

I never knew you:
The doctrine of salvation

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Foreword

Dear merciful Jehovah, I pray that some reading this message are provoked from their slumber, that hearts are softened and scales of blindness removed, so that in seeing and hearing many shall turn to you and be saved.
Praise God.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my Lord and Savior for the inspiration and words to write this book. His purpose is always the same; to give sight to the blind, make the lame walk, open deaf ears, raise the dead, and preach the Gospel to those poor in spirit.

A special thank you to my dear wife and children for their support and attending Bible Study every Sunday.

I never knew you

Luke 13:22

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He replied, “Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’ “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out.”

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out

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demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

A terrifying vision

Imagine a stadium, 100 times larger than any football stadium you've ever seen, packed with men and women; each a professing Christian. From every denomination they have come; Catholic, Protestant and every variation of Christianity formed since the first church at Jerusalem.

All of a sudden you hear a blood curdling, thunderous roar of terrifying screams piercing the air at the same time. The sound of millions of souls all crying, "No God, Oh my God, no, no, no!" People absolutely stunned at what they have just heard. A frightening wail of weeping and moaning, befitting a people dismally shocked to their core. Every heart sunk and every spirit crushed. Every knee made weak.

They have just been told by the Lord Jesus Christ that he never knew them and they are being cast into Hell. And he calls them evildoers, workers of iniquity and law breakers. There is stunned disbelief, utter confusion on the faces of every man and woman.

Men open their mouths to cry, and wretched silence comes out. Their breath has left them. Someone has plucked out each heart and the pain is excruciating yet they still stand.

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There must be a mistake they cry. “Lord, Lord we attended church regularly, tithed and received your teaching. We ate and drank with you, you blessed us with provision. We were healed by your miracles, you blessed our children, we believed that you were the Son of God.” “You answered prayers, fed and healed us, and blessed us. Surely we are saved by the grace you have shown us!” “We have not sinned!” they cry. (Jeremiah 2:35)

And then the pastors and priests among the people also cry. “Lord, Lord, we preached in your name, we created churches and great ministries in your name, we cast out demons in your name, and performed many miracles in your name!” “Lord, there must be some mistake! Surely we are saved by the power and grace you have given us!”

And again the Lord says to these people, “I never knew you, away from me.” Then his angels bind each person by hand and foot and cast them into an eternity of darkness and separation from God. The pit of Hell they go where there is much weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Self-assured people

These people were assured in their own minds that they were in God’s favor. They truly believed they had qualified for entrance into the Kingdom of God. They were told by pastors and priests who now

stood beside them, also condemned, they were “saved.” Yet both stood side-by-side stunned at the words uttered by the Lord.

Nothing can be more stunning, dismaying and bewildering to these people. They considered themselves Christians and in good standing with the Lord. Now they have found the doors to Heaven shut and eternal misery awaits.

Then their shock, dismay and sorrow turn to anger at God. Teeth are gnashed, and curses follow aimed at God who they accuse of being cruel, deceptive and even evil. (Ezekiel 18:25, Jeremiah 2:29)

What happened?

How did it all come to this? Why did the Lord call these professing Christians, including pastors and priests, and long-time church members’ evildoers? Some Bible translations say “workers of iniquity” or “lawbreakers.” The Lord is essentially calling these Christians criminals. How can it be a people who thought themselves blessed by the miracles of God and had prayers answered by God, who followed the rites and ordinances of their religion are now being cast into Hell? What happened?

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My burden

What a horrific vision I have shared with you. It makes me faint, wanting to drop like dead at the screams and look of terror and shock on all the faces. This vision is more terrible and saddening than anything imaginable in life.

Oh what a burden has been placed on me by our Lord Jesus. The burden of the many that will perish but think themselves safe and heaven bound. The greatest strategy of the enemy has been to create a false sense of comfort among professing Christians who have no peace with God. People who have yet to wash in the blood of Jesus. Only to hear on Judgment Day the most frightening and discouraging words from our Lord, "I never knew you, away from me you workers of iniquity."

Examine yourself

“I take no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord my God. And thus my heart recoils from the vision I have described above. I pray that this letter will remove the veil of blindness and prick the hearts of many so they may seek and understand the truth of salvation and thus be saved. In Jesus name I pray.

