

Fear God,
and give glory to Him;
for His Judgements are here
and more are coming.
Worship Him
Heaven, and
the sea,
fountains
of waters.

John 9:39 Romans 1:18

Revelations 14:6;7

We all
have broken
God's
Holy
Law;
Except
for one
MAN

I
I AM the Lord thy God.
Thou shalt have no other
gods before me.

II
Thou shalt not make unto
thee any graven image.

III
Thou shalt not take the
name of the Lord thy God
in vain.

IV
Remember the sabbath
day, to keep it holy.

V
Honour thy father and
thy mother.

VI
Thou shalt not kill.

VII
Thou shalt not
commit adultery.

VIII
Thou shalt not steal.

IX
Thou shalt not bear
false witness against thy
neighbour.

X
Thou shalt not covet.

JESUS
CHRIST
The Son of God

What about the Bible?
What about evolution?
I was hurt!
Hypocrites!
Why do bad things happen?

Deny yourself
take up your cross
and follow Jesus

LOST

REPENT

FAITH

SAVED

God sees the choices in our Hearts

Fear	or	Courage	/	Stubbornness	or	Teachable
Anxiety	or	Peace	/	Insensitive	or	Gentleness
Impatience	or	Longsuffering	/	Evil Thoughts	or	Righteousness
Worry	or	Faith	/	Overeating	or	Self Control
Doubt	or	Faith	/	Unthankful	or	Thankful
Unbelief	or	Belief	/	Complaining	or	Rejoicing
Greed	or	Contentment	/	Jealously	or	Trust
Emptiness	or	Knowledge	/	Gossip	or	Love
Despair	or	Hope	/	Lust	or	Purity
Drugs	or	Direction	/	Fornication	or	Purity
Loneliness	or	Purpose	/	Adultery	or	Love
Bored	or	Purpose	/	Pornography	or	Purity
Confusion	or	Wisdom	/	Masturbation	or	Purity
Drunkenness	or	Reality	/	Self-Abuse	or	Purity
Marijuana	or	Clearness	/	Homosexuality	or	God's Design
Depression	or	Joy	/	Lesbianism	or	God's Design
Cheating	or	Fairness	/	Uncleanness	or	Purity
Lying	or	Truthfulness	/	Rejection	or	Acceptance
Truce breaker	or	Commitment	/	Condemnation	or	Forgiveness
Deceit	or	Honesty	/	Hate	or	Love
Guile	or	Truthfulness	/	Anger	or	Love
Stealing	or	Integrity	/	Mockery	or	Love
Depriving	or	Justice	/	Criticism	or	Praise
False Accuser	or	Honesty	/	Resentment	or	Mercy
Pride	or	Humility	/	Retaliating	or	Meekness
Envy	or	Peace	/	Strife	or	Grace
Arrogance	or	Selflessness	/	Bitterness	or	Forgiveness
Indifference	or	Kindness	/	Unforgiveness	or	Mercy

Introduction

Apart from the true knowledge of God, man's purpose and destiny is unknown to him. It lies in the hands of a sovereign God.

Who is this God? What does He require of us? Why are we here? Why is the earth here? Why do bad things happen? Where is justice sometimes? What about evolution? Is it true? What about the Bible, is it God's Word?

Questions, questions, questions arise in the human mind and spirit as we contemplate the meaning of life. What is love? Where did it come from? Where did our conscience come from? What is man's highest good in life? Is it happiness or pleasure? Is it love? Is it wisdom, education, or knowledge? Is it the gaining of material things, money, friends, and relationships?

Or is it truth, and doing God's will? And how does truth, and God's will, embrace or view, all of these other things?

Do hypocrites in the church give us a justified excuse not to commit our life to God? What does God want from us concerning all this? Who is right and who is wrong? Questions! Questions! Questions!

The two most basic sins of humanity are unbelief and pride.

The following pages are going to tackle the five most common questions that people ask concerning God and the meaning of life. Life can be very painful and confusing. The purpose here is to help people with things they struggle with. Hopefully, this will greatly assist you in gaining understanding and perspective.

Don't miss this opportunity to submit to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to remove unbelief from your heart, and to humble yourself, and say no to pride; the pride of being in charge of your life. Then after that, I want to present to you true life and salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son Of God. And in doing so, I will teach on the meaning of the cross of Christ.

