know, I don't know, is that verse doesn't actually say what we think it says. The prophet Malachi was talking to the men of Israel who were discarding their wives.

They were doing violence to them by throwing them away. For other women, the word isn't even divorce as we understand it. Legally today, the word is put away. God hates the pudding away. The violence, the betrayal that was, that was taking place. This is what Malachi is doing.

He is talking to those men who are doing that. God is speaking through Malachi to those men. In fact, back in Deuteronomy, the law that God gave, Israel said that if a man did put away his wife, he had to give her a certificate of divorce so she could remarry. Why? Because what he was doing was wrong. The least he could do is to set her free legally completely so that she could go and remarry in order to be able to be supported and provided for. God's heart was for the women.

The innocent, the vulnerable, those who are being taken advantage of. But I didn't know that back then, so I just kept working harder. I believe that if I homeschooled, I was a better Christian if I played scripture versus on cassette tapes. As my children fell asleep, I was a better Christian. If I spent the right amount of time in Bible reading and prayer every morning.

I was the better Christian, all of the things, and underneath all of that striving was this constant terror of not measuring up. Here's why I believe Christians work so hard like this, because we don't actually believe. That what Christ did

was enough. We don't actually believe that God loves us the way good parents on this planet love their children unconditionally, protectively, sacrificially.

I mean, we say we believe with our lips, but the way we're living tells a completely different story, and we live the way we truly believe. We don't believe that God is powerful enough to save us without us helping him out a little bit. You know, doing some extra things to help save ourselves, right? We've gotta make our clean ourselves up and make ourselves a little bit worthy.

We don't believe that God is loving enough to accept us just as we are. Even though the Bible is actually full, it's literally overflowing with verses about how God has loved us and how he has already saved us. The prophets talked about how he was gonna do it, and then the New Testament talks about how we already did it.

We're already saved. We just don't believe it. I've told people in my programs, we need to send missionaries into the churches. Christians don't know that they are saved. But because we don't believe it, we don't get to experience our salvation. Now, I prayed a prayer when I was seven to receive Jesus into my heart, and I kept praying it over and over and over again just to make sure.

When I got older and finally learned that repeating that prayer, it wasn't actually saving me. Then I switched my tactics, good deeds. Maybe if I did enough good things and was a good enough Christian, God would approve. And here's the twisted part, though. I equated God's approval with other people's approval.

So when my authorities approved of me, then that was God approving of me. God would speak through my authorities and tell me what to do. Convenient for all of all of the mommies and daddies in my life. And I'm not just talking about the ones that were really my mom and dad. I'm talking about all the spiritual leaders in my future when I was an adult of, of my own.

When God, God supposedly spoke through them to me telling me what to do. And if I obeyed joyfully and sweetly, then God approved. How did I know that God approved? Because my authorities approved and, and if and if they didn't approve and if they were upset with me or angry with me, then God must also be disappointed and upset and angry with me.

That is pretty messed up. There's really only two times in my life that I can remember. Where I had this like kind of like a saw on the Damascus road kind of experience and recognized my salvation, and one was right after college where I had broken up with a boy that I had loved for many years. It was a very

painful breakup, and after that breakup, I threw myself at the feet of Christ and recognized, really recognized.

For the first time in my life, I remember thinking maybe I wasn't a Christian before I had been, but I, I remember thinking maybe I, I don't know that I've really ever experienced this, but I really believed with all my heart that God loved me no matter what, and that it didn't, hadn't mattered what I had done or not done, or what I'd accomplished or not accomplished.

I was all done with college. I just felt like I, I just felt like I was a failure, but God had saved me and I was free, and I was safe. And for an entire year, I lived in that joy. I embodied that joy. It was absolutely an amazing year. It was euphoric, quite honestly. I was basking in the belief that God loved me, but then I ended up getting involved with a group that started teaching works again, that now they talked about grace a lot.