The Scriptures tell us to examine and judge ourselves now, so that we will not come under divine judgment when it is too late (1 Corinthians 11:31). Again, it says to test yourself to see if your faith is genuine - a faith that leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Some will be convicted from this message; others will be hardened and refuse to examine themselves. You may be blinded by your denomination, church, pastor, your own ignorance of the Word of God or by stubbornness and rebellion. And so the Scriptures will be fulfilled, those that perish do so because they refuse to seek truth and light; unwilling to turn to God and be saved.

A close look at the condemned

Who are these people and are you one of them is the critical question? To understand what happened to these professing Christians, who were damned, we must examine what the Scriptures say.

Here is the profile of those the Lord rejected.

1. They worshipped in the temple (church) every week
2. They agreed to Jesus being Lord
3. They saw him work miracles
4. They were blessed by him with food
5. Some had wealth and many possessions
6. They had a form of godliness in terms of rites and rituals and formal religion
7. Some were evangelistic in fervor seeking new believers to God
8. They prayed to God several times a week
9. They fasted regularly
10. They read the Scriptures regularly

11. They were healed of sickness and infirmities by Jesus
12. They wanted Jesus to stay in their midst
13. They hailed Jesus as messiah
14. Many were preachers or priests
15. They tithed each week
16. They were taught by Jesus and praised him
17. They ate dinner and communed with Jesus
18. Jesus healed their children
19. Many sought out God and seemed eager to know his ways
20. Many seemed eager for God to come near them
21. Some had gifts from God which allowed them to perform miracles
22. Some preached the Word of God
23. Some kept the Ten Commandments from youth

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24. Some were baptized in water for the remission of sins
25. They believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and received it with gladness
26. Some had effective ministries, casting out devils and doing many works in the name of Jesus
27. They believed Jesus was resurrected
28. Some swore an oath to God

These folks offered the above experiences as justification for their belonging in the Kingdom of God. And there are many today who would look at the above list and say, “yes” these should qualify one into the Kingdom.

But there is something gravely wrong. None of the above works, achievements, experiences or professions of faith is in agreement with what the Lord says about salvation. And this is where Christianity, especially in America, has gone terribly astray.

Easy believism

There is a problem in Christianity called “easy believism.” Many think that if they agree to the fact that Jesus is who he said he is, the Son of God, and if they “make a decision” for Christ and recite certain words given to them by some pastor, a “sinner’s prayer,” are baptized with water and perhaps perform some other rites or rituals, then they are “saved.” They believe they have received the “vaccine” which now inoculates them against Hell and they are set for eternity.

Yet none of this is biblical. Nor is it recorded anywhere in the Bible, nor is there evidence of this in early church tradition. These are all creations of man, not commandments, statutes or rules of God.

This has been the tactic of the devil for centuries, to get people believing they have attained something they have not. Whether through deception or ignorance of the Scriptures, many will stumble. Therefore, let’s go through all the Scriptures and see everything the Lord says concerning salvation.

Discerning truth in scripture

But before we do, here is a valuable method for discerning truth in scripture. Many ignorant or false teachers will try to take one verse of scripture, out of context, and create a doctrine around it. As a result

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we now have over 30,000 denominations of Christian churches according to the World Christian Encyclopedia. Many with their own theology and understanding of salvation.

A strict rule of thumb to help you get a clear understanding of the meaning of scripture, the meaning God intended, is that your interpretation must agree with all four points below:

1. Is the meaning or interpretation consistent with the nature, character and will of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son as described in both the Old Testament and New Testament
2. Is the meaning or interpretation consistent with God's purpose and plans for man and the redeemed as described in both the Old Testament and New Testament
3. Is the meaning or interpretation consistent with God's Word as set forth in both the Old Testament and New Testament? In other words is there a conflict with other Scriptures in any of the books of the Bible; Old or New Testament
4. Is the meaning or interpretation supported by the context of the scripture: the preceding and following paragraphs of the verse and chapter

By keeping a strict adherence to all of the above points you will start see the truth of God's Word. You will not take one sentence or verse out of context and create a doctrine around it. This is what the ignorant or treacherous do to deceive many who do not know God's Word.

There is no conflict in any of the Scriptures. The Old and New Testament fit hand in glove. The Old Testament is the illustration in the human theater of New Testament principles. God's nature, will, purposes, commandments, plans and the new covenant are consistent throughout the Scriptures.

It is only the ignorant and false teachers who add or take away from the singular wisdom and understanding God intends for all believers to gain. God gave us the entire Bible to gain wisdom that leads to salvation, not selected verses to fit the theology of certain individuals or denominations.

The doctrine of salvation

Here are 124 points cited in the Scriptures regarding salvation. Look through them and then I will show you how they all fit together in one singular truth.