The Five Questions (1) Did man write the Bible?

Some people say the Bible was written by men. Others will add to that, saying it could not be preserved and passed down through the thousands of years without changing, unless God did it.

This may suggest that deep down, man really does want an infallible record, but they have been educated out of it. Some may not want such a record that requires accountability, especially the leaders. Only God knows their heart. Satan fights hard against the inspiration of scripture. He is busy educating people, with deception regarding the Bible. The lack of knowledge about inspiration and preservation of scripture has made multitudes easy prey to the devil and his demons. Liberals are busy discrediting the Bible. It should be pointed out that one of the core values of liberals, is that the end justifies the means; whatever works, use it. An example of this can be found in evolution, it doesn't matter if they begin with a theory to derive a fact. It doesn't matter if they start with a false premise, if the masses follow and believe it, so it must

be ok. The false theory that man alone wrote the Bible uses selective knowledge and hides certain facts, to conceal the truth. Some don't care if it's lying, it works. The devil is a liar, the father of lies, and he is the father of the liberals. (John 8:44; Rom 3:4; I John 2:4).

Parts of the Bible are God speaking with an audible voice (Job 38-41; Leviticus, and many other places). God spoke to someone and they had to write it down. You have to take that by faith. Even if God had written the entire Bible with His own hand, like He did with the Ten Commandments, we would still have to take that by faith. We were not there with Moses. (Exodus 32:15-16; 34:1).

Do you want God to visibly come down from heaven every hundred years throughout history, and say to the whole world, "This is my book?" You don't want that. No man can look upon God and live. It's an issue of faith not evidence. But there is an abundance of evidence (Exodus 19:9-25). He did appear to Israel in a thick cloud, and they heard His voice. God came down in the sight of all the people. Yet soon after that they fell into unbelief. This was their choice, and it's our choice. Faith is a decision; it glorifies God in such a unique way, like nothing else can. Faith satisfies our soul with the beauty of love. Faith works by love.

God is powerful enough and good enough, to inspire the writers of scripture with His exact words. He influenced their minds and hearts to write down precisely what He wanted. The Bible says; **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."** (2 Timothy 3:16). The New Testament was originally written in Greek, which says it even stronger: **"All scripture is God breathed."** It shows a more direct action. A quote from the New Scofield Study System, King James Version Bible, footnotes on this verse in Timothy, renders: "Inspiration, Summary: Every word of Holy Scripture is inspired or **"God – breathed"** (GK. **Theopneustos**). Without impairing the intelligence, individuality, literary style, or personal feelings of the human authors, God supernaturally directed the writing of scripture, so that they recorded in perfect accuracy, His comprehensive and infallible revelation to man. If God Himself had done the writing, the written Word would be no more accurate and authoritative than it is."

Thousands of manuscripts declaring the same truths, all work together to verify the historical accuracy and reliability of the Bible. Archeology continues to unearth artifacts that confirm what the Bible has declared.

Someone who acknowledges the existence of God, should be asked; "Don't you give credit to God for certain blessings in your life?" "While He is doing this, do you move about with free actions and will power?" Well this same providence of God that you experience in life, holds true with the inspiration and preservation of scripture.

Have you ever made the comment, "Oh, its perfect" in reference to anything? For example, in a letter that you wrote, or a letter that someone wrote you? Or have you ever said, "It's perfectly clear?" So if humans can give perfect instructions, why wouldn't God be able to give you perfect instructions through somebody? Are people greater than God? Are you greater than God? This is what's going to come out on Judgment Day, the secrets of men's hearts with their pathetic excuses. They abuse

Christians. Some don't want any judgment upon themselves. But they themselves, judge others.

God chose to write scripture through man. This way it personally involves us. God's way is the best way. The Word of God has a variety of speaking forms. This gives depth, fullness, and richness of character and relationship. God speaks directly to the prophets, they pray to Him, and then they speak to us, either in preaching or prophesying. As God communicates with the characters of the Bible, we receive instruction in righteousness. Prophecies to Israel, the nations, or the church, we can heed and apply to our lives. (Revelation 1:1) – God gave revelations to Jesus Christ. Jesus gave it to His angel, who brought it to John. Then John wrote it for us. This is God's way. He takes pleasure in using others to speak His Revelation.

