



### Which way does God work?

Is salvation a joint effort (we reach for God as he reaches for us), or is it a rescue operation?

If salvation is a joint effort, we are driven to spiritual pride or despair. Either we wrongly presume we are righteous enough that God *must* save us (not true!), or we despair over whether we have done enough, done it right, done it earnestly.

The truth is that salvation is a rescue operation. **God snatches us** from sin and death in baptism. As Luther says: "And this is the reason why our theology is certain: It **snatches** us away from ourselves and places us outside ourselves, so that we do not depend on our own strength, conscience, experience, person, or works, but depend on that which is **outside ourselves**, that is, on the **promise and truth of God, which cannot deceive**" (*Luther's Works* 26:387).