But underneath, under the table came the high expectations, the standards, the measurements, all the things, and I fell right back into the same old patterns. I believed I was that I needed to work harder and I needed to please these people that were over me. Then I ended up marrying someone and having nine children, because that's what I was told God wanted.

We were supposed to fill the earth and set up God's kingdom here. It was really Christian nationalism, but I didn't have the language for that back then. I lived under tremendous oppression and fear and anxiety for many years, which brings me back to that hotel room. When I decided to divorce my husband, in spite of everyone telling me that I couldn't, I shouldn't.

I mustn't. I jumped off that cliff and the moment I jumped, I was met by the Holy Spirit, and I experienced that same beautiful understanding and knowledge that I was saved and that he loved that God loved me. My, that salvation became mine in that moment. Um, not because it wasn't mine before. It was always mine, but because I finally truly believed it, again, my belief is what caused me to leap off that cliff in the first place.

I knew that I would be excommunicated and I was, I knew that some of my family would reject me, and they did. I knew some of my friends would walk away and they did also. But I was filled with joy because I knew, I finally knew in the very core of my being that Jesus loved me and that God was powerful and that God was loving and he met me there.

I believed, and that belief let me experience what was already true. I wanna read you something from Romans chapter nine, verse 31, verses 31 to 33 from the Mirror Bible translation. Yet Israel who sought to achieve righteousness through keeping the law based upon their own willpower and discipline have failed to do so.

How? Faith seems just too good to be true. They were more familiar with and felt more comfortable with their own futile efforts than they did with faith. Their faith identity reflected in Christ was a stone of offense. It was offensive to them. Think about that. It was offensive to them that salvation was a free gift.

It was offensive to think they didn't have to obey the law to be saved. The law was their identity. Obedience was their identity. Perfection was their identity. It was prideful and arrogant and so blinding that they could not see that. They could never, ever measure up to God's perfection no matter how hard they tried.

And here's the beautiful part. They didn't have to, they never had to, they never will have to. Jesus Christ already did all the work. God did the work for us. God purchased us completely and makes us perfect in him. In Galatians one, verse seven and verse nine, it says, there is no other gospel despite the many so-called Christian products out there called gospel.

If any hint of the law remains, if salvation depends on your obedience or your performance or your effort, that is not the gospel. That's just religious people's ideas distracting from the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Let me be clear. Any gospel that does not emphasize the success of the cross, meaning that the cross is it, that gospel is counterfeit and produces nothing but a curse.

Now, that's what my church, the church that excommunicated to me, excommunicated me. That's what they revealed themselves to be teaching a counterfeit gospel. So here's what I realized to be excommunicated from those who teach a counterfeit gospel. That's actually a privilege. That is an honor. God allowed me to experience the same type of reflect of reject, similar to what Christ experienced at the hands of the religious leaders of his day, who were stumbling on the offensive gospel that Jesus Christ saves us.

That we don't have to do anything to earn it or to get it. Now, that means that I am aligned with Christ in that way, and that is very humbling. And here's what I know now, more than ever, my salvation is safe and secure. The salvation of my loved ones is safe and secure. The salvation of everyone in that church, including all those leaders who excommunicated me and who are currently even now preaching a fraudulent gospel.

It's still safe and secure. They're all saved. Whether they believe it and live into their salvation and the joy of that experience, whether they act as Jesus did with love and kindness and mercy, that's up to them. If they don't, they're just not experiencing what is theirs because. It, it's already ours, not because of what we do.

It's not dependent on us. If it the same God who spoke light into darkness and who spoke creation out of nothing, who can raise up rocks to praise Christ, right? It talks about that in the gospels. That same God is perfectly capable to save in Adam. All have been lost in Christ, all have been saved, not some otherwise.

Adam would've won everything at most things, right? All, all is lost in Adam in Christ. A few gets saved. Is that a powerful God? Maybe it's the God you believe in. That's definitely the God I believed in for a long time. I don't believe in that God anymore. I believe that what Jesus Christ did was actually efficacious for all of us.