Some say the Bible contradicts itself. But this is not true, because scriptures are not contradictory, but complimentary. The Word is comprehensive, addressing all angles of approach. If you could sort out the facts and view it fairly, you would see full knowledge with wisdom in the Bible.

Profound truths such as predestination, election, human freedom, and responsibility present a paradox to our limited reasoning. But when you take in the whole scope of revelation from God's Word, it is no longer confusing. The Bible becomes a remarkable display of God's majesty in history, and our fear of Him. It is awesome knowledge of God in sovereign control, but He gives man freedom of choice. This should cause man to worship God.

There is so much controversy about translations, versions, and the preservation of the Bible. It is necessary to make a distinction between a translation and a version. A translation is the original language of the Bible changed into English or some other language. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language, the New Testament in Greek. Versions are various choices of words in any language, to translate the Greek or Hebrew. For example, the words in the King James Version are somewhat different than those used in the New American Standard Version of the Bible, but both versions are similar in meaning. Those who want a lifestyle independent from God make a big issue out of this, but they have no case. It's a smoke screen the devil uses to destroy people's faith.

Some say that the meaning of words has changed over the centuries, but this is another weak attempt to destroy the authoritative and relevant nature of Scripture. Bible scholars and translators who are also students of historical changes know all this, and they go to great lengths to keep the Bible accurate.

(2) Why Would God Allow Bad Things to Happen? Where is Justice Sometimes?

One should not walk away from God, but rather fear Him. He can do what He wants with humanity, whether we understand it or not. He is calling us to get understanding, and we should thank Him for whatever good we receive from Him. (Job 1:20-22) – **“Then Job arose, and tore**

his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God with folly." (Proverbs 2:2-11) - "So that thou incline thy ear unto wisdom, and apply thy heart to understanding; Yea, if thou cry after knowledge, and lift up thy voice for understanding; If thou seek her as silver, and search for her as hidden treasures; Then shall thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly. He keeps the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then shall thou understand righteousness, and justice, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom enters into thy heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul, discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee."

The Bible says, God gives sound wisdom and understanding to the righteous. Therefore, if we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we should be living a life of righteousness. The bad things in the world should not make us question God's goodness. Tragedies are not an indication of God's love faltering, but rather it is a reflection of His creation in rebellion against Him, and of a sovereign God whose ways are higher than our ways. He is God. The answers are in Him. We are all accountable to Him. Because we live in a fallen world, sometimes the righteous and the innocent do suffer loss.

In the process of life around the world throughout the ages, when the innocent do endure pain and tragedy, the human conscience is stricken with the reality that the answers lie in God. (Matthew 5:3) – **"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."** When such things happen to mankind, it is a divine opportunity to acknowledge our spiritual poverty in a deeper way. Under the weight of heartbreak and loss, we become more dependent on God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to have victory in this life, then eternal life after death.

(3) What About Evolution? Is it true?

The belief in Creation reveals God's personalness, powerfulness, and creativeness. Do you want a personal God? Or some distant one? A powerful God? Or a weak one? A creative God? Or one that is subject to the changes of evolution? A God whose work can be figured out for you by the scientists and geologists? Or a God of creative power that can speak things into existence in one day? We believe creation by the faith of the spiritual mind, humbled by the Word of God.

The creation of Adam and Eve declares that we all came from one blood (Acts 17:26). We are all descendants of one marriage. The belief of evolution destroys that common bond of humanity. It does not explain the existence of the two genders, male and female. You also have to take evolution by faith. In fact, it takes more to believe that man and woman evolved from a single amoeba, over billions of years, than it does to simply believe the creation account (Genesis chapters 1 and 2). Evolution is a religion, not a science, because it has inconsistencies. It eliminates

the fall of Adam and Eve into sin, weakening our accountability and need for a Savior.

Before he died, Darwin questioned his own theory. You've been taught evolution in schools. Now you owe it to yourself to go to the Christian bookstores, to get some information on creation verses evolution. There are some good resources like: Scientific Creationism by Henry Morris, The Case for a Creator, by Lee Strobel, or books by John MacArthur or Ken Ham.