Book	Verse	Summary
1 John	2:3	Whoever claims to be a believer must walk as Jesus did and obey his commands
1 John	3:6	No one who continues to sin has either seen Christ or knows him
1 John	5:12	He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life (by this he means he who is born again by the Spirit of Christ)
2 Chronicles 6:36-39		Repent and seek God for the forgiveness of sins
2 Corinthians 7:10		For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death
Acts	16:31	Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household
Acts	17:30	God commands all people everywhere to repent
Acts	2:38	Repent and be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
Acts	3:19	Repent and turn to God so that your sins may be forgiven
Acts	5:32	And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him

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Acts	8:15	Peter and John prayed the new believers would receive the Holy Spirit
Acts	8:13-23	Simon believed the gospel of Christ and was baptized but did not receive the Holy Spirit because his heart was full of sin; he had not repented
Acts	11:16	John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit when you believe
Acts	11:18	God grants repentance that leads to eternal life
Acts	20:21	Paul preached repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ
Acts	26:20	Paul preached people should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance
Deuteronomy	10:12	God commands his people to fear him, to keep his commandments and to love him and serve him with all their heart and soul
Deuteronomy	30:16	Keep God's commandments and love Him, then you will live
Deuteronomy	30:17	If your heart turns away from God, to worship idols, you will be destroyed
Deuteronomy	7:10	God does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject him. Therefore obey all his commands
Deuteronomy	13:6-9	If son, daughter, husband, wife, brother or close friend tries to lead you away from following God to worship idols, that person must be put to death
Exodus	20:6	God loves those who love him and keep his commandments
Hebrews	12:25	If you refuse the Word of Jesus, eternal damnation awaits
Hebrews	3:18-19	Unbelief equals disobedience to the Word of God and will disqualify you from entering the Kingdom of Heaven

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Hebrews	4:6	Those who hear the gospel but are cast into Hell received this fate because of disobedience to the Word of God
Hebrews	5:9	Jesus is the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him
Isaiah	59:20	Jesus will redeem (save) those who repent of their sins
Isaiah	66:2	The man I bless is the one who has a humble and contrite heart and fears me
Isaiah	66:3-4	Those who choose their own ways do evil in the sight of God
Isaiah	57:15	God will dwell with those who have a contrite and lowly spirit (a repentant heart), to give them new life
James	4:6	God opposes the proud and self-righteous but gives grace to the humble
Jeremiah	17:7	Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord
Jeremiah	29:13	You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart
John	1:12	To all who received Christ, he gave power to become sons of God
John	11:25	Believe in me and gain eternal life
John	12:26	If anyone is a servant of Jesus he must follow him and remain with him
John	12:47	If anyone hears my words and does not keep them he will be judged by the words he did not keep on Judgment Day
John	14:15	If you love me you will obey what I command
John	14:21	Whoever keeps the commands of Jesus loves him and he will be loved by God who will reveal himself to that person

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John	15:10	If you obey my commands you will remain in my love
John	15:12	Evidence that you belong to Christ is you will love the other saints as He has commanded all his followers
John	15:4	Remain in me and I will remain in you
John	17:3	Eternal life is to know God and Jesus Christ
John	17:6	Those who endure (faithful to the end) and are saved are those who obey the Word of God
John	3:3-8	No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again by the Spirit of God
John	3:16	Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life
John	3:36	Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will see Hell
John	5:24	Whoever hears the Word and believes God has eternal life
John	5:40	Those who refuse to follow Jesus will be cast into Hell
John	5:41	How can you believe in Jesus if you make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from God
John	6:53	Unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus you cannot have eternal life
John	6:63	It is the Spirit that gives life, human effort can accomplish nothing
John	7:38	Whoever believes in Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit and out of his heart will flow the Spirit of Christ (living waters)
John	8:47	He who is a child of God gives ear to the words of God: your ears are not open to them because you do not belong to God
John	8:51	Whoever keeps the word of Jesus will gain eternal life

