

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

- God's desire is that every person would be saved and have a personal relationship with Him forever (1 Timothy 2:3-4) (2 Peter 3:9)
- No matter how bad a past we may have had, no matter how many mistakes we may have made in life, God wants to have a relationship with every person (1 Timothy 1:15) (John 3:16)
- Because Jesus Christ chose to come into this world to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, we can all be forgiven of our sins and have access to God's presence forever. This happens the moment we repent of our sins and put our faith and trust in Christ alone for our salvation. In the book of Acts we read, "Repent therefore and be converted, *that your sins may be blotted out*, so that *times of refreshing* may come from the *presence of the Lord*." (Acts 3:19)
- Because Jesus Christ conquered the grave and arose from the dead three days later, we have a living hope and we can experience the resurrection life that is found in Christ the moment we become a believer. (Romans 8:11) (Ephesians 3:20)
- All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Acts 2:21) (John 1:12)
- This teaching simply explains the gospel message, (the gospel of grace) and helps to clarify what you have done in praying the sinner's prayer.

BELOW IS ONE SUGGESTED PRAYER TO HELP YOU TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. (It is this prayer coming from your heart that makes this commitment to Jesus Christ real in your own life, no matter what words you may use in expressing this prayer) Today Jesus stands knocking at the door of your heart.

Father God today I confess that I have sinned against You, but today I choose to repent of my sins and turn to You to follow Your plan for My life. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of my sins and that He arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite You Jesus to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Amen

WE WILL NOW LOOK AT THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23b)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT WE CANNOT EARN IT NOR DO WE DESERVE IT

The bible says that no amount of personal effort, doing good things, or even being religious, can earn eternal life:

“It is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8c-9)

IF GOD DID NOT OFFER EACH OF US A PLACE IN HEAVEN AS A GIFT, NO-ONE WOULD GET THERE, BECAUSE

EVERYONE HAS SINNED

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is none righteous, no, not one;” (Romans 3:10a)

“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” (Isaiah 64:6a)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;...” (Jer. 17:9)

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

We all have our own standards for what sin is. But when it comes to heaven, only God’s standard is relevant. To God, **hate and lust** are sins just as much as murder or adultery, because both express selfishness and ignorance of His Law.

The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to care for others as much as we care for ourselves. Every time we fail to love in this manner, we are sinning. That is why the Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

WE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE OURSELVES

The reason we cannot save ourselves is because we all miss the mark and fall short of God's standard of absolute perfection.

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

No matter how good we are, any sin, no matter how trivial it may appear to be, spoils the perfection that God requires.

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10)

Whilst some people are better than others, being better is not good enough. It is like two people trying to jump across a deep chasm. If one falls only a couple of feet short of the other side, he is no better off than the other who only makes it half way.

BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES. NO ONE WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET TO HEAVEN. HOWEVER IN CHRIST, GOD OFFERS US ETERNAL LIFE AS A FREE GIFT.

Why should God offer anyone the gift of eternal life?

BECAUSE GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL, HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUNISH US

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works." (Psalm 145:8-9)

"For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

"For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm." (Joel 2:13c)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

In fact the bible says, "... for God is love" (1 John 4:8)

HOWEVER, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST, HE MUST ALSO PUNISH SIN

God's love does not overrule His justice.

“Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”
(Deuteronomy 32:3b-4)

“For I will not justify the wicked.” (Exodus 23:7c)

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity;” (Isaiah 13:11)

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
(Hebrews 9:27)

IF GOD WAS TO OVERLOOK OUR SIN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST. HIS LAW IS PERFECT AND HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED... “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH”
(Romans 6:23a)

HOWEVER GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS LOVE AND HIS JUSTICE TOGETHER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

**THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS GOD
JESUS WAS FULLY GOD YET ALSO FULLY MAN**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1&14)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS AND TO FULFIL GOD'S JUSTICE

WITHOUT CHRIST, EACH ONE OF US WOULD STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, HE HAS PUT OUR SINS ONTO JESUS.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to fulfil God's justice**
- **On the third day He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore**
- **Jesus gives the gift of eternal life to all those who RECEIVE Him (believe in Him)**
- **This is why we celebrate Easter**

This is the simple gospel message which must be preached to the unbelievers. (Refer to Rom. 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 1:17-24, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:20 and Acts 8:4-8) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **(Romans 5:8)**

THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS HAS REPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ALL NOW HAVE A WAY OF COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE, HOLY, PURE AND FAULTLESS

Jesus Himself said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR **WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM. **WHOEVER INCLUDES YOU!**

YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

Relying on your own efforts or even human logic, or even religious activity, cannot save you. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to be forgiven by God and to receive the gift of eternal life.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH?

WE MUST TRANSFER OUR TOTAL TRUST TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE

We must simply **BELIEVE** what God has done for us, and **ACCEPT** His offer of eternal life and **TRUST** Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way.

WE NEED TO REPENT OF ALL OF OUR SINS

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” **(Acts 3:19)**

REPENTANCE IS LIKE DOING A U-TURN

- 1) It is recognising that we are going in the wrong direction***
- 2) It is owning up to God and asking for His forgiveness, and***
- 3) Choosing to go in the opposite direction – HIS WAY***

TURNING FROM OUR OWN WAY TO GOD’S WAY IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF OUR LIFE

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **(Galatians 2:20)**

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US. WE CAN TRUST HIM TO LEAD US INTO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE.

Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

FULLNESS OF LIFE ONLY COMES WHEN WE LIVE OUR LIFE HIS WAY.

Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; ...” **(John 14:23)**

GOD’S SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT) GIVES EVERY BELIEVER THE POWER TO LIVE AN OVERCOMING LIFE

OBEYING GOD INCLUDES DOING SOME NEW THINGS IN OUR LIFE AND DOING SOME THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF WISDOM AND AS WE READ IT, GOD WILL SPEAK THROUGH IT (Psalm 119:133) TO ENCOURAGE US (Psalm 119:107) AND TO GIVE US CLEAR DIRECTION IN LIFE. (Psalm 119:105) (The bible is God's love letter to us) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **(John 8:31a-32)**

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS, (ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT), **LIVING IN A WAY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD WILL BE EVIDENCE OF YOUR NEW LIFE AS A BELIEVER, AND WILL CONFIRM THAT JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY LORD OF YOUR LIFE**

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO ALL BELIEVERS

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO ENABLES AND EMPOWERS BELIEVERS TO WALK IN VICTORY. BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE, IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING ABUNDANT LIFE AS A BELIEVER.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." **(John 3:6)**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." **(Romans 8:11)**

THE NEW LIFE THAT WE RECEIVE THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT MEANS THAT WE ARE NOW PART OF A NEW FAMILY

ALL BELIEVERS BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name;" (John 1:12)

Reading the bible, praying to God and finding a church home are all keys to help you to live a victorious life as a believer (Christian). Being part of a vibrant church fellowship will help you to become established in your faith.

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing," **(Psalm. 92:13-14)**