

GOD IS REACHING OUT TO YOU TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN **(We can go to heaven for eternity)**

by

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INTRODUCTION

NEED IN ORDER TO GO TO HEAVEN AFTER DEATH: The Bible teaches that we all have broken God's laws (having sinned). God's Justice for our sin must be satisfied and applied to us personally before we die in order for us to go to heaven. God satisfied His Justice by Christ dying on the Cross. We must personally believe and receive by faith (e.g. by prayer to God to activate our faith) what Christ did for us on the Cross in order for us to go to heaven.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish (not go eternally to the Lake of Fire after death and resurrection), but have eternal life (go to be with God eternally in heaven after death and resurrection).

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 5:28-29 - "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds (those saved) to a resurrection of life (heaven), those who committed the evil deeds (those not saved) to a resurrection of judgment (Lake of Fire). (Comments: Mine)

Otherwise, God will satisfy His Justice in another way by placing us eternally in a most terrible place, called the Lake of Fire. This is called perishing. Receiving this satisfied Justice (Justification) in our lifetime is called eternal-life salvation.

GOD'S DESIRE AND OBJECTIVE FOR US: God wants us to have salvation and then train us to become mature in Christ-likeness so we can know and relate to God toward His depth-breadth, living holy and righteously without sin in eternity. Apart from this relationship with God now and especially in heaven, there is nothing. Thus, He is now reaching out to us for us to receive His salvation (Justification for sin) through Christ's Cross. This spiritual growth after Justification is called Sanctification.

Ephesians 4:13 - until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

References to Become Mature in Christ-likeness: Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4.

PROCEDURE TO RESPOND TO GOD AND RECEIVE SALVATION

Becoming a Christian is both a **process** and an **event**.

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Process: God works in and draws you to Himself over a period of time through His Word in His Holy Bible and by His Holy Spirit. As you are drawn to God, you gradually become convinced and convicted of your sin (breaking God's laws) being most wrong. You see your need for salvation, the satisfaction of God's justice for your sin applied to you. You see the need for a new life under God. You take some steps, as God works in you, to avoid continuing in known sin - repentance. You now realize that what sin is and it is wrong. You have the desire to turn from our sin and do what is right under God. You are convinced that something is wrong in your life. Life does not make sense. This is the process.

John 6:44 - "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Event: Then at some point in time, you discover and believe the Gospel found only in the Holy Bible. The Gospel is that Christ died on the Cross satisfying God's Justice for sin, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead on the third day after His death. Then you act from your faith, believing the Gospel to be true, praying to God to receive the salvation. (Your action activates your faith so God saves you based only on your activated faith) This is the event. To those receiving salvation, these steps are not always clear.

Romans 1:16 - „ it (the Gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... (Comment: Mine)

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - (the Gospel is) that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised (bodily from the dead) on the third day according to the Scriptures. (Comments: Mine)

In Summary, there are two requirements, according to the Scriptures, that you must believe for your salvation:

Requirement One: You need to be convinced that, according to only the Scriptures (the Holy Bible), you are a sinner, a transgressor of God's laws, and that you need salvation — you need the satisfaction of God's Justice applied to you on your behalf for your sin. You need to believe that there is a penalty for your sin — eternity in the Lake of Fire as an alternative method for God to satisfy His Justice for your sin — if the satisfaction of God's justice by Christ dying on the Cross is not applied to you personally. You need to recognize that you are totally unable to satisfy God's justice for your sin.

Requirement Two: You need to believe that Christ, being God and the Son of God, satisfied His own Justice for your sin. He did this when He died on the Cross for your sin, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures. Christ died for us by God's Grace and from His Love. You have nothing to do but to believe that it is true and personally accept and receive it (activating your faith), as God is working in you. You act to receive is as an act of your will, as if you were reaching out with your will to receive a free gift of very high value — which is certainly true. We need to see that Christ is God.

Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

*Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

There are two essential steps in becoming a Christian, as God works in you (as stated, they may not

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always be clear steps):

Step One

You sense something is wrong in your life. You have a desire to live without this sin - repentance - you begin turning away from your sin. You need to believe the Scriptures that declare you are a sinner and that teach Christ's Death on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead completely satisfied God's justice for your sin. His work is a complete work. ***It is efficacious.*** You need to believe that you cannot add anything to it (including water baptism in order to be saved) or do anything to earn it, such as doing good works or deeds, living a good life, or being water baptized. You believe that God will help you turn away from your sin in repentance.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:1 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ,.

Acts 4:12 - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name (other than Christ) under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." (Comment: Mine.)

Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 1:16 - ,. it (the Gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ,. (Comment: Mine)

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - ,. (the Gospel is) that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised (bodily from the dead) on the third day according to the Scriptures. (Comments: Mine)

John 3:16-18 - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Acts 16:31 - And they said, "Believe (with activated faith) in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household." (Comment: Mine)

Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Step Two

You need to demonstrate that your faith in the Gospel is alive and genuine. God saves you based only

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on your activated faith in Him to do so according to the Scriptures as He is working in you. You should be aware of His working in you.

John 6:44 - "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

However, you must act from your faith so it will become living-faith - activated faith. Your action demonstrates that your faith is genuine and living. God never saves you on the basis of your works, deeds, or activities. This is dependance on self and you are unrighteous. You cannot earn salvation based on your efforts.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

You can demonstrate your living-faith (activate your faith) in obedience to the Scriptures by any one of the following methods: (1) confess your faith in the Cross to others, (2) be water baptized as a public witness of your faith (one is never saved on the basis of water baptism as a requirement, but it can be used to activate your faith in the Gospel), or (3) pray to God telling Him of your faith in the Gospel. It would be good to have the Scriptures in mind upon which you are basing your faith. You might even quote them as you use one of the above three methods of demonstration.

James 2:26 - For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works (demonstration or activation of your faith) is dead. In order to activate your faith:

1. You can confess Christ and the Cross to others:

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

2. You can be water baptized:

Mark 16:16 - "He who has (first) believed and has (second) been baptized shall be saved ,."

3. Or you can pray to God for salvation:

Romans 10:13 - ,. "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Matthew 21:22 - "And everything you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

A sample prayer is as follows (you may pray this prayer or one of your own choosing, citing the Scriptures upon which your faith is based):

Dear holy, heavenly Father: I believe that I am a sinner and a spiritual law breaker as Your Scriptures teach. I want to turn away from my sin. Therefore, I need a Savior to satisfy God's Justice for my sin because I cannot satisfy Your justice for my sin. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be born of a virgin as the Son of God by Your Holy Spirit, with a divine nature. This allowed Him to live without sin, as no other person can do. I believe that this uniquely qualified Him to satisfy Your justice for my sin. I believe that He died on the Cross for my sin, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead on the third day, only according to Your Scriptures. I believe that Christ's Death on the Cross

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and His bodily Resurrection from the dead satisfied Your justice completely for my sin, and, thus, there is nothing else to do. I cannot and need not do anything to add to it such as doing good deeds or works or living a good life. I realize that I cannot earn salvation in any way; it is a free gift. Now save me as You promised as I believe, and enable me to grow spiritually. To demonstrate my living-faith, activating my faith, in obedience to Scripture, I ask this prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom I accept as my Lord. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen.

NEXT STEPS AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN●1

After becoming a Christian, there are now some good things to do. They can include the following:

- * Begin attending a Bible Church that has a good doctrinal statement and teaches much from the Bible - including how we live the Christian life and do evangelism; Attend a good Sunday School Bible class. (Avoid churches and groups that mainly work for consensus and the felt needs as seen by man.)
- * Try to find a beginners Bible class that orients you to the Christian life and understanding the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. These can be called Boot Camp or and Orientation Class.
- * Find someone to mentor and disciple you; one who has been a Christian for some time and knows the Bible and the Christian walk and is involved in ministry. This will help you grow in Christ.
- * It helps to meet with a friend to study the Bible and pray together regularly. You can discuss the issues.
- * Understand that God wants us to become Christ-like for now and for the sake of eternity.●2 Begin to pursue this course and avoid being entangled with world activities that impede this process. Avoid activities and relationships with unbelievers that can lead you astray.
- * Key on living by sacrificial love, serving God and others. Love is central to the Christian life and one cannot become mature without living by love. Learn to love God as the first priority in your life and love others as second priority. Study 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. We cannot know God without living by love. We demonstrate our love by keeping God's commandments (John 14:15; 15;10)

Matthew 22:37-40 - And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

- * Make the commitment to use only the Bible to guide your life. Commit to going all the way with God even if others do not. Pursue becoming mature in Christ, living as Christ lived. (I John 2:6; Hebrew

1. **QUESTIONS:** You may e-mail me with questions.

2. **MATURITY IN CHRIST:** To become mature in Christ, one must learn and live out: (1) worshiping, glorifying, pleasing, honoring, and obeying God; (2) living a godly life patterned after Christ's walk with the Father using faith and sacrificial love; (3) being involved in accomplishing ministry including evangelism, discipleship, building godly families, planting new churches, and reaching out to and helping the needy; and (4) learning and standing strong on the doctrines of the Christian Faith.

