

The FREE GIFT of Salvation

Why do I need to be saved?

God leaves no doubt about our condition. We set our standards of right and wrong by society's values. God's standard for us is His own holiness. How do we measure up? "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" ([Romans 3:23](#)). It's only fair that God demands holiness; that's how he first created mankind. We have rebelled against Him as a race and as individuals.

Our pathway away from God has brought its consequences. "The wages of sin is death" ([Romans 6:23](#)). The Bible compares sin to a cruel slave master. There is no mercy in suffering, no freedom from bondage, no lasting joy, no hope for the future. But most frightening is the final consequence of sin. The Bible warns that without God's salvation, death is the doorway to eternal punishment ([Hebrews 9:27](#)).

It is from this that we need to be saved. From our own sin. From its bondage. From its consequences. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" ([Hebrews 2:3](#)).

How does God say I can be saved?

God is holy and God is love. His holiness demands that our sin be punished infinitely. His love provides a way for us to be saved from this punishment. How is this possible? Another was willing to suffer what we deserve. Our substitute had to be a sinless man, able to suffer the infinite anger of God against our sin. The only one able to take our place was God's only Son.

The greatest display of God's love unfolded as His Son left heaven to become a man. Born of a virgin 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ lived with His creation. Unwilling to sin Himself, yet He showed compassion to sinners all around Him. However, men hated Him because His holiness revealed their sinfulness. He willingly allowed them to nail Him to a cross of wood outside Jerusalem. They suspended Him so they could sit and watch Him die. The climax of God's plan of salvation had arrived as God covered the earth with darkness. The Bible tells us that for three hours He laid on His Son the infinite punishment we deserve for our sin. The darkness was broken when Jesus Christ called out with a loud voice "It is finished". He had accomplished His mighty work, God's great plan of salvation.

After three days in death, Christ Jesus rose from the dead. This is evidence to all that saw him afterwards and to all who read God's word that Christ's suffering completely satisfied His father. He was victorious over death itself - the ultimate consequence of our sin.

God's plan of salvation brings us into the good of Christ's suffering, death, and victory. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly" ([Romans 5:6](#)). "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

There is only one way to escape hell! Believe upon Jesus. Confess your sins to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you and to cover your sins with His blood. You will not perish but will have everlasting life with Jesus in Heaven.

The following are some chapters that clearly explain our need and God's plan of salvation. [[John 3](#)] [[Romans 3](#)] [[Romans 6](#)] [[Matthew 7](#)] [[John 1](#)] [[John 4](#)] [[John 5](#)] [[John 6](#)] [[John 10](#)] [[John 14](#)] [[Luke 15](#)]
These chapters describe the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [[Matthew 27-28](#)] [[Mark 15-16](#)] [[Luke 22, 23, 24](#)] [[John 18, 19, 20, 21](#)]

How To Begin...

A Personal Relationship With Jesus Christ

God Loves You

God loves everyone and he desires us to have eternal life. [John 3:16](#) says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And, [John 10:10](#) says, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I(Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

You Are A Sinner In Need Of Forgiveness

You have sinned by choosing to go your own way instead of God's way. Through His Holy Spirit, God wants you to know that you are separated from God and will face His judgment. [Romans 3:23](#) says, "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,". [Romans 6:23](#) says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." And, [Hebrews 9:27](#) says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

God Wants To Forgive You

God demonstrated His love for you by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus took your judgment and made it possible for you to be forgiven. [Romans 5:8](#) says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." And, [1 Peter 3:18](#) says, "For Christ also hath once suffered for

sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

You Must Turn Away From Your Sins

You cannot save yourself or earn God's forgiveness as a result of being good enough. Just as you change directions when you realize you're walking the wrong way, you must repent, or turn away, from your sins. [Luke 13:5](#) says, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." And, [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: -- Not of works, lest any man should boast."

You Must Place Your Faith In God's Son, Jesus Christ

When you realize you are walking in the wrong direction, you turn to find the right way. Jesus is the right way. As you turn away from your sins, place your faith in Jesus to receive forgiveness and eternal life. [Acts 20:21](#) says, "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." And, [John 14:6](#) says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

You Receive Jesus Christ Through Prayer

Because Jesus is alive, He stands ready to come into your life. [Revelations 3:20](#) says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Through prayer you can:

- Admit to God that you are a sinner and that you are turning away from your sins;
- Believe in Jesus by thanking Him for dying on the cross and rising from the dead for your sins;
- Commit your life to Jesus by asking Him to come into your life as your Savior and Lord.