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John	6:29	To do the work of God believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
Jude	1:19	Those who do not belong to Christ follow their natural instincts and do not have the Spirit of God within them
Leviticus	26:14-16	If you will not listen to God and will not obey all his commands He will destroy you
Leviticus	26:23-24	The Lord says failure to obey His commands is an act of hostility. You have become His enemy
Leviticus	26:40	When his people confess their sins and their stubborn hearts are humbled before him, then he will remember the covenant
Luke	10:25	To inherit eternal life, love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself
Luke	11:28	Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it
Luke	13:3	Repent or perish
Luke	14:26	To be a follower of Jesus (Christian) you must love him more than your father, mother, son and daughter and even your own life
Luke	14:27	To be a follower of Jesus (Christian) you must carry your own cross and follow Him
Luke	14:33	To be a follower of Jesus (Christian) you have to give up everything you have and follow Him
Luke	15:7	Joy in heaven over one sinner who repents
Luke	19:27	Those who refuse to let Christ rule over their lives will be cast into Hell
Luke	6:46	Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?
Luke	9:62	No one who starts to follow Christ but still desires the things of the world is fit for the Kingdom of God

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Luke	24:46	Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem
Mark	1:15	Repent and believe in the Gospel, Jesus preached
Mark	1:17	Follow me and I will make you fishers of men
Mark	11:25	And when you pray, forgive others so that God may forgive you
Mark	6:12	The disciples went out and preached that men should repent
Mark	8:34	To follow Jesus you must turn from self-will to God's will and take up your cross, which is death to self
Matthew	10:22	The one who stays faithful to Christ while enduring persecution will be saved
Matthew	10:32-33	Acknowledge me before men and I will acknowledge you before God. Deny me before men and I will cast you into Hell
Matthew	10:37	Anyone who loves father, mother, son or daughter more than Christ will not see Heaven
Matthew	10:38	Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me will not see heaven
Matthew	11:20	Fail to repent and you will be cast into Hell
Matthew	12:50	Whoever does the will of God is the child of God
Matthew	18:3	Unless you turn to God and become humble or fully dependent on the Lord like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven
Matthew	19:16	To get eternal life, renounce all that you have and follow me

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Matthew	5:3	Blessed are the poor in spirit, (humble opinion of themselves) for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven
Matthew	5:8	Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God
Matthew	5:9	Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God
Matthew	5:20	For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Matthew	6:15	If you do not forgive men their sins, God will not forgive your sins and the wrath of God remains on you
Matthew	7:18	A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.
Matthew	7:21	He who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter the Kingdom of Heaven
Matthew	7:24	Everyone who hears my words and does them will be saved
Matthew	8:22	Follow me and depart from the things of the world
Matthew	9:9	Follow me
Matthew	22:37-40	The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is to love your neighbor as yourself
Matthew	5:44	Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven
Numbers	14:11-12	Unbelief (disobedience to his word) God equates as contempt directly aimed at him and he promises destruction to all those who spurn him
Numbers	14:24	Follow me fully and I will bring you into the promised land

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Numbers	14:43	Because ye are turned back from following the Lord, therefore the Lord will not be with you
Proverbs	15:33	The fear of God humbles a man. God honors a humble heart
Proverbs	16:5	Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord, be assured, he will not go unpunished
Proverbs	16:6	By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil
Proverbs	18:12	Before a man is destroyed by God, that man is arrogant and proud. Before a man is glorified by God that man is humbled
Proverbs	22:4	Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life
Proverbs	8:17	I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me
Proverbs	8:21	I grant an inheritance to those who love me
Proverbs	8:36	All those who sin against God hate him and their end is death
Psalm	34:18	The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit
Psalm	85:9	The salvation of God is for those who fear Him
Psalm	73:27	God destroys all who are unfaithful to Him
Psalm	51:10	One may pray to God to be born again with a new heart and new spirit
Psalm	24:3	The person who enters the Kingdom is he that has a repentant heart (pure heart), loves his neighbors (clean hands), and loves God with all his soul
Psalm	25:14	The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them

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Psalm	147:11	The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love
Psalm	119:2	Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart
Romans	10:9	If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead you will be saved
Romans	10:13	Everyone that calls on the name of the Lord will be saved
Romans	10:3	Israelites were ignorant of God's word and therefore sought to establish their own righteousness and did not submit to the righteousness that comes from God
Romans	6:16	You are slaves of the one you obey, either sin which leads to death or obedience (to Christ) which leads to righteousness
Romans	8:9	Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in him is not a child of God
Romans	8:13	If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God
Romans	13:10	Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law
Romans	15:2	Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up, for Christ did not please himself but bore the reproaches of sinners
Romans	5:3-5	The Holy Spirit (in the child of God) pours out the love of God in us so that we may be sustained in afflictions

The summary of all the above Scriptures regarding salvation can be boiled down to four points:

- *Repent:* Turn away from doing what is right in your own mind and turn to seek God
- *Believe:* Follow Jesus and obey his commands with all your heart, mind, soul and strength
- *Regeneration:* God will supernaturally create a new heart within the repentant, giving you the power to love, follow and obey him
- *Evidence:* Everyone who is regenerated will show evidence of God's Spirit within them