Whether or not we get to live into that salvation is up to us because of the simple word. Believe. Do we believe or not? Do we put our identity and do we believe in the law and in good works and in working out our salvation as far and believing that that's how we are saved? Or do we believe in the true good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ that he did it for us?

One is going to produce tremendous fear and anxiety, and it's going to lead to all kinds of fruit of wars and unrest, and destruction and harm to the human race, and the other is going to lead to an inner transformation in individual lives where the kingdom of God sets up God. Jesus Christ didn't come to set up his kingdom on earth, the in, in the way that the, even the Israelites thought.

They were like, oh, Hosanna, praise God. You're here. You're going to overthrow the Romans. And Jesus like, that's not my plan. That's not his plan today either. But that's what, that's what a lot of Christians think that his plan is, that he's just gonna take over the world and overthrow governments. No, Jesus said he came to change individual hearts.

It starts in my heart. It starts in your heart with the word believe, believe, and that is when you get to experience your salvation. Our salvation does not depend on our performance. So here's what I wanna ask you. If you're listening today, if you are a Christian woman living in constant anxiety and fear the way I was for decades, I wanna challenge you with this question.

Do you know that you are saved? Not. Do you say that you're saved and that you believe not? Can you quote the right verses? But do you actually know deep in your being that you are saved? Do you know what your true identity is in Jesus Christ? If you are still striving and you're still afraid, and you're still trying to earn God's approval through your performances and pleasing all of your authorities around you, then you don't actually believe it yet.

And listen, I'm, that doesn't mean you're not saved. That's not what I'm saying. I'm saying the exact opposite. I'm saying that you are saved, but you're not getting to experience your salvation. There's big difference. So if you do know you're saved, if you have grasped that truth, then enter into the joy of it.

Put away your fear. You don't have to be afraid of God anymore. You don't have to be afraid of being rejected or turned away. You don't have to believe that you're not worthy or that you're worthless. That is not what God says about you. In my Flying Hire program, we are doing a Bible study every other Sunday where we are studying the word of God using the Mirror Bible translation.

And it has been an absolute joy to learn about the goodness and mercy of God through Christ and to find our freedom to no longer be stumbled by this idea, oh, this idea that, well, Jesus Christ, you know, he only saves a few people. He only saves a few people that are showing that they are worthy of salvation.

That is the Stu Jesus Christ is a stumbling block in that for, for people who are religiously minded, right? We are learning that we don't have to be religiously minded. We can actually embrace the true power and love of God that it actually does overshadow and overtake all of God's creation. And it is setting so many of us free.

Everything I teach in Flying Free and Flying higher is about renewing your mind. It's about changing your mind. We don't focus on changing our husbands. We don't focus on changing our circumstances. We focus on changing our minds, renewing them in truth, and then from there, you're able to make your own decisions for your own life.

Decisions that are in alignment with the Holy Spirit inside of you. And when you do that. Those decisions come from a place of confidence and joy and peace instead of fear and anxiety and anger. And that is the difference between striving and resting, between earning your salvation and receiving your gift of salvation.

Between religion, lots of world religions and Christianity is another one of them. And relationship. The creator of the universe. So here's my hope for all of us that we would actually believe what we say. We believe that we would live in the reality of our salvation instead of constantly trying to achieve it, that we would experience the freedom that Christ already purchased for us 2000 years ago.

You're already saved. The question is, do you believe it? If you wanna learn more about Flying Free or Flying higher, you can visit [join Flying Free dot com](#) or [join Flying hire.com](#). There's an application process, but we would love to have you join us and until next time, I want you to remember that you are loved.

Whether you believe it or not, you are loved completely. You are actually free, and you are actually saved, not because of anything you did, but because Jesus Christ. It's because of what he did that you are saved.