The writer of this pamphlet took biology in 10th grade. He was not a Christian, so before 10th grade even started, he assumed evolution was true. He was a C average student in school. But in biology his average was a B+, because he was extremely interested in learning the origin of things. Yet throughout the entire year, he was disappointed, due to the lack of hard facts for the case of evolution.

After the author became a Christian at the age of 19, he read the book entitled, Scientific Creationism by Henry Morris. It was really written by 23 writers and consultants who were scientists, geologists, or from other related fields of study. This book gives vast scientific evidence of a Creator speaking things into existence. It shows no evidence of evolution.

(4) Hypocrites in the Church (I was Hurt by Somebody in the Church)

Look past the hurts. The Bible is way ahead of you. It says there were, and will be hypocrites. But God is dealing with them. They are accountable just like you and I. We follow God, not people. Jesus is our standard. We are called to serve, not just take. Christians should be the solution, not more of the problem. The Bible is an open record of the sins of God's people, it doesn't hide anything. We see a higher standard to follow. Many were obedient, but some were not. Which are we going to be? That's our choice. Are we going to stand back and criticize, or jump in and help?

On Judgment Day we will not be able to hide behind the sins of others, as an excuse not to follow Jesus Christ. We are accountable for ourselves. Don't let others steal the blessings from you. Jesus rebuked hypocrites. Follow Him and do the same. But do it out of a life of righteousness, otherwise you will be just like them.

(5) What is the Difference Between the Ethics and Morals of a Born Again Christian and that of Other People who have High Ethics Showing Genuine Love for People? Some say: "I'm a good person. Why should I need to get saved? And from what? I live just as good as this person who's a Christian."

*There are three distinctions:
Trust, Communication, Lordship*

Trust: Before he gets saved, a man must acknowledge he's a sinner and needs mercy, "...God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

The Christian is trusting in the mercy of God through Jesus Christ. His salvation is based upon trust or faith in the merits of God's Son. **"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"** (Romans 3:24).

The non-Christian is trusting in the merits of his ethical life; also he reinforces this trust with acts of love towards others. His love and morals come from God's image, even though marred by sin (James 3:9). Love can be perverted to commit fornication. Peace can be twisted to compromise. The Christian confirms that he knows God and has eternal life, by his right standards. **"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him"** (1 John 3:18-19). Without this confirmation, faith means nothing. **"Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone"** (James 2:17). But there is a big difference between confirmation and trust. A believer is trusting in the blood of Jesus to cleanse him from all sin. Good works cannot cleanse you from sin, but this is where the non-Christian has his trust.

A Christian's love and morals come from being regenerated by the Holy Spirit in the born again experience. So his nature is no longer marred by sin. A born again spirit, soul, and body are made alive toward God and man. A believer also has the help of the Holy Spirit and the Bible. The non-Christian may say that ultimately he is trusting in the mercy of God, but he rejects God's offer of mercy through His plan of salvation.

Communication: With a true child of God, it's a relationship of continual communication. **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"** (John 10:27). The conversation is with the Father and the Son, not just God in general. **"...truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ"** (1 John 1:3). We have communication in order to be guided through life with the purpose of doing His will, or to just worship Him. Follow God by prayer, by His Word the Bible, by experiences, and by relationships. God speaks to us through all these things by the voice of the Holy Spirit.

It's an ongoing, unfolding relationship in the knowledge and wisdom of God. We grow in faith and obedience. As far as love is concerned, there is a triple blessing: 1) Christians shine as recipients, by receiving God's love in its fullness for them. Their face and body language show that they are loved. 2) Christians are ambassadors of God's love, to show forth love for others, because they love God. 3) Christians are to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind.

When the non-Christian attempts to perform these things, he is empty and shallow, in comparison. They lack the humility and gratitude of real salvation. Unbelievers don't show that grace has been bestowed upon them. They lack the fear of the Lord and the pursuit of holiness. They may have a Bible! But there isn't evidence of accountability to the Holy Spirit. These people don't consult the Lord before making decisions.

Lordship: Lordship is the acknowledgement of a Sovereign God, by a surrendered life in word and deed. This goes far beyond the common perspective that God has everything under control. It's to give Him Lordship over our life. We are to seek His guidance.