Prayer

God loves you and wants you to talk to him. He hears you when you pray. God is interested in the intricate detail of your life. God already knows what is happening in your life, He just wants to hear you tell Him your feelings, thoughts and problems. He not only wants to hear you, but He wants you to hear Him. Jesus taught his disciples

how to pray. This is the prayer he taught them to pray:

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." - [Matthew 6:9-13](#)

Jesus did not intend for us to only use the exact words of this prayer, but He gave it to us as a guideline. This prayer includes many elements. It honors God, and shows reverence for His name. It expresses our desire that His will be done instead of ours. The prayer also asks for provision for our needs, and acknowledges we need forgiveness and in order to receive it, we must forgive others. It recognizes the existence of evil, and asks for deliverance. It concludes with adoration and praise to God.

To begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by praying the prayer of salvation.

I invite you to pray this prayer now.

Dear God , I acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary. I believe that He died on the cross, that His blood was shed for my sins and that He arose from the dead. I confess that I have disobeyed your commandments. I ask you to forgive me for these sins. I now ask Jesus to come into my heart. Be my Savior. Be my Lord. Be my soon coming King. I will do my best to obey your teachings as recorded in the Bible. Thank you, in Jesus name. Amen

All people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. ([Romans 3:23](#)) Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world but to save the world. From what? Jesus wants to save you from your sinful nature, from death, from yourself. You can be saved if you confess and repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. ([Romans 10:9](#)) ([John 3:16](#))

When you accept Jesus into your heart as your Lord and Savior, get "saved" or are born again" you take the first step on the Way of Salvation. Hell is the reward for people who do not believe in Jesus; Heaven is the reward for those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Jesus came to call us to ***Repentance*** for our sins. When you repent, you turn from going away from God, to going toward God where you seek to do His will and not your own. When you repent you make a 180 degree turn or as some would say that you turned over a new leaf.

We must be ***Born Again*** born of the Spirit and take on the Spirit or nature of God. When we came into this world we were born of the flesh, like our parents. All people are descendants of Adam and Eve who sinned in the garden of Eden. Because of their sin we are born with the same sinful, lustful nature which desires the things of this world more than the things of God.

We are all sinners because we disobey God's laws as written in the Holy Bible. We may try to obey but within ourselves we cannot successfully obey. The spirit of Satan influences us to disobey God. When we give in to Satan and he causes us to sin, we have guilt, anger, greed, hatred, pride, jealousy and bitterness. This is often a source of unhappiness as we disappoint ourselves and hurt other people. Many times this is the root cause of depression and an unfulfilled life which escalates as we perpetuate the cycle, seeking happiness and finding none. Sin destroys us and leads to destruction in an eternal Hell.

While talking with Nicodemus, Jesus declared, *"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again"* [John 3:3](#).

Jesus said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."* [John 10:10-11](#). [John 3:15-18](#) says, *"That everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of Gods one and only Son."*

Salvation is not merely a one-time experience. It is an experience which places you on the Christian faith journey—the Way of Salvation. Accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is your first step on the trip. As you read your Bible you will grow spiritually. Find some good Christian people to associate with. Begin to attend a Bible believing church. Learn how to witness to others telling them about your new relationship with Jesus. The goal of the Christian life is not getting into Heaven; that is the reward. The goal is to continually become more like Jesus Christ and for your personal relationship with Him to grow deeper.

God the Father

God created the world by speaking it into existence. God is not limited in His power. He knows all things and He is always present. God goes beyond loving; God is love. Nothing He does is outside of His love. Because of His

great love He sent His son Jesus to die for our sins. God is holy. He is unique, sinless, and completely represents and contains every moral perfection.

The Creator God



God made the heavens and Earth as we now know them. God spoke to the elements and the Earth was formed. God loves to create. His highest creation is man, a free moral agent. God took some clay and made the first man whom He named Adam. God told Adam to name all of the animals, fish, fowl and other things He had created. God wanted Adam and his wife Eve to live in the beautiful Garden of Eden and take care of the animals and garden.

