

## **You Will Never Be The Same!**

"Back In The Swing" series- Part 01

*Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following the following:* Describe a past need or want that you desperately desired or wanted, but felt it was nearly impossible to possess or obtain it....**and then**, someone came along and made it all possible! How did you feel? Did it change the course of your life or give you a different perspective?

*"Let's get on the same page" illustration:*

A few weeks ago, the news reported the story of a young man who had lost his police officer father in a brutal shooting. A couple of years after his father's death, the department was selling his father's old police cruiser in a charity auction to raise funds for an organization that provided funds for fallen officer's families. Wanting this car as a reminder of his father, the 16 year old boy saved and saved until he had \$3000, hoping it was enough to win the auction. Yet to his dismay, it was not nearly enough. The bidding continued higher and higher until the winning bid for the used Dodge Charger was \$60,000. The man who had won the bid, took the keys to the car, walked over to the boy and handed them to him and said, "Son...here's your car".

*What do you think:*

Why did the son think that \$3000 would be enough to win the bid?

Why did the bid go so high for a used vehicle?

Why did the man give the auto to the son?

What did the man get out of giving away a "\$60,000 car"?

In a recent message at Grace Hills on Luke 19, we discussed the story of Zacchaeus, a hated and despised tax collector, who was changed forever when Jesus stopped what He was doing and invited himself into this man's home. Jesus loved Zacchaeus into the Kingdom of God and an immediate life change came upon him. Today, let's look at another passage of Scripture that conveys to us the truth that Jesus desires to have a relationship with us and the great benefits that follow when we follow Him!

### **Book: Romans 5:1-11**

*Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.*

*Rom 5:2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

*Rom 5:3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.*

*Rom 5:4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

*Rom 5:5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.*

*Rom 5:6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.*

*Rom 5:7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good.*

*Rom 5:8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

*Rom 5:9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation.*

*Rom 5:10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son.*

*Rom 5:11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*

**Let's get into the Word:**

Look closely at verses 1-4, and make a list of the great gifts provided by God...**BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH:**

Can any of these gifts be provided to you outside of faith and a relationship with Christ:

Using only our text, explain how you know that God really loves you:

How does the concept of earning salvation by good works undermine a person's experience of God's amazing love in Christ?

According to our text, how can we be secure in our salvation?

Is it effective to begin sharing Christ with unbelievers by telling them that God loves them? Is there any biblical basis for this? What biblical guidelines apply here?

**Lets go on mission:**

Who do you know that needs to hear the message that God loves them and how will you go about sharing that truth with them?