Man is Sinful by Nature

Sin's basic nature is rebellion. Man wants his own way (Romans 3:10-20). He will obey his conscience to a certain extent. He may listen to the laws of God written on his heart, but he makes his own will the supreme goal in life (Romans 2:14-16). **"There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God"** (Romans 3:11). **"For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God"** (Romans 10:3).

The Bible says; **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). It describes it like this: **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher;"** (grave) **"with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes"** (Romans 3:10, 12-18).

The Right Direction

The righteousness of God begins with a true recognition of who God is and who man is. **"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has shown it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, So that they are without excuse"** (Rom 1:19-20). God is triune; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. (John 1:1, 14; 8:58; 17:1-3; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 1:8).

God is one in nature, essence, and purpose, but God is triune in relationship. It's a Father-Son relationship in the communion of the Holy Spirit. God is love. Love has to have an object to bestow itself upon. Therefore God being eternally triune, whereby love could, and will always exist.

Man needs a true recognition of only one God, the supreme ruler of the universe. He is the Creator and sustainer of all things. We need to understand who man is (a sinner), our need for redemption, and have a belief in God's way. His way is by grace through faith, in repentance as a free gift to man, based upon the merits of what Jesus accomplished in His crucifixion, death, and Resurrection on the third day. The gift of eternal life is by grace, not of works, through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Sin Separates Us from God

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2). “...And strangers from the Covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12).

Sin Blinds us from Seeing God

“In whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4). “But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13).

Sin has a Price to Pay: Death, and Eternal Separation from God in Hell

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). “And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14-15).

The Awesome Holiness of God

God’s holiness compels His wrath against all sin. In one way or another all sin on the earth is presently being judged and will receive the ultimate judgment on Judgment Day (Matthew 3:7; John 3:18; Romans 1:18). God is so pure, clean, righteous, and holy, that no man can look upon God and live. He will deal with all sin in His creation, one way or another, either by His wrath, in justice; or by His blood, in mercy and justice. Unbelievers stand condemned by sin. They may correct this situation only through faith in Jesus.

The Perfect Love of God

The great love of God provides a plan of salvation by grace, to put an end to separation, to open up a new, living relationship between you and God. **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself-by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has He reconciled In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight” (Colossians 1:20-22).** We are at the mercy of a sovereign God, and in His mercy He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the cross to die for our sins.

We Have Broken God's Law

We have all broken God's holy law. If you have ever lied, that makes you a liar. If you have ever coveted, that makes you an idolater (Ephesians 5:5). If you have ever lusted, that makes you an adulterer. (Matthew 5:28). If you have ever had bitterness, resentment, or hatred in your heart, that makes you a murderer (1 John 3:15). Jesus said; **"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murderers, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"** (Matthew 15:18-19).

Only the Blood of Jesus has the Power to Change our Nature as Sinners, Cleanse us of Sin, and Make us Children of God

It's impossible for anyone to cleanse themselves from their sins. Good works do not wash away sin, only the blood of Jesus can. **"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"** (Ephesians 2:8-9). God says even faith is a gift from Him, lest any man boast. Cry out for this Biblical faith from heaven. Cry out for the type of faith that saves, a repentant faith. Ask God, and He will give it to you. **"Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a people of His own, zealous of good works"** (Titus 2:14). **"... by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh"** (Hebrews 9:12,14; Hebrews 10:19-20).

The Meaning of the Cross of Christ

The cross means Jesus fulfilled the requirements of divine justice against sin on our behalf. The innocent, pure, and Holy One of God, the Son of God, submitted Himself to the cruel punishment of crucifixion and death. Jesus shed His blood and was resurrected 3 days later, for the guilty, the impure and the unholy, all of mankind. He bore our guilt of sin and our punishment for it. Jesus was able to bear it away and to cleanse us by His blood, because He is sinless. God Himself in the flesh reconciled the world unto Himself.