God is the Alpha and the Omega--the beginning and the end. One of God's names is "I am". He has no beginning or ending. God is the creator of the universe. For this to be possible He

existed before He created the world. God is the supreme power and authority of all things. Nothing can happen without God knowing it and allowing it to happen. We do not always know why some things happen, but God does. He has a purpose for everything. God reveals to us everything we know about Him. He is a God who personally makes Himself known. We do not know all things about God, but each of us can know some things about Him. God is sovereign.

The First Sin against God

Satan is the first one known to have rebelled against God. Satan was an angel who wanted to take over Heaven so God removed him and sent him to Earth as a fallen angel. The spirit of Satan, in the form of a serpent or snake, came to the first woman Eve in the garden of Eden and tempted her to disobey God by eating from the tree of knowledge. She then invited Adam and he also ate of the forbidden fruit. As soon as they had eaten the forbidden



fruit Adam and Eve noticed that they were naked. They felt shame and tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. God had created man and women and pronounced this creation, good. When sin entered the world man perceived the body as bad. Adam and Eve were ashamed to be seen naked by God; they felt like they had something to hide.

The sin of disobeying God by eating the forbidden fruit caused them to be removed from the garden and they were estranged from the right to talk face to face with God. As descendants of Adam and Eve, we are all born with their sinful nature. Though they were tempted by the serpent, Adam and Eve willingly broke their covenant with God. Through their actions sin entered the world. The only way for the curse of sin to be broken was through a sacrifice of the perfect being.

Redemption



The purpose of redeeming humankind is to unite the communion that was broken by sin. God did not intend for the world to be the way that it is, but He has made a way for redemption.

God wants us to be His people and not have sin in our lives. During the first 4000 years or the Old Testament times, God provided a temporary sacrifice for people to receive forgiveness for their sins. Once a year the sins of the people were symbolically heaped upon a goat which was driven out of the community.

God the Son (Jesus)

For two thousand years Jesus Christ has been the one central character of human history.

The Promise For many hundreds of years the Jewish people had been promised a Messiah, a Savior. This person was to be a descendant of Abraham and of King David.

The Virgin Mary A young girl named Mary lived in the city of Nazareth of Galilee which is near Jerusalem, Israel. Mary was a virgin and was engaged to be married to Joseph. Joseph and Mary were Jews of the line of Abraham

and King David. Their genealogy is traced back to the first man, Adam. ([Matthew 1:1-17](#)).

A miracle occurred when the angel Gabriel was sent from God to the Virgin Mary and told her the Holy Ghost would come upon her and she would conceive in her womb and bring forth a child who would be the Son of God and that he should be named Jesus. God supernaturally placed the seed in her womb. After nine months Jesus was born, which was a supernatural work of God. God is the Father of Jesus and Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus.

Jesus' Birth

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, near Jerusalem. The birth of Jesus is the most important event in the history of all the world. On the night Jesus was born while shepherds on the Judean hillside were watching their sheep, they were visited by angels. The angels announced that Jesus, the promised Messiah, had been born. The Shepherds went to see the newborn Jesus. For a cradle He was placed in a manger.

Later, after they saw the bright star in the sky signifying that the promised Savior had been born, wise men came from distant lands with gifts to visit



Jesus. They bowed down before Him and worshipped the tiny baby. The events in this section are recorded in the book of [Luke chapters 1 & 2](#)

Jesus' Youth

The Bible does not tell much about Jesus' life as a young man. Jesus grew up as the son of the carpenter Joseph. When Jesus was twelve years of age He was found discussing important matters with scribes and other teachers in the temple. He knew things about God and the kingdom of God that others had never understood. These doctors and educated people were astonished at the understanding and answers that Jesus had at this young age. The Grace of God was upon Jesus and He was strong in spirit.

He was of earthly flesh, therefore He became hungry, tired and thirsty just like you and me. He was the divine Son of the Almighty God living inside the flesh of man with all of its frailties. This is why He can understand anything that we feel; He has felt it too.

Jesus' Ministry

When Jesus was about 29 years of age He began His ministry. He was baptized in the Jordan river by John the Baptist, who was preaching and telling people that Messiah was coming. As John was baptizing Jesus, the Holy Spirit came upon Him in the form of a dove and a voice from Heaven confirmed that Jesus was the beloved Son of God. Jesus ministered for only three or four years. He began to teach and to perform many miracles in all the communities nearby. Jesus often used parables when teaching the multitudes who came wherever He went.

Some of these teachings and miracles were recorded in the Bible. Jesus' purpose in life was to do the will of His heavenly Father. Wherever He went, He brought goodness. He never hurt or injured anyone, although He did get angry at others who did wrong. He called self-righteous church-going people vipers and once turned over tables in the temple where money-changers were taking advantage of the people.

