

HE CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF!

by Herb Montgomery
Director | Speaker



In the same way, the chief priests, along with the scribes, were mocking Him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” Those who were crucified with Him were insulting Him. (Mark 15:31-32)

They were dead right! He had lived His entire life in disinterested benevolence, saving others at every step. He had always put others before Himself. Now once again, others must come first. What Jesus’s assailants did not understand is that Jesus could have saved Himself. Never was His back against the wall. What He was enduring was voluntary, of His own volition, of His own free will. Nevertheless, in order to save others, He must not now “save Himself!” Although He could save us, and He had the power to save Himself, He *could not* do both.

Take a moment to meditate on the following four passages in the above context.

“Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal.” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 753)

Jesus felt, “Forsaken among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more . . .” (Psalm 88:5)

And yet in the midst of feeling completely helpless to save you and I and Himself too.

“Jesus did not count heaven a place to be desired while we were lost.” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 417)

“He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of

sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself.” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 693)

I stand in front of this kind of self-abandonment, this kind of love, and I am silenced. With tears in my eyes, my heart reaches away from my own self-centeredness, my own pursuits, and outward to a love like this. Could this be true? Is this really what God is like? God, do you really love me like this? Will you really love me regardless of the cost to Yourself? I feel the arguments rising, “Please God, don’t give up heaven for me. I am not worth it.” Yet, I sense Him whispering, “I didn’t do it because you were worthy. I did it because I love you, and you cannot change that. Come, let me enfold you and give you what your heart has always been longing for.” This month, I thank Him for loving me. May your heart, dear reader, join mine in loving Him in return. †

Thoughts to Ponder

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

(Ephesians 3:14-19, *The Message*)

MINISTRY UPDATE

Iowa-Missouri Campmeeting Centralia, MO

My first thought, when invited to Iowa-Missouri last summer, was, “I need to wake up at 6:00 a.m.? Really? Do they not know how much of a morning person I am not! Well, God will provide.” And so He did. Through the presentations, I met many beautiful people and heard many precious testimonies of what God was doing in their hearts. We experienced God’s love deeply this week, and there was no shortage of humor. (Those who were there will know exactly what I am referring to. Don’t make me put it in the newsletter.)

God opened many doors for Renewed Heart Ministries this week, including the possibility of the *Review* and *Herald* printing our upcoming book *The Awakening* by Herb Montgomery.

This year’s theme for the Iowa-Missouri’s Camp Meeting was “Now Is The Time.” I am reminded of God’s words in Ezekiel 16.

“ ‘ . . . I saw that the time had come for you to fall in love. . . . Yes, I made a marriage covenant with you, and you became Mine.’ This is what the Sovereign Lord says.” (Ezekiel 16:8, TEV)



Now is the time! Too much time has passed. God is calling all people from far and wide to encounter His heart and proclaim the last message of His mercy to the world! God is moving within the shadows of misrepresentation, and soon He will break forth. The earth will once again be “lightened” with the “revelation of His character of love.” (Revelation 18:1, *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 415) There is coming a day when we will no longer call Him “Master,” but rather call Him “Husband.” (Hosea 2:16) I look forward to this day. God will have a people who are passionate about Him! Their chief concern (2 Corinthians 5:15) will be for God to feel over-loved and overjoyed as they look beyond concern over their own salvation (Luke 17:33) to the “salvation” of their God from the lies that have been perpetrated in His name. (Revelation 19:1) Certainly

we saw this work begin in the hearts of those who saw Him afresh this summer in Iowa-Missouri. Daily testimonies continue to pour into the ministry from the richness of God’s grace that we experienced together, even if it was at 6:00 a.m.

Weaverville, CA

“Have you ever been to Weaverville?” This was the question everyone was asking when they learned that I was teaching a series aimed at reaching the community in this small town in Northern California. It just so happens that Weaverville could be rightly named the country’s capital for “every green herb” (Genesis 1:30), if you know what I mean. Yet the folks in this community are truly precious. They have a desire to know God more fully and share Him with their community. Many seeds were planted during those ten days. One weeknight, we had over 40 folks from one of the local community churches attend. I am looking forward to the long-term results from that series.