Jesus Christ met the requirements of divine righteousness for us by living a perfect life in human flesh. Just like Adam's sin was imputed to us, Christ's righteousness is imputed to us through faith. (Romans 5:18-19) – **"Therefore, as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."** The Righteous One was punished for our sins. He bore away our guilt and punishment, by fulfilling God's

law and becoming our substitute. Jesus offered Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin for us. Jesus “...**made peace through the blood of His cross...**” (Colossians 1:20-21) and reconciled us by satisfying God’s holiness on our behalf. He satisfied divine justice and holy wrath against sin. Those who repent and turn away from their selfish life of sin, by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in His blood alone to atone for their sins, are cleansed and spared from the wrath to come. They also are protected from the present wrath of God (John 3:18, 36). The Resurrection of Jesus Christ revealed God’s power over sin. It revealed the power of a sinless life. “**And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead**” (Romans 1:4). The death and Resurrection of the Son of God in the flesh, conquered sin and death for us; and gave us peace, true life, and a relationship with God, if we repent and believe.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the legal requirements in the courts of God’s justice. He is the Savior because He is the only innocent one in human flesh. He did not partake in the corruption of the fall of Adam and Eve and the human race. If Christ had not been crucified, He would have not died of old age. He would have lived forever in the flesh. The Lord did not have the curse of death upon Him as we do. Therefore, when He did partake of that curse, He overcame and conquered death on our behalf by rising the 3rd day.

Picture yourself in court standing before the judge, because you owe someone \$100,000 and you are about to go to jail. Then a rich man walks into the courtroom and hands the judge cash to pay your debt. The judge declares you innocent. You are released from the guilt and punishment. It’s the same way in the courts of God’s tabernacle in heaven. Jesus took His blood into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat, which covered the law of God against us. It is so high that no man can keep it. It condemns us. But Christ kept it for us. God’s blood, in mercy, covers over the wrath of the law against us. We have all broken the law, the Ten Commandments. And apart from faith in Jesus, we stand guilty before God, who is holy.

Faith

Faith is a real substance in the spiritual realm. “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen**” (Hebrews 11:1). When your faith connects with Jesus Christ and the blood He has shed on your behalf; the Father, in His love and mercy, then sees your sins washed away by the blood of His Son. The blood of Jesus cleanses all of your sins! This is because it’s God’s blood and it’s pure. It’s like a bar of soap. It washes the filth away. You are no longer separated from God. Sin has been removed and a whole new relationship with God is opened up. You have become a child of God, and are now born again. (John 3:3). It’s His love that provided this grace of sacrifice to you. The substitutionary death of Christ is the only thing that can redeem anyone to God. The wrath of breaking God’s law can no longer condemn you.

God now sees you clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He has imputed it to you as a free gift. That’s grace, right standing given to us through faith in His righteousness! This imputation of righteousness

regenerates and makes new creations, with a new heart and mind. A Christian seeks after righteousness and God's will, with a desire to love God **"...with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind** (Matthew 22:37), and to **"...love thy neighbor as thyself"** (verse 39).

True Faith is Repentant

Salvation is free. The blood of Jesus Christ in death is the only thing that can wash away our sins and give us forgiveness from God. Belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ 3 days later is what justifies us. True faith is sacrificial. True love is also. It's impossible to have true faith in Jesus Christ without sacrificing your life. **"But will thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"** (James 2:20). A total surrender, **"He that finds his life shall lose it; and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it"** (Matthew 10:39).

The sinner needs to see Christ being identified with humanity and being crucified for him. He turns to Jesus to receive his Savior. His heart moves to the call of faith. The message of Christ's crucifixion, death, and Resurrection, puts within him, a cross to take up. The gospel causes the believer to serve others, because Jesus surrendered His life for us.

The Greek word for belief means not only faith, but also commitment. The very nature of Biblical faith is repentant. The repentant sinner by faith bears his cross and is crucified from temptation and sin. We are saved by faith. You should practice a lifestyle of righteousness, love, faith, and hope. You can now glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Rivers of living water will flow out from you (John 7:37-38). Thirst for the true meaning of life has been satisfied by a new and living relationship with God the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the spiritual rest that Jesus promises in (Matthew 11:28-30).

Godly Sorrow

A sinner should have a deep, godly sorrow for the destructiveness of his sin, and the misery it has caused others, as well as himself. True repentance sorrows over sin itself, for partaking of it, living with it, and for resisting God's righteous and pure way of living through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is our true source of knowledge, wisdom, and strength.

Are you distant from God at this time? Did you once know Him, but have drifted away? Or perhaps you have never known Him? If any of these describe you, then turn your heart to Him. Godly sorrow is a good thing. The Bible says; **"For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation. ...ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what full punishment!..."** (2 Corinthians 7:10-11).