Jesus was friends with the outcast of society-sinners. He reached out to the publicans, thieves, prostitutes. He never scorned anyone. He knew what was in the heart of a man (or woman). Just because they were religious did not mean that they knew God.

Much of the life of Jesus is recorded in the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John . During His few years of ministry on earth Jesus performed many miracles. Some of His miracles included: raising Lazarus and others from the dead feeding over 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, walking on water and calming the stormy Sea of Galilee casting out demons healing a paralyzed man, restoring a man's ear, and healing many others.

Jesus' Death

Multitudes of people followed Jesus - hearing His teachings, witnessing His miracles. The religious leaders did not like Jesus getting so much attention so they devised a plan to kill Jesus, who was 33 years of age. They made false statements about Him in court and demanded that Pontius Pilate, the Roman judge, sentence Jesus to die.

They screamed, "Crucify Him!" The Roman soldiers beat Him with a whip 39 times. His flesh was torn in strips and blood oozed down His back. These 39 stripes are for the healing of my



body and yours. By His stripes we are healed.

The Old Testament covenant required the death of a perfect sacrifice in order to take away the peoples' sins. Jesus was forced to carry His own cross up the hill, Golgotha. He was nailed to a cross of rough wood that was thrust into the ground.

As He hung on the cross naked, people mocked and scorned him for calling Himself the Son of God. As He died Jesus declared, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they do." He pronounced, "It is finished!" [John 19:28-31](#) as He died. By saying these words He acknowledged that He had done the work which the Father had sent Him to earth to do. He was an obedient Son.

The instant he died the heavy veil of the temple was torn in half from the top down. The sky was darkened as night. His Burial Friends of Jesus took His body off the cross and buried Him in a borrowed tomb with enough burial spices for a king.

The Romans assigned soldiers to guard Jesus' grave because the Jews were afraid that Jesus' body would be stolen. To prevent this from happening, a very heavy stone was rolled across the tomb and it was sealed shut.

Jesus' Resurrection

After three days in the grave, Jesus came back to life. Because of His resurrection nearly 2000 years ago, Easter is still celebrated today.

When some of Jesus' followers came to the tomb and found it empty they were afraid. Jesus then appeared to His followers outside the tomb. Jesus lived on earth for fifty days after His resurrection from the dead. More than 500 people saw Him and witnessed the events. He ate with some of these witnesses. He let one of his disciples, Thomas, touch his wounds.

Because Jesus was resurrected from the dead you and I have the promise that we will also come back to life and live with Jesus if we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. His Return to Heaven After spending time with the disciples during the 50 days following His resurrection, Jesus returned to His Father in Heaven. Many people witnessed His departure from the earth as He ascended through the clouds into the heavens ([Acts 1:9-11](#)).

As He was leaving Jesus promised to return again. Someday Jesus will return to take His believers from the earth. If you have believed that Jesus is the Son of God and have received Jesus as your risen Savior and have been forgiven of your sins, you will go to Heaven in this second coming whether you are still living on this earth or have died in the faith. You must pray to be ready for the return of Jesus.

Jesus Helps Jesus is alive today and He wants to help anyone who will call upon Him. He sits on His throne in Heaven and is always ready to intercede for you when you pray and ask Him. Jesus will help you with your depression, sickness, disease, sin, guilt, or bondage if you will pray and ask Him. You can pray and be forgiven of your sins and become a believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven. He taught others how to pray.

God the Holy Spirit

God exists in three images or persons - God is the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. This is known as the Trinity. It may be difficult to understand how there can be three in one, but God is different from us. The Bible has many [scriptures](#) that were given to help us understand this better.

Jesus knew that he was going to be crucified. He was very careful to prepare his disciples for his leaving so that they would not feel abandoned. After Jesus rose from the dead and prepared his disciples for his departure into heaven, he said that he would send a comforter who would guide them in all things.

The Holy Spirit is the mysterious power or presence of God within individuals, empowering them with qualities they would not otherwise possess.

In man, his spirit is the intellect, will, mind, conscience, and other invisible faculties that make him a free moral agent and a rational being. Both the soul and the will are immortal. The spirit is that which knows and the soul is that which feels. The spirit of man desires the companionship of the Holy Spirit of God. Man can never find peace and happiness without establishing a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is referred to throughout the Holy Bible. [Genesis 1:2](#) says, "and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." The Holy Spirit was in the very beginning of time.

