



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### What Does God Require?

The love of God is amazing. It is so strong that it caused Him to give His Son as a sacrifice for the sin of the entire world. Paul said it best in Ephesians.

#### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**  
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Yes, our salvation is a wonderful gift from God. We did not choose Him; He chose us and even gave us the faith required for our salvation. Most amazing about all this is the fact that He did it while we were yet sinners! John Newton had it right when he penned the words, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me."

Truly, God's grace is amazing, but we must be careful, because like all other great truths, if taken to the extreme it will lead to error. Our salvation is a free gift, but does that mean nothing is required of us, or are there things God does **require**? Many today have never given any thought to this and as a result, have never experienced the fulness of God's amazing grace. What are these things and

can they possibly stop God from pouring the free gift of salvation upon those He loves? This is the question I want to attempt to answer this month. The prophet Micah asked this question.

#### **Micah 6:8 Amplified Bible**

**8....And what does the Lord require of you** except to be just, and to love and to diligently practice kindness (compassion), And to walk humbly with your God setting aside any overblown sense of importance or self-righteousness?

I like that. It is simple, easy to understand, and describes the kind of person I strive to be. I believe if we all were Micah 6:8 kind of people the world would be a much better place. But, we must remember that being a Micah 6:8 kind of person will not get us saved.

#### **For us to get saved, God requires repentance.**

It troubles me that repentance is rarely talked about in churches today because, without a doubt, true salvation requires repentance.

#### **Luke 24:45-48 Amplified Bible**

45 Then He opened their minds to [help them] understand the Scriptures, 46 and said, "And so it is written, that the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 **and that repentance [necessary] for forgiveness of sins would be preached** in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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## "What Does God Require?"

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I must help you understand why repentance is required. The word "repent" means, "to think differently" or "to change one's mind". Before a man will come to Jesus he must first see himself as lost and his sin as unacceptable. If he doesn't, he will keep on sinning and in his mind will see no reason to stop or ever come to Christ. He needs to change his mind about himself and his sin. In other words, he needs to repent.

Today this subject is almost totally avoided in "seeker-sensitive" churches because calling sinners to repent might make someone feel uncomfortable. I can't help but wonder how they will feel when they slip into eternity without hope and without God. I always admired Billy Graham because he was not afraid to call people to repentance and then invite them to come forward to receive salvation. Likewise, in every service, my husband would give people the opportunity to accept Jesus as their savior, repent of their sins, and come to the altar. The good news of the gospel needs to be preached and people need to be given the opportunity to take advantage of God's grace by fulfilling this requirement.

There is something else God requires that may affect our salvation.

### **Matthew 6:14-16 Amplified Bible**

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses their reckless and willful sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive others [nurturing your hurt and anger with the result that it interferes with your relationship with God], then your Father will not forgive your trespasses.

Ouch! This is not easy, but we need to remember that God never asks us to do anything that is impossible. When you place your brother and what he has done in God's hands you will find that you now have the ability to forgive. Don't let bitterness and unforgiveness rob you of God's blessings.

I would like to conclude with a

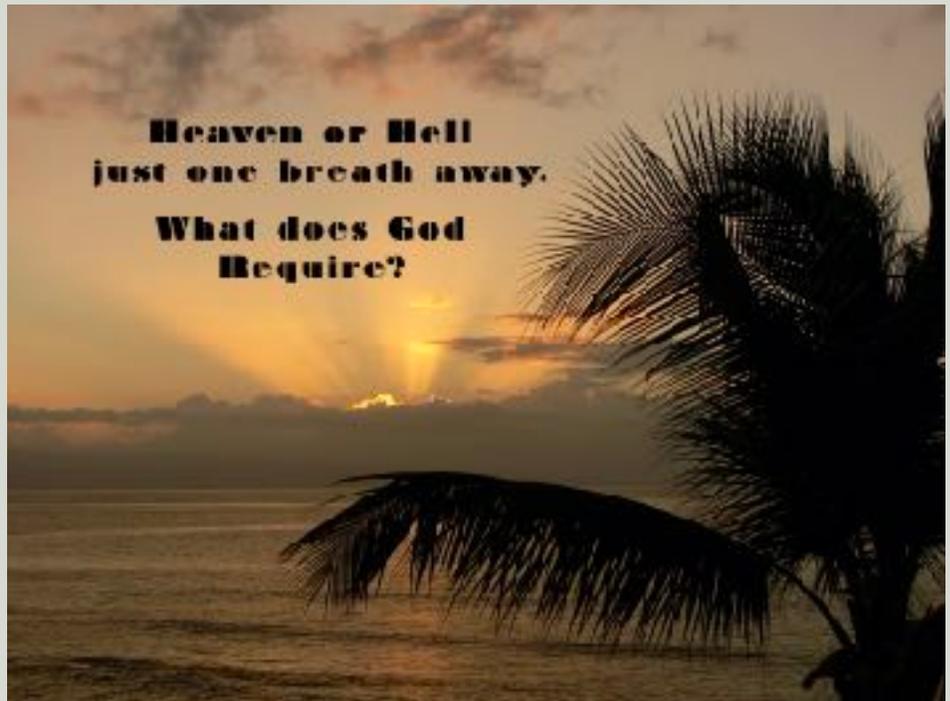
requirement that I believe does not affect our salvation but still is very important. Once again, it is simple and makes total sense.

### **Luke 12:48 NRSVA**

....To whom much has been given, **much will be required;** and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

This statement of Jesus was paraphrased in Spider-man when Uncle Ben said to Peter Parker, "With great power comes great responsibility." Even though this is simple and very logical, it appears to escape many who have been blessed with great wealth. The wealth God has entrusted to us is too often used for the pursuit of pleasure and the accumulating of worldly goods instead of being used to bless others and build the Kingdom of God. Could it be possible that the rich are poor and the poor are rich? I guess we will find out when we all stand before God.

These are just a few things the Bible tells us are required. I don't know about you, but I want God's best for myself and my family, and that is why I try to do what God requires of me. I pray these things will also become a part of how you live your life.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH