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Alive in Messiah
2: 4-5

Alive in Messiah DIG: In what sense is "spiritually dead" an accurate description of life without faith in Messiah? How does accepting Messiah signal a change in who has authority over you? What changes should occur in a person's life as a result of this new allegiance? What changes have occurred in your life? What does it mean that you were "deserving of God's wrath?" Why do you think believers sometimes perceive that their salvation relates to their own efforts? What does Paul have to say about that in vs 10?

REFLECT: How does the image of a prison cell describe your life before coming to Messiah? What would your life be like if ADONAI hadn't extended mercy to you? When was the last time you had the opportunity to show mercy but didn't. Why didn't you? What is an act of mercy you have seen recently from another person? What is the danger of a faith based solely on works? How do you tell the difference between works-based faith and faith-based works? How can you show the great riches of God's grace to others?

Our present position in Messiah.

Alive in Messiah

Paul has laid the foundation for the new life and resurrection power that we receive when we come to **faith in Messiah**. Now he turns to discussing the actual transformation that takes place when we make this decision – how **God** brings us

back to **life** from a place in which we were spiritually **dead** (**to see link click Av – Salvation from Sin**); raises us up, gives us power, and enables us to do good works for **Him**. In this way, **Paul** distills the relationship between our **faith** and **Messiah**, **God's grace** to us, and the actions that should then flow out of our **salvation**.

But God, who is rich in mercy (not getting what we deserve)**, because of His great love that he had for us . . . (2:4) .** There is no better soundbite of the Gospel than the first two words of **verse 4**. **But God** summarizes exactly what **He** has done in **salvation** as well as the great debt that we, as believers, owe **Him**. And the word **"But"** highlights the contrast between our plight and **God's** provision. There was nothing that warranted this divine favor and blessing. While we don't deserve **it**, we can't deny that **ADONAI** extends **His mercy**, evidenced in the new life given and prompted by **His great love**.

. . . made us alive with Messiah even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace (getting what we don't deserve) **you have been saved (2:5 NIV).** Having waited until **verse 5** to write the main verb of the entire passage (see **Aw – Our New Position in Messiah**), **Paul** exploded with words of praise: **God** has **made us alive in Messiah!** This takes us to the book of **Romans**. **Don't you know that those of us who have been immersed into the Messiah Yeshua** (by **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**) **have been immersed into His death? Through immersion into his death we were buried with Him; so that just as, through the glory of the Father, the Messiah was raised from the dead, likewise we too might live a new life (Romans 6:3-4).** This newness of life is a new life given through our identification with **Messiah** in **His** resurrection. Our identification with **Messiah** in **His death** broke the power of our **old sin nature** (see the commentary on **Romans Bm – The Consequences of Adam**). And our identification with **Him** in **His** resurrection resulted in the impartation of **eternal life** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ms – The Eternal Security of the Believer**). This is what **Paul** meant when he said: **But God made us alive in Messiah.**

As **Paul** explained: **But when the kindness and love for mankind of God our Deliverer was revealed, he delivered us. It was not on the ground of any righteous deeds we had done, but on the ground of his own mercy. He did it by means of the mikveh of rebirth and the renewal brought about by the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, whom he poured out on us generously through Messiah, our Deliverer. He did it so that by his grace we might come to be**

considered righteous by God and become heirs, with the certain hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7).

As **Yeshua** explained to **Nicodemus** (see **The Life of Christ Bv – Jesus Teaches Nicodemus**), the kingdom of salvation cannot be earned through human effort or self-righteousness. Only those who are born from above can **be saved**. Even someone as highly respected and externally religious as **Nicodemus** – one of the most well-known Bible scholars in **Isra'el** – could not contribute anything to his salvation. From **God's** perspective, the **sinner's** best efforts are **like filthy rags (Isaiah 84:6)**.

All the **sinner** can do is cry out to **God** for **mercy**, like **the tax collector** of **Luke 18:13-1**4. **He** cannot save **himself**, so **he** must rest completely in **the grace** and compassion of **the Savior**. The promise of Scripture is that all who come to **Messiah** in genuine **faith** – turning from **sin** and turning to **Him** – will **be saved (Romans 10:9-10)**. As **the Lord Himself** promised: **Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will certainly not turn away (John 6:37).**

The Spirit's work of regeneration gives a **sinner** a new heart **(Eze 36:26-27)**, one in which he is capable of genuine **love** for **God** and heartfelt obedience to **Messiah (Jn 14:15)**. The fruit of that transformation will be evidenced in a changed life, manifest in fruits of repentance **(Mt 3:8)** and **the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).** Thus, **Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures (James 1:17-18).** At the moment of **salvation**, **God** used **His Word** to convict our hearts and **made us alive**, such that we are now **new creatures in Messiah** (see **Second Corinthians Bd – A New Creation**).

The life that **YHVH** gives to us through **Messiah** provides us with purpose. As a "before and after" testimony to the power of the truth, our renewed life becomes the means by which **the Lord's** redemptive mission is accomplished in this world. If **Messiah's** only purpose in our **salvation** was to get us into heaven, it stands to reason that **He** would take us to be with **Him** at the moment of **salvation**. But **He** didn't, leaving us here to witness to **His mercy** and **love**.

In an imperfect world, we tend to think our rewards are somehow connected to our performance. Those who don't try or don't work hard shouldn't get the same

benefits as those who try and work hard. But when we apply this thinking to a perfect **God** with absolute standards, our meager efforts don't make the grade. Without **God's mercy** and **grace**, we're all stuck in imperfect. We're stuck without hope. We're just plain stuck. But **God's mercy** comes and gets us unstuck. **His mercy** saves us through **Yeshua Messiah**. And since we continue to live in an imperfect world where we continue to experience falling short, **God's mercy** continues to get us unstuck.

*Dear Heavenly Father, **You** are so wonderful! Words cannot express the **love** and deep appreciation we have for **You**! **You** are so wise to use being united together with **Messiah** as the means to be able to **raise** me from **death** to **life**! **Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Messiah as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (Eph 1:9-10)**. **Your** purpose was always the same, from **before the foundation of the world** (**Eph 1:4), Your plan** was to unite **"in Messiah"** those who **love You**. United **"in Messiah"** also provided the way for **You** to **raise** in victory all of **Your** family along with **Messiah**.*

*As **Messiah** rose victoriously from **the dead**, so also those united **in Him** will also rise victoriously from **death** to **life**! **Or do you not know that all of us who were immersed into Messiah Yeshua were immersed into His death? Therefore we were buried together with Him through immersion into death – in order that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become joined together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also will be joined together in His resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).** It is a great joy and privilege to worship **You**, our Awesome and Mighty heavenly **Father**! In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection Amen*