The doctrine of salvation, contained in both the Old and New Testament is very clear. God searches the hearts and thoughts of men. He pays no attention to empty decisions, professions of faith, ministries or activities done in the name of Jesus that he has not willed. He pays no attention to rites, rituals, religion, denominations or baptisms as evidence one is a Christian. God Almighty looks at one's heart and thoughts to see if you will love, follow and obey his Word. This is why the Scriptures say salvation is a gift from God, no one can earn it. He gives it freely. But not everyone will receive this free gift, for "many are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

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The one who receives salvation is the person who repents and turns to follow and obey Jesus with all his mind, heart, soul and strength. This is what belief in Christ means, to follow and obey Him. And he has commanded that all people repent and follow Him.

And the sin every person must repent or turn from is self-will; the desire, commitment and instinct to satisfy the desires of your heart and to live life according to your own rules. The mindset to be your own god, the captain of your fate, is called wicked, adulterous and abominable in the Scriptures. It is a crime against your creator who commands all mankind to come to him, to serve him and to love him.

The Holy Spirit

And the evidence that you have repented and turned to follow God is that He will supernaturally birth the Spirit of Christ in you, regenerating you, creating a new spirit within you. This act of regeneration now gives you the power and strength to live out the life God purposed and planned for every son or daughter of God. For God is Spirit, not flesh and blood. And the children of God are born of Spirit not flesh and blood.

And this new person, birthed by the Spirit of the Lord will be Christ-like. He will love his neighbors

as himself. He will love his brothers and sisters in Christ, will fear God, be sorrowful towards sin and humble in heart. He will hear the voice of God and know God's will for his life, will forgive his enemies, will seek peace and will follow Jesus. This new Spirit-filled person will renounce all that he has to follow and obey Christ. He will endure persecution, temptations and the attacks of the enemy to honor and glorify the name of God. It is a change that comes from within; not from obligation, a sense of duty, organized religion or self-will. This is exactly what the Lord prophesied would happen as part of the new covenant.

The New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:33, 24:7, 32:39-40; Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26, 37:14; Deut. 30:6

“This is the new covenant. I will create a new spirit within my people so they will have a heart that knows me and follows me. My laws will be written on their hearts and in their soul. No one will have to teach them my laws. I will cleanse them of their sins. They will never turn away from me. I will *cause* them to love me with all their heart and soul so they may live.”

Before repentance comes sorrow

Dear friend oh what wisdom it is to understand that God is in control of everything. It is utterly impossible for any man, religion, pope, pastor or Scriptures recited to cleanse a person of sin. Absolutely impossible.

To get all the glory, honor, fame and worship from a damned people entirely without any hope of saving themselves, the Lord first grants a revelation – a vision in the soul - of their true state of being.

This means the repentant are given an understanding of their sinful nature, the impurity and gravity of their offense against a holy God. A sense of deep sorrow arises, and realization that their life exists at the mercy of God. And in that moment of revelation, they humbly turn to God and plea for mercy.

A person with a truly repentant heart is described in the Scriptures as contrite, humble, and having a crushed spirit or broken heart. The breaking and crushing spoken of here is the defiant will of man, who sees no crime in his self-will set apart from the will of God. But for God to get the glory out of a man's life, for a seed to sprout new life, the outer shell must first be broken.

Illustrations of the sorrowful, repentant heart are described in the books of Isaiah, Job and Acts.

Isaiah 6:1

“It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

“Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. *Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”*

Job 42:5

“I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore *I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*”

Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart* and said to Peter and the other apostles,

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“Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

In each situation described above the people were given a revelation of their sinful condition and were rendered sorrowful. They then turned to the Lord for mercy and saving grace.

Repentance: a turning to God

When the breaking or revelation of sin happens in a person, evidenced by godly sorrow, then the grace of God leads them to repent. And to repent is to make a commitment in one’s mind to follow and obey the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. That means everything that is you, and will be you, is committed to the Lord. He will be your King and ruler over every aspect of your life. You become his bondservant or willing slave. This is the essence of repentance. A commitment in one’s own mind to turn from following your own sense of what is right, idols, ambitions, things, people, and self-centered desires; to turn to diligently seeking and following the Lord and Him alone.