His dwelling Place

The Holy Spirit can dwell within the heart of a person. A person who is filled with the Holy Spirit can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. This brings true peace, joy and happiness.

A spirit has no form but can fill a body that has form. When Jesus was being baptized in the river Jordan the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove.

[\(Matt 3:16\)](#) The dove is often used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be an inward guide.

God's spirit will not dwell in an unclean temple or a body that is sinning or breaking the laws or commandments of God. A person must pray often and obtain forgiveness of sins or the Holy Spirit will not abide within him. To retain this peace, joy and happiness a person must pray and seek God's will every day.

Each of us has a capacity in our hearts which only the Holy Spirit can fill. When you become a Christian the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your heart. Until the Holy Spirit comes to live with you, you will never find perfect peace. Nothing else will satisfy your void-drugs, alcohol, sex, entertainment, food.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

To receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit you must first believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Once you have confessed your sins to Jesus and asked His forgiveness you are a candidate for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is a gift from God that is given to those who follow Christ and ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Heaven

After Jesus was resurrected from the dead and had spent some time on earth with his disciples he went back into Heaven. "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into Heaven and he sat at the right hand of God." [Mark 16:64](#)

Jesus instructs us to pray:

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." - [Matthew 6:9-13](#)



When you got saved Jesus says that, " There will be more rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do

not need to repent." *Luke 15-6-8*In fact, Heaven will be similar in many respects to earth, but so far more glorious that the earth will look dingy in comparison.

Imagine a beautiful sunny day while you are taking a walk through the forest. You sigh, "It can't get any more beautiful than this," you say. Well, it can. Heaven is beautiful beyond comparison. It is much more than gold streets and gates of pearl, though those are some of the descriptive words used to describe it.

A river as clear as crystal flows from the throne of God. Heaven will be a beautiful reward for those who have responded with open arms to the love of God. Heaven is the house of God, the angels, and those who have become children of God by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. God, His only Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit live in Heaven, but they are present everywhere. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father. Jesus says that, "*In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of Heaven.*" [Matthew 26: 64](#)



God is a good God who desires to give good gifts to his children. He wants to bless and reward. He says that, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." [\(John 14:2-3\)](#)

When Jesus returns we look forward to Heaven and a new earth. [\(2 Peter 3:13\)](#) The book of Revelations records what will happen,

"Then I saw a new Heaven and a new earth, for the first Heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea." [\(Revelation 21:1\)](#)

The Angels

The angels are glorious beings who live in Heaven. They are God's messengers, but are not God. You cannot pray to an angel. Jesus sends guardian angels to watch out for people. Many people have had the special blessing of seeing angels. Their purpose is to live and glorify God by doing whatever He desires them to do.



Hell

Because God is a God of love He has created all beings with free will. He does not want robots for servants. God created Lucifer as the most beautiful and highest ranking angel in Heaven. Lucifer coveted the praises of God and decided that he wanted to be God.

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, 'I will ascent to heaven;

I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"

[Isaiah 14:12-14](#)

Hell is the eternal tragedy. It was created for Satan and his demons, but not for people. After sin entered the world people who are not the children of God join these evil ones in Hell when they die on earth.

"The rich man also died and was buried. In Hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side ." [Luke 16:23](#)

Hell is described as a place of never ending torment. It is for the people who do not love God. It is a place of burning fire. God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world. If

people are so prideful that they think that they do not need God and think that they can live by their own power, then they deceive themselves and suffer from the same sin of pride that was the downfall of Lucifer. Jesus does not force anyone to believe in Him; we all have free choice.

Hell is isolation. People who say that they want to party in Hell with their friends do not know what they are talking about. Hell will be the loneliest place ever. In Revelation it is described as the second death, a terrible death. Hell is referred to as the place of outer darkness where the light of God does not shine. Does this sound like a fun place to party? Each person in Hell will be someone who rejected the love of God and chose darkness.

Satan does not roam about in a red suit carrying a pitchfork. He is a very real person and active. Satan is not to be mocked, but he is not to be worshipped. He has all of the power of an angel but none of the love or goodness.

Satan is a masterful deceiver. He is called the Father of Lies. He has been around since before the foundation of the earth. Unlike God, he cannot see all things at the same time and he cannot be everywhere at the same time. Though he is very powerful, God is more powerful. Satan has many servants around the world doing his work. He prowls throughout the earth seeking someone he can destroy.

The apostle Peter warned us, "Be of Sober Spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." [1 Peter 5:8](#)

[John 8:44](#) says that "the Thief comes only to steal, to kill, and to destroy. . ." Satan hates everyone, but most of all he hates Christians. His very nature is to hate.

By dying on the cross Jesus Christ conquered Hell and Death; He defeated Satan once and for all. This means that when we die, we have the hope of eternal life in heaven. Because of the penalty of sin everyone was doomed to Hell. Jesus' death enables those who believe in Him to have eternal life. His blood redeems us from all sin. Satan thought that he had won when Jesus was crucified, but Jesus was victorious over death. Jesus was to die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. It is just a matter of time before Satan will be thrown into the lake of eternal fire. Someday Satan will have to bow before God and worship Him.

In [Revelations 1:18](#), Jesus said "I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

Demons are fallen angels who are guilty of the great sin of Pride. They are the hordes of Hell. They do all of the work for Satan. They never die; when Jesus comes back again they will be thrown into the lake of fire where they will be tormented forever.

Demons can easily attach themselves to people. Every spirit regardless of its rank, including the devil, is subject to the name of Jesus Christ. You can pray firmly, "Satan, I bind you by the blood of Jesus Christ. I command you to shut your mouth, to leave, and never come back in Jesus name!" The good news is that by the power and authority of the Blood of Jesus Christ we have the power to resist the devil. [James 4:7](#) tells us "*Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*"



Eternity

Before He ascended into Heaven Jesus promised that He would return a second time. The book of Revelation records the events which are to happen.

Some people have portrayed the return of Christ as a frightening event, as a time when God unleashes his anger and everyone suffers greatly. When Jesus returns He will take his followers, those who have believed that Jesus Christ is the son of God and have accepted Him into their hearts, with Him into Heaven.

The times of tribulation which follow are acts of God's mercy. God is giving humanity one more time to repent of their sins.

The Battle of Armageddon will take place and God will win. This battle seems to end with the bodily return of Christ in which those armies are destroyed by the "brightness of His coming" ([Zech 14](#)). Satan will be bound up and cast into the bottomless pit. Jesus will reign as King on earth for 1,000 years. This will be a time of peace. The Earth will come into her fulfillment as the creation she was intended to be.

After the 1,000 years are up Satan will be released after which Satan attempts another battle, which God quickly ends ([Rev 20:9](#)). This battle is unnamed.

Believers will stand before the Bema seat of Christ ([2 Cor 5:10](#)) to receive the REWARDS done in the Body of Christ. Unbelievers will face the Lord in the Great White Throne judgement ([Rev 20:12](#)) where God will give the legal reasons why they are not permitted in His kingdom. Those unbelievers along with Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire where they will live forever in torment. Just being a good person is not good enough. Without Jesus no one is good. Those whose names are recorded in the Book of Life will join the angels and

Jesus in Heaven where there will be no more tears. Heaven will not be boring. It will be full of the glory of God, the God who created the beautiful earth. Can you imagine how exciting that will be?

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'" - [John 3:3](#)

The Bible clearly states that when we die we shall spend eternity either in Heaven or in Hell. God is a God of justice. His justice demands adequate rewards. If there were no Heaven or Hell, rewards for our behavior, then God would not be just. [Heaven](#) is the just reward for those who love God. [Hell](#) is the just reward for those who do not love God. If you love God you have nothing to be afraid of when you die.

The Ten Commandments

([Deuteronomy 5:6-21](#))

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.



I. Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate

me. And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. Six days thou shalt labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

VIII. Neither shalt thou steal.

IX. Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X. Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife; neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

When asked which was the greatest commandment of the law, Jesus replied, " *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Jesus said, *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."* [John 15:12-13](#)

"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you

walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)

The 4 Spiritual Laws

- God offers a wonderful plan for your life
- Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
- Jesus Christ is God's provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
- We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WHEN I GOT SAVED?

After the first glow of joy and excitement that comes when a new convert realizes he or she is now a child of God, the question arises, "What has happened in my life?"

