

Avondale University

SoZo

Sozo is a Greek word meaning *salvation; to save, to heal*. It's about wholistic healing—physically, mentally, and spiritually.

In the eighth chapter of the Bible's book of Luke—written in Greek by a medical doctor—we read of a woman with a severe health problem. Through twelve years of expensive sickness, she had spent all of her money, but instead of getting better, she grew worse. So she came to Jesus seeking physical healing.

In faith that Jesus had the power to heal her sickness, she reached out through a pressing crowd and touched His garment. Through a miracle, she was immediately healed physically, and she knew it.

But Jesus had an even greater gift for her. He turned to her and said, "Daughter, your faith has made your whole [Sozo], go in peace." She came for physical healing, but Jesus made her whole—physically, mentally, and spiritually. He gave her peace.

Is that how you want to live, in physical, mental, and spiritual health? Do you want deep inner peace? If you do, try spending less time and energy seeking financial and lifestyle goals, and instead, seek the Sozo that only Jesus can give.

It's absolutely priceless.

Appeal: As we now return God's tithe and give the Promise offerings, which we are encouraged to pre-plan and set aside as a percentage of our income, let's ask God for whole-of-life healing. Let's invite Him to help us see the importance of focusing more on our beautiful Saviour, Jesus, and less time chasing our material and lifestyle goals. Thank you for your faithful giving today.

Local Church Budget

Do You Want a New Ferrari?

The story is told of a man, let's call him Peter, who received a new sports car as a gift from his brother. One day, he drove it into the city and parked it on the street while he did some shopping. On returning to his car, loaded with shopping bags, he saw a young homeless boy staring at the shiny, new vehicle with wide eyes.

As Peter approached the car, the boy shyly asked, "Excuse me, sir. Is this your car?"

"Yes, it is," Peter replied. "My brother gave it to me. It was a gift."

The boy's eyes lit up with surprise at the thought of such a generous and expensive gift. "Wow!" he said. "That's incredible! I wish ... I wish ... but before he could finish his sentence, Peter finished it for him.

"Yes, I know, son. You wish you had a brother like that."

"No, no, sir. That's not it," the boy quickly replied. "I wish ... I just wish I could BE a brother like that."

Just like Abraham of old, we are each blessed to be a blessing (*Genesis 12:2*).

Jesus said it perfectly, "There's a greater blessing in giving than in receiving" (*Acts 20:35*).

Appeal: As you return God's tithe and give your Promise offerings today, consider ways that you, too, can be a brother like that. You don't need to be rich enough to give away a sports car. God simply asks you to look at the things He has entrusted in your care, big or small, and to use them to love people. Thank you for your faithful giving today.