In 2 Chronicles, chapter 15, the Scriptures give us a vivid picture of repentance. At that time the scripture says God afflicted the land with war and there was no peace, for the Israelites had forsaken the Lord and did what was wicked in the eyes of God. King Asa, King of Judah, after getting a message from the prophet of the Lord, leads the people onto the path of repentance.

2 Chronicles 15:8

“As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and *put away the detestable idols* from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the Lord that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the Lord.”

2 Chronicles 15:12

“And they *entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul*, but that whoever would not seek the Lord, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman. They swore an oath to the Lord with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and *had sought him with their*

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whole desire, and he was found by them, and the Lord gave them rest all around.”

God's grace in repentance

Before a person can repent, God must reveal to them the nature of their crime. These know they have sinned against a holy God and have a vision of their wretched state. This is the work of the Spirit of the Lord, the grace of repentance in calling a man to God.

The picture of repentance painted in 2 Chronicles 15:12 sees a people turning from idols to seek God with their whole heart, from which there is no chance of return to idolatry. They have made an oath that anyone who turns back from seeking God, who does not fully repent unto the Lord, shall be put to death.

Worthless professions of faith

Deuteronomy 29:16 should leave no doubt in the minds of any Christian that if any person, after hearing and agreeing with the Word of God then seeks to follow their own ways, and does not turn to follow Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone, with all their heart and soul, the wrath of God remains on that person. This scripture is aimed at everyone who has put faith in their decisions for Christ, declarations, baptisms, or rites and rituals of

religion, as reason for thinking they are saved but have not turned their life over to Christ.

Deuteronomy 29:16

“You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them. *Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations.* Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, *blesse himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’* This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, *and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven.*”

An unrepentant heart

The opposite of a repentant heart is described as proud, arrogant, self-confident and self-righteous. A man such as this can curry no grace or favor from

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God. This is illustrated in Luke 18:10 in the story of the tax collector and the Pharisee.

Luke 18:10

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The lesson of the story was the self-righteous, religious person’s prayers, who followed all the ordinances of his denomination or church and had a form of godliness and morals, was not justified - which means accepted or approved - before God. The Lord does not judge by outward appearances or Christian activity, or religious ritual and tradition, but searches the heart.

The Scriptures say the proud and arrogant are an abomination (detestable) before the Lord. They follow their own ways and do what is right in their own eyes. Only a repentant heart, which is lowly and humble and knows their standing before a holy and just God, is pleasing to the Lord. And only a repentant heart can receive God's gift of salvation.

Belief in Christ

The Lord tells us to repent and believe. Once the repentant heart is broken and rendered sorrowful and turns to seek God, we are then told to follow and obey Him – which is the essence of belief in Christ. And belief in Christ means obedience to the Word of God. You do not believe in Christ until you obey Him. Acknowledgment that he is the Son of God and was resurrected, and is Lord is not “belief in Christ,” according to the Scriptures.

For many believed that he was the Son of God, because of the miracles he did but were rejected by Christ because their hearts were unrepentant. In today's language, it is the same as Jesus rejecting folks who say they want to be a Christian and join his church to escape the fires of Hell. They are rejected because in their hearts they will never willingly become a bondservant or slave to Jesus but will keep living by their own rules and desires.

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In the verses below we see evidence of Christ rejecting professing “believers.”

John 2:23

“Now while he was in Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover, *a great number of people came to have faith in his name, after seeing the signs which he did. But Jesus did not have faith in them*, because he had knowledge of them all. He had no need for any witness about man; for he himself had knowledge of what was in man.”

John 8:28

“So Jesus said, When the Son of man has been lifted up by you, then it will be clear to you who I am, and that I do nothing of myself, but say as the Father gave me teaching. He who sent me is with me; he has not gone from me, because at all times I do the things which are pleasing to him. *When he said this a number came to have faith in him.*”

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had faith in him, if you keep my word, then you are truly my disciples; And you will have knowledge of what is true, and that will make you free. They said to him in answer, “We are Abraham's seed and have never been any man's servant: why do you say, you will become free?”

“And this was the answer Jesus gave them: Truly I say to you, everyone who does evil is the servant of sin. Now the servant does not go on living in the house forever, but the son does. If then the son makes you free, you will be truly free. I am conscious that you are Abraham's seed; *but you have a desire to put me to death because my word has no place in you.* I say the things which I have seen in my Father's house: and you do the things which come to you from your father's house.”

“In answer they said to him, “Our father is Abraham.” Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children you would do what Abraham did. But now you have a desire to put me to death, a man who has said to you what is true, as I had it from God: Abraham did not do that. You are doing the works of your father.”