The purpose of this document is to help you to understand what it means to become a Christian and enable you to better explain to others what happened when Christ came into your heart. People use certain terms to describe their conversion experience and sometimes the terminology is confusing. Some of the key words you will understand better when you have finished this chapter are redemption, justification, reconciliation and regeneration. These words are used to describe the process and results of what we commonly call "getting saved." The Bible advises in [1 Peter 3:15](#): "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Redemption-I'm Redeemed

A hymn we sing uses the expression "I'm redeemed!" A good starting point for understanding what has happened to you is this very word- redeemed. It is used commonly in conversations about pawnshops. Suppose a person who owns an expensive watch discovers he needs money. He takes his watch to a pawnshop. The pawnbroker accepts the watch and gives the man a certain amount of money for it. Along with the money the pawnbroker also gives him a redemption ticket. The customer may return with the ticket, the amount of money he received from the broker for his watch, plus extra money for interest-and buy back his watch. We say he can redeem his watch.

Basically, this is what happens in the life of a person, who has become a Christian. Man originally belonged to God. Because God created him and loved him, man was related to God-much as a child is related to his father. Instead of obeying God however, man chose to turn away from Him and live according to his own desires and wishes. We can think of man as a rebel against God.

Man's choices were bad; they were in conflict with God's will. Man's bad choices, called sin, separate him from God and make him guilty, deserving punishment. Man is unable to pay the price required to make up for his sins. In the opinion of God, only a perfect man could possibly make up for the badness of all men. God, in His love and mercy, provided Someone who could pay the price for man's sin. God gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, who came to earth and lived as a man. Jesus died, even though He was guilty of nothing bad, so that His death could make amends for the sins of every person.

Do you remember how you felt when you grasped the fact that you were a sinner in the eyes of God? How terrible it was to realize that you had no power to do anything to help yourself! You were hopelessly lost! Then it dawned on you that Jesus Christ had paid the price you could not pay! You decided that with His help you would turn away from the sin that separated you from God. When you trusted in Him and what He did on your behalf, then you were saved.

Meaningful words are used in the church to describe what happens. One of these words is redeemed, which we have already discussed. When we talk about Christ redeeming us, we mean that He is the One who paid the price for our sin so that we could once again belong to God. This is what Christ said of His own ministry in Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Atonement- I'm Right With God

Perhaps you have heard sermons urging the hearers to "get right with God." The Bible uses a beautiful word to express what it means to be right in the eyes of God. It appears often in the Old Testament, but only once in the New Testament (KJV). It is the word atonement. Actually it is made up of three smaller words: at-one-ment.

God's plan was for humanity to live in harmony with Him and to enjoy fellowship with Him. But God's holy nature cannot tolerate the presence of sin. Sin has come between God and man and has caused separation.

The good news, according to [Romans 5:11](#), is that "we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (KJV). When you were saved, you received "at-one-ment." That

is to say, you were no longer separated from the presence of God; you were "at one" with Him. Do you remember how you felt when you realized that you were no longer separated from God?

"Rejoice" the verse says. This means we have reason to be happy. And happiness extends into heaven itself. [Luke 15:10](#) tells us, "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Peace-I'm at Peace With God

Along with the feelings of joy and happiness comes a deeper emotion which we call peace. Peace means "freedom from strife; harmony and concord; an undisturbed state of mind." Paul explains it simply; "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" ([Romans 5:1](#)).

A vivid word picture of this peace is found in the Bible. In [Ephesians 2](#), Paul discusses the relationship that existed between Jews and non-Jews during the lifetime of Christ. He pointed out that in the Jewish Temple there was a barrier, a wall beyond which Gentiles could not go. They could not enter the inner recesses of the Temple, the area reserved for the Jewish people. Paul thought of this wall as a symbol of the division that exists between men and other men, as well as between men and God. So he said, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" ([Ephesians 2:14](#)). What Christ did when He paid the price for your sin was break down the dividing barrier that existed between you and God.

You have peace when you are saved. There is no fence between you and God!

Justification- The Judge Says, "Not Guilty!"

What has happened to the sins you committed? According to the Bible, the record is clear; you no longer have to answer for those sins.

The word we use to describe this happy state of affairs is justification. Paul used this term often. The word comes from the Roman law courts and may be illustrated by a man being brought to court to answer for a crime. Then, for some reason, he does not have to stand trial; he is acquitted. Simply, he is justified.

The Word of God says that as a Christian you are justified in the presence of God. Because of what Christ has done, you don't have to go on trial for your sins. Quite literally, justification means "just as if I'd never sinned."