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6:1) It helps to present yourself as a living sacrifice and an instrument of righteousness each morning for God's purposes (Romans 6:8; 12:1-2). Ask Him to greatly bless your life.

Romans 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Romans 12:1-2 - I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- * Memorize many Bible promises and use them to live by faith. (See my publication: *Living By God's Righteousness* for a list of promises.) *We gain revelation and more wisdom of the Bible when we walk by faith.* Appreciate that God will lead you into trials and testings so you can develop your faith.
- * As you learn subjects or topics from the Bible, write a doctrinal paper on them, using your computer. Then update them as you learn more.
- * Begin deleting bad and sinful habits from your life - live out repentance.
- * Pray to God for yourself, others, your church, and ministries each day. Give praise to God and ask Him to train you and direct your life. Read several chapters of your Bible each day. I suggest beginning with the Gospel of Mark, the first eight chapters of Romans, Proverbs, Psalms, and New Testament epistles.
- * Study only from the most accurate Bibles such as the King James and the New American Standard.●3
- * Begin reading a few pages daily of my report: *Living by God's Righteousness* available under Training on the web site. This publication has Psalms by which to praise God, Promises to memorize, Commandments to obey, the Attributes of God, the spiritual requirements for leadership, how to live by love, and some thoughts on prayer. Memorize the promises and other Scriptures.
- * Read my paper on *Eternal Security in Christ* to know that once one has salvation, one can never lose it. This will keep you trusting in God to keep you saved and not depending upon any works after becoming a Christian. Then you can rest more in God as He leads you to become mature in Christ.
- * Find a good home Bible study group and attend for learning the Bible and good Christian Fellowship. The people can be of good help to you.
- * Begin to support others in the ministry. Attempt to learn of the spirituals gift that God has given you for the ministry. As God leads, become involved in ministry.
- * Begin to attend Bible Study Groups such as *Bible Study Fellowship* and *Precepts Ministries*.

3. **BIBLE CHOICE:** This avoids learning error and misconceptions from Bibles that present mch interpretations instead of only translations from the original languages.

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- * Ask forgiveness for wrong and sinful doings and attempt to say in fellowship with all others as far as it depends upon you. Confess your sin to God to restore any lost fellowship. The blood of Christ will cleanse you from all sin.

1 John 1:5-10 - And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- * Begin to read the documents on my web site for more in-depth learning. Know what the future will bring.
- * Avoid sexual sin and immorality. This impedes your spiritual growth and God may discipline you. We can expect some discipline.
- * Be aware that world government can come at any time that will lead to many problems and to the Second Coming of Christ.

APPENDIX IMPORTANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

UNBELIEVERS ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE - It must be thoroughly understood that anyone who does not believe they are sinners and do not receive the Gospel to go to heaven, are without excuse at the judgment. God makes it clear in the Bible to all people that He exists through His power in creation. This allows man to pursue God by at least some faith.

Romans 1:18-22 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools,

If the unbeliever chooses not to make this pursuit, it is his choice. This is a reason that teaching and believing evolution without creation is so devastating. God has put in the conscience of every person some law to be obeyed (Romans 2:14-16). Thus, when man disobeys this law, he sins, and he knows that he sins. This experience and knowledge of creation should give him some motivation to seek God. But man has a way of relating this sin to only making mistakes instead of breaking God's laws. Generally unbelievers, even Satan, do not understand that satisfied justice is necessary for sin (Proverbs 28:5). They may not even understand sin. Thus, he believes he is living a good life. And of course Satan brings them some deception to act like the Most High God in some manner. The sin nature also does this.

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SOLUTION FOR SATISFIED JUSTICE●4 - As written *only* in the Holy Bible, Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross satisfied God's Justice for man's sin. Christ died spiritually when His blood was purging all sin and establishing the New Covenant for salvation. He said *My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me*; (Matthew 27:36; Mark 15:34). When the New Covenant was established in His blood for Justification, He came back to spiritual life. He said *It is Finished* (John 19:30). He died physically to place the New Covenant into effect like a last will and testament (Hebrews 9:15-18). Taking His own life, He said *Father into Thy hands I commend My spirit* - (Luke 23:46; Hebrews 9:16-17). After His resurrection. He ascended into Heaven to be our mediator to God the Father (1 Timothy 2:5).

The New Covenant is a legal agreement and contract that God made with man (us). If we believe that Christ died on the Cross for sin according to only the Holy Bible, God will give us salvation (now no longer under God's condemnation). He will bring us into eternity at the resurrections and judgments. We are now under Grace and no longer under the law of sin and death. (Romans 1:16; 6:14; 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.)

Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

4. **CROSS:** You may better understand this paragraph after you have been a Christian for a period of time.