“They said to him, “We are true sons of Abraham; we have one Father, who is God.” Jesus said to them, If God was your Father you would have love for me, because it was from God I came and am here. I did not come of myself, but he sent me. Why are my words not clear to you? It is because your ears are shut to my teaching. You are the children of your father the Evil One and it is your pleasure to do his desires. From the first he was a taker of life; and he did not go in the true way because there is no true thing in him. When he says what is false, it is natural to him, for he is false and the father of what is false. But because I say what is true, you have no belief in

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me. Which of you is able truly to say that I am a sinner? If I say what is true, why have you no belief in me? He who is a child of God gives ear to the words of God: your ears are not open to them because you are not from God.”

In John 8:28 we have a stunning rebuke to those who “had faith in Christ.” The Lord searches the heart of all those who profess him to be Lord. The Lord predicted to these “believers” that they would turn on him and desire to crucify him – before these thoughts had even entered their minds! So they were truly puzzled and surprised by his words, after they had just expressed faith that he was the Son of God.

The Lord’s condemnation of these professing Christians was the gospel spoken to them, which was received with gladness, would take no root and produce no fruit – which is faith and righteousness in God Almighty. Why? Because Jesus knew in their hearts they would never turn to God to follow and obey Him. But would rather seek to do what was right in their minds – which was evil to God.

God's commandments

What has God commanded us to obey? He has commanded us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In these two great commandments the law of the prophets is fulfilled. And the evidence that we love Him, and thus believe, trust and have faith in Him, is that we will follow and obey him all of our lives. Consuming his every word as daily bread, and trusting in the new covenant, sealed with the blood of Christ.

This is what it means to believe in Jesus. It is a commitment of the will to follow and obey Him. It is a call from self-will to His will. A call to submit to Him, to obey Him and to glorify Him. All true believers in Christ are called for this purpose.

Unbelief

The contrary of this is unbelief. And the Scriptures clearly say unbelief is demonstrated by disobedience to the Word of God. And what is that Word? Simply to follow him with all our heart and soul and love our neighbors as ourselves. And leave nothing in our hearts for the things of this world.

The new birth

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The Lord Jesus says in John 14:23, “If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” When we commit our will to follow the Lord something supernatural happens, if your heart is pure in repentance. The Lord, who knows the thoughts and hearts of each person, enters the body of the repentant person and literally impregnates him with His Spirit. It is a possession of the body by the Spirit of Christ. And it is this Spirit which gives witness to you that you are truly born again and have passed from death to eternal life.

It is the same Spirit who birthed Isaac in the dead womb of Sarah, who birthed Jesus in the Virgin Mary, who birthed John the Baptist in the dead womb of Elizabeth. This same Spirit of God now creates a new nature in the body of each follower of Jesus Christ.

It is impossible for a person to be born again, to be possessed by the Spirit of God, and not realize a change in nature. This possession and change of a person's nature by the Living God is what separates true believers from every religion on the face of the earth. It is truly a miracle. And what is the change? The person over time conforms to the image of Jesus Christ. He becomes Christ-like. Praise God.

The new birth is not a change in lifestyle

I have heard some pastors say they made a decision for Christ in their youth and changed their lifestyles and this they believed was evidence of the new birth. When your nature is supernaturally regenerated there will be a change in how you live your life. But a lifestyle change wrought by self-will and a decision you make is not evidence of the new birth.

These pastors could not say Jesus Christ was being formed in them. They could not testify that a force, a fountain of living waters was welling up in them, crashing against their personality and nature wanting to burst forward to prophesy, and heal and glorify God and to weep and to mourn as Christ wept and mourned.

My testimony

On August 23, 2007 at 2:30 AM the living God came into me. I slumped to the floor of my bathroom in tears, muttering to myself, "I understand, I understand." A deep and profound change happened to me that day, and it was only the beginning. My desires changed, everything about my life began to change. It was a miracle I was witnessing within me, as the Lord began to mold me into his servant and brought me from darkness to the truth.

The born again person can never lose his salvation. The professing Christians in the Scriptures, who

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were condemned to Hell, never lost their salvation, because they never had it.

Jesus said, "I never knew you." Which means, while they thought they had gained eternal life, Christ says they never had it to begin with, but had deceived themselves.

Conformed to Christ

After the new birth, over time changes begin to happen. Your desires will change. Things you once were involved in and attracted to become unappealing. The desire for God increases, not out of obligation, duty or requirements of a religion. God is calling God. The Spirit of Christ in you yearning for the Father.