Another good way of thinking of justification is to compare it with forgiveness. The two concepts are basically the same. The difference is that justification is more of a legal term, whereas forgiveness is a more personal

concept. For example, you use the legal term (justification) when you are thinking of an accused person being acquitted by a judge; you use the more intimate term (forgiveness) when you think about pardon being extended by a person who has been offended.

A good discussion of justification in [Romans 3:23-26](#) explains that all men have sinned and come short of what God expects. They need an uprightness they are incapable of producing. But God through Christ produces it for them.

Since you have accepted Christ as your Savior you'll never have to stand before Him when He is judging men to decide if they belong in the kingdom of heaven. In His eyes you are already declared innocent and set free!

Reconciliation-We're No Longer Enemies

Have you ever started to discuss a mutual friend's divorce action, only to be told, "Oh. Haven't you heard the good news? They have reconciled their differences; they're not getting a divorce..."

You know what that means. The problem that caused the separation has now been resolved. It has been dealt with and settled and is no longer a factor that will result in divorce.

Reconcile is one of the Bible words that explains what has happened to you. Its other form reconciliation, means "a renewal of friendship." Those who before were enemies and who had differences that hindered their friendship have resolved those problems and are now friends once more. The opposite of reconcile is alienate. People who cannot or will not, get along with each other are alienated.

Before you were saved, you were alienated from God. Paul describes such people in [Ephesians 4:18](#): "They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts." He explains reconciliation in [Colossians 1:21-22](#): "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you. ..."

In a nutshell, you are no longer an enemy of God; you are His good friend!

I Can Call Him Father

The clearest picture in the Bible of a sinner who returns to God and is accepted by Him is the story of the prodigal son ([Luke 15](#)).

A son asks for his inheritance before his father dies, runs away and wastes all the money. Finally, he returns home broke, hungry and destitute. His father, whom we might have expected to turn him away, welcomes him home and treats him with love dignity and respect.

This story illustrates God's eagerness to pardon a repentant sinner. It also teaches another equally meaningful lesson: the intimate Father-son relationship that exists between God and His spiritual children.

One of the words the Bible uses to describe this close relationship is adoption. Adoption is a word familiar to us today. Prospective parents happily welcome a new child into their home and enter into a parent-child relationship just as if the child had been born to them.

[Romans 8: 15](#) explains: "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father." Abba was an affectionate way of saying "Father" in the language spoken in Palestine in Paul's day. It is similar to the expression "Daddy" we use today.

It means a lot to say you've been adopted into the family of God. When you think about all the implications of being able to call God "Father," you realize just how great it is! Perhaps most amazing of all is that, according to the Bible, when we become His children we also become "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" ([Romans 8:17](#)).

Regeneration-I've Been Changed

Perhaps the greatest happiness of your Christian experience comes with the knowledge that you've been changed. Think about how the Bible pictures the difference in your old life and your new life.

You are born again. You are born from above. You are a new creation. You have become pure in heart. You are forgiven. You have been made alive. You are a new man. All these expressions signal change.

The change takes place by regeneration. It might be helpful to think of regeneration as the divine side of what we call conversion, a work of God. We can even say it is a miracle of God. By an act of His favor, He changes the disposition of the soul so that it is renewed in the image of Christ. The sin you once enjoyed now seems awful to you, and you no longer want to engage in it. Sin no longer dominates your life as it once did. Instead, Christ occupies the center of your life.

You have been changed! It wasn't the result of turning over a new leaf; it was the result of turning over a life! It didn't come because of your own wishing and willing; it came because of His great power and His great love. Regeneration is just a longer word for what we call the "new birth."

And There's More!

These are just a few of the ways the Bible talks about the wonderful experience that has occurred in your life.

The important truth to grasp is that you are saved! Saved is the opposite of lost; and "lost" described your condition before you were found by Christ. Unhappily, we cannot agree with those people who say that everyone in the world is a child of God and that God is the Father of all. In the sense that He created us, this is true. But the Bible speaks too clearly of the awful consequences of sin and the separation caused by sin, as well as of the redemptive suffering of Christ, for us to treat it lightly or to think of His suffering and death as unnecessary.

You can now sing with all the saints of God the praise hymn that will be sung to Christ in heaven: "With your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth" ([Revelation 5:9-10](#)).

You can join in the old hymn of the church that says:

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long!**

-Fanny Crosby

FOR FURTHER STUDY

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