

## Overview

If you had the choice would you rather be the rescuer or the one being rescued? Picture a building completely ablaze. The firemen are doing everything they can to get things under control. You find yourself inside with nowhere to go. Just when you think all is lost out of the inferno and smoke a fireman reaches to pick you up and carry you to safety. Another scenario can be a picturesque day of sailing on the ocean. The whole day has been perfect. Just when you thought everything was great a rogue wave capsizes your boat. You find yourself struggling to stay afloat as you fight the current and exhaustion. You see this shadow above you as a rescue swimmer jumps in and keeps you from sinking. In both cases there was a rescuer and someone who was rescued. Whenever extreme circumstances are presented it is easy to see the need to be rescued. The need to be rescued can be the result of your own choices or of an accident. In either case there is a situation you are unable to overcome without help. To some extent needing to be rescued means admitting weakness. You find yourself in a situation beyond your control and that will require outside help to survive. This is easy to understand when presented with the life and death scenarios described above, but when everything in life is good it gets complicated. If you are healthy, bills are paid, have the career you desire, and everything seems to be going your way; why would you need to be rescued? The need to be rescued comes out of an admittance of sin in your life. You angrily say hurtful words to your spouse or children. You inappropriately look at someone from the opposite sex. You look for ways to not report income on your taxes. All of these cases don't necessarily bring to mind the need to be rescued. They do not carry the same immediate life and death consequences as a burning building or capsized boat. Although your daily choices may not bring about immediate consequences they do have eternal implications. This is why in Romans 7:24 the Apostle Paul writes "who will rescue me?" He understood that in order to have a restored relationship with God it wasn't going to come out of his own desire or power. He needed to be rescued. This only comes as a result of realizing your current sinful standing before a Holy God and that He is the only one who can restore the relationship. If you cry out to God and say "rescue me" He will surely reach out to you.

## Bible Study: Romans 7:24-25

1. Discuss situations where you have found yourself in need of being rescued. This can be anything from a broken car alongside the highway to a burning building.
2. Why is it that people will usually try every option available before admitting the need to be rescued? How does this sense of self-reliance hinder a relationship with God?
3. Why is it so natural for us to try to follow the law and be good in an attempt to have a restored relationship with God? When it comes to having a relationship with God what role do you have and what role does God have?
4. Read Romans 7:24-25. Would you go as far as saying you are a wretched person? Why or why not?
5. Discuss when you decided you needed God to rescue you from a life of sin. What triggered this need and how do you describe it to other believers and non-believers? Would you describe it differently?
6. Read Matthew 5:21-30. If no one was capable of keeping the whole law without falling short why would Jesus then make things harder by intensifying the commandments?

7. Grace cannot make you sinless, but it can make you sin less over time. In what ways does realizing God's grace in your life help you choose to sin less? How would you respond to someone who uses grace as a license to sin?
  
8. If grace is a free gift from God then why are some people so resolutely against accepting it in their lives?