Unfortunately, in the midst of this series, tragedy struck friends of mine who lived far away. During this series I made a last minute trip to Oklahoma to conduct a funeral for some very dear friends who had just lost their ten-year-old son.

Some of you may remember the weekly e-sight released that week. Thank you for your prayers. The family sincerely appreciated your support and prayers. Over and over, they have shared with me how truly thankful they are for all who, through the network of God’s family, connected with them through this ministry. Your continued to prayers are helping them to get through each day right now. For that, I too am thankful to you. If you were not able to read that week’s e-sight devotional, I would like to recommend it to you. You can read it for yourself at:

<http://www.renewedheartministries.com/resources.asp?t=insights&s=550>

The trip to Weaverville ended well. It was a small town, but a large effort was made by their church to touch the surrounding community with the message of God’s love that had deeply touched their hearts. †

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but I do not love, I am nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I do not love, I am nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I do not love, I have gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I am bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head, and
Doesn't force itself on others.
Love isn't always "me first,"
It doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel, and
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth.
Love puts up with anything,
Trusts God always, and
Always looks for the best.
It never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.



Love never dies. Inspired speeches will end some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what



we say about God is always incomplete. However, when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We do not yet see things clearly. We are squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! Then we will see it all, and see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

For right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, and love extravagantly. The best of the three is love.

(1 Corinthians 13, *The Message*)

TESTIMONIES . . .

"Thank you so very much for your timely messages at the Iowa-Missouri Camp Meeting."—MK

"Well Mr. Herb, thanks for the information. Your site was recommended to me by a close friend after the Iowa-Missouri Camp Meeting. I have listened to about 15 or 16 of your sermons off your Web site and have truly been touched by the Holy Spirit through your messages. Thank you for preaching a clear picture of God. I love the quote from Ellen White on your website, "The rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love." It is so true, and I pray that this message will spread like wildfire throughout the world!!"—TR

"I have been so moved by your messages, and now I have them on my iPod/iTunes!"
—Anon.

"Herb, words cannot express how thankful we are that you came into our

"... Thank you for preaching a clear picture of God..."

lives. You have gone above and beyond the call of duty. You being here has made it a little more bearable. Please accept the gift enclosed, and know that it could never be enough to thank you."—T & DS

"I have been so blessed by the passion and clarity of your gospel messages! Where have you been?! My brother, the world needs to know this message. Lets live & preach it!"
—CC

"WOW! I was at Soquel Camp Meeting. I, and everyone I spoke with who was at your seminar, was so blessed. You put into words (inspired by God) what I wish I could receive when I am asked some of the same questions you get. Why??? We hope to have you come to our area to reach the thousands of young people who need to see God this way. To set the coast of Calif. on real (Holy Spirit filled) Fire."—SM



CALENDAR

August 31-September 5, 2008

Rio Lindo Academy
Healdsburg, CA
707.431.5100

September 6, 2008

Loma Linda University
Good News Tour
Loma Linda, CA
888.250.4612

September 12-13, 2008

Campion SDA Church
Campion, CO
970.667.7403

September 28-October 2, 2008

Summersville SDA Church
Summersville, WV
304.872.6958

October 10-19, 2008

Lewisburg SDA Church
Lewisburg, WV
509.998.3136

October 24-25, 2008

Mississauga SDA Church
Mississauga, Ontario
905.608.0013

October 22-26, 2008

Monterey Bay Academy
La Selva Beach, CA
831.728.1481

Renewed Heart Ministries provides many of its resources free of charge. In order to provide this service, we are dependent on the contributions of our supporters. If you would like to make a one-time gift or offer monthly support,* please send your contributions to the following address:

Renewed Heart Ministries
P.O. Box 1211
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Contributions can also be made online at:
www.renewedheartministries.com

**All donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt.*

Be sure to check out RHM's free resources at:
www.renewedheartministries.com