

## Helpless

Michael Harris was skiing Big Chief Bowl at Stevens Pass in Washington State late last month when he got caught in an avalanche. Harris told FOX13 Seattle that his skis got caught between two slabs, and he was unable to fight against the force of the slide. He said he slid into a hole in the snow allowing him to stay upright despite being completely buried. He felt like he was “encased in cement.” He couldn’t move at all.

His phone rang. It was his wife, Penny, calling. But Michael couldn’t answer his Apple Watch nor his iPhone, which was in his jacket pocket.

Michael prayed, “God, I’m in trouble, I don’t know if anyone is going to know where I’m at, but I can’t get out of this on my own.”

Penny grew concerned when Michael didn’t answer his phone. She checked his location using the Find My iPhone app. The app identified his whereabouts and after checking it several times, she saw that he wasn’t moving. She called ski patrol and drove to Stevens Pass. Rescue workers were able to use the app to find Michael’s location. They found him buried beneath several feet of snow. He was suffering from hypothermia, pneumonia, a contusion to his lung, injuries to his kidneys and a right tibial plateau fracture. He was rushed to a hospital and underwent surgery on his leg. He is recovering well and thanking God, his wife, the phone app, and the rescue workers for saving his life. \*

Because of our sin (Romans 3:23), we are in a helpless state, unable to save ourselves.

But God knows our whereabouts and He loves us so much that He desires to save us. He sent His Son to rescue us. Our rescue from sin required the death of Jesus on the cross as payment for our redemption (Ephesians 1:7). If we accept His offer of salvation, He will rescue us and give us eternal life (Romans 6:23).

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6 NASB).

Jesus “gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” (Galatians 1:4 NASB).

God will rescue from sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized

(immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

While we were helpless, Jesus came to save us. Thank God!

-- David A. Sargent

\* Information gleaned from “Washington skier buried in avalanche is rescued after wife uses phone app to track him” by Stephen Sorace and Tessa Hoyos of Fox News, [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com), published March 4, 2026.