The Call to All Men

When Jesus preaches the call to all men, He appeals to: the fear of God, the glory of God, judgement to come as well as right now, worship of Him, the Creator, faith, humility, repentance, the cross, surrender of

life, discipleship, and the love of God. With these calls, go forth His promises of spiritual rest and rivers of living water flowing from your heart. **“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light”** (Mathew 11:28-30). **“... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven”** (Mathew 18:3). **“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believes on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water”** (John 7:37-38).

He Sees Everything

God knows all. He sees your heart, and your pride, unbelief, and rebellion of selfish lusts. But He also sees your hurts, pain, fears, rejections, and loneliness. Jesus knows everything you have ever gone through. He knows you better than you know yourself.

God Loves You

God loves you. He’s willing to save you, heal you, and to unfold His plan for your life. He wants to embrace you as His very own child. God is calling upon you to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Come the way you are, no matter how bad you are, no matter how long you’ve waited, or how much you have sinned. He will accept you, love you, and give you His life if you come in repentance. Through faith, Christ will give you the power to turn away from sin and turn to Him with all of your heart. **“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thy heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved”** (Romans 10:9). He’s calling upon you to count the cost (Luke 14:28-33).

Your Greatest Needs

Your greatest needs are true, eternal love and peace with God. This gives understanding and wisdom. Jesus purchased your freedom from the guilt and power of sin, as well as its punishment. You can know God as your Father, and Jesus as your Lord and Savior. To see His plan for your life unfold. Experience the loving chastisement of your heavenly Father, as the Holy Spirit teaches and guides you. Love God with your whole heart.

If You Are Ready

If you are ready to give your heart to Jesus and become a child of God, then pray this or a similar prayer with your choice of words.

God I confess I’m a sinner. Have mercy on me. Forgive me. I am sorry for all of the bad that I have done. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose again. Jesus, I give my heart to You, save me and give me eternal life. I surrender my life, and I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Show Your love to me. God make me Your child. Give me strength to turn away from sin, and to believe in You with my whole heart. I love Jesus, Amen.

Baptism in Water

Now that you are a child of God, it is His commandment to you to be baptized in water in Jesus' name, if possible even this very day, as a public testimony of your new life. (Acts 2:38; 8:35-38, Romans 6:1-10). **“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”** (Acts 2:38) Water baptism is symbolic identification with the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we go under the water we die to our old life. We are buried under the water, as He was buried. Then we are raised out of the water in His Resurrection power, to a new life in the Lord.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

As soon as possible, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit (Baptize with the Holy Spirit) and give you a prayer language called “speaking in tongues” in the Bible (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:3-4, 11; 10:46; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 14:5, 18, 21-22, 39).

John the Baptist prophesied of the baptism with the Holy Spirit; **“I, indeed, have baptized you with water, but He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit”** (Mark 1:8). Jesus prophesied of it, **“And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”** (Luke 24:49). This is not to be confused with water baptism. That's an entirely different experience.

These prophecies began to be fulfilled in The Acts of the Apostles. The baptism with the Holy Spirit will empower you to speak supernaturally in another language. It's the Holy Spirit formulating the words, but it is you speaking them. This will make your prayer life much more effective, because it's the Holy Spirit speaking through you the perfect words. Of course, also pray in English. Paul says he would pray with both, **“What is it, then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also”** 1 Corinthians 14:15).

When saved you have the Holy Spirit in you. When baptized with the Holy Spirit, you are filled, and receive power to speak in tongues. But you must yield your voice to the Holy Spirit and speak by faith. The baptism also gives you more power to live a miraculous Christian life. Jesus said, **“You will be endued with power from on high...”** (Luke 24:49).

When the apostle Paul greeted the disciples at Ephesus, his chief concern was if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed. **“He said unto them, have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed?”** (Acts 19:2) Paul discovered that they had not received, and neither had they been baptized in water. He corrected both situations immediately. The disciples were baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus in Acts 19:5, and then were baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues in verse 6.

This shows Biblical respect for both baptisms. These are very important and should not be delayed. Through the experience of water baptism, God bestows spiritual and physical blessings upon the new believer. In the baptism with the Holy Spirit, since the Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is empowered and more aware of spiritual realities.

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