As your desire for God increases, your dependence and devotion to Him also increase. As this happens you will have battles between the person that was you and the new person forming in you. Prayer to the Lord and constant pleading to the Father, that His will be done and not your will, help you overcome. This is the process of death to self, of taking up your cross. And your ego, which is the embodiment of self, will not die easily. The Lord however, encourages us in Revelation 2:7 –“To him who overcomes (conquers), I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

But have no fear; the Lord says the Spirit that is in you is greater than all. And He will complete the transformation, conforming you to the image of the Son, Jesus, so on the Day of Judgment you will be presented blameless and perfect by Jesus himself to the Father.

Evidence of the new birth: good fruit

And the evidence that God has birthed himself in you, is that in time you will love the brothers and sisters in Christ, you will love your neighbor as yourself, you will forgive others as God has forgiven you, and you will be able to discern the will of God for your life and follow Him. You will yearn for God's Word, and you will separate yourself from ungodliness and sin as your conscience convicts you. You will choose the righteousness of Christ even it means separating from spouse, children, close friends, career, ambition, church organization, denomination, things and risking death itself. And God himself will put the fear of God in you, which is a revelation of the horrific consequences of sin.

These changes come not from duty or self-will, decisions, morals, religion or even commitment to doing the right thing, but from a force inside that is driving you. A force you cannot contain, that convicts your conscience when you go off path and even restrains you when you would go astray. This is the Living Water the Lord speaks of which brings refreshing times, comfort, wisdom and joy – the Spirit of the Lord himself in you.

And then your faith in the Lord will grow as the Lord puts you through a refiner's fire. He will use trials, tribulations and other means to break the spirit of your old self, humbling you again, creating a contrite heart, so the Spirit of Christ can grow and

shine through; giving God the glory as His will is done on earth. No child of God grows into Christ without some pain, persecution, tears and challenges.

The seed of God in you

Every person that is born of the Spirit will bear fruit. This is why the apostle John says if you have truly been born again, it is impossible for you to continue to sin, because the seed of God is in you. Therefore if a person says he is Christian but bears no fruit – which is faith and righteousness in Christ, he is a liar and not of God, and the wrath of God remains on him. Praise God

Broken will

God has broken my will over the years since my conversion on August 23, 2007. I have been through many lessons and trials. But he never put me through more than I could bear. The end result is I have no confidence in my own will but yield to the Spirit of the Lord to guide me in all things. I still struggle in some areas but he continues to refine me. And since the breaking of my will, I have seen more miracles, answered prayer and the hand of God moving in ways people would not believe.

The Lord says His “power works best in weakness.” The Lord desires nothing out of your own effort or

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energy, not even good things done in His name. He only desires that which He wills. That is how the Lord gets the glory from your life.

Over time your desire, dependence and devotion to God increases, producing fruit which is faith and the righteousness of Christ. When people around you marvel at your faith and righteousness in Christ, they will praise God. We have a perfect example of the glory God wants out of your life in the following scripture where Moses is talking to the Israelites. In this scripture, the nations around the elect praise God, giving Him the glory as the wisdom of God is manifested in his children.

Deuteronomy 4:6

“But you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today. See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, which you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”

Righteousness

The Scriptures tell us God abhors self-righteousness. In today's church we see Christians who use Bible scripture to support their homophobia and prejudice against gays. They use scripture to support their political views and divisive hate filled monologues. They judge righteousness by what you drink, what you wear, if you smoke, if you curse, if you attend church, what translation of the Bible you read, your political party, your denomination, your views on abortion, if you talk in "tongues," if you tithe, ministries and Christian activities, the size or budget of your church, your allegiance to a pastor, pope, or church bylaws, and a host of other things. They even credit natural disasters as evidence of God's condemnation against specific groups of people – to satisfy their own prejudices and ignorance.

But none of this is the righteousness of Christ that all those "in Christ" are to put on. What we see here are behaviors which either serve to drive people away from seeking God or take a believer and make them devoted to a man-made religion or doctrine; someone or something other than Christ. The result is idolatry and a terrible sin in the eyes of the Lord. So what is the righteousness of Christ?

The Righteousness of Jesus Christ

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One evening, as I was meditating, the Lord revealed to me the burden of Jesus Christ. When it happened I started crying and sobbing. It was a revelation of the sorrow of Christ for those who are lost and perishing. It struck me in the center of my soul. I remember the warmth of the tears and thinking of my sister, pleading with the Lord to have mercy on her.

It was as described by the prophet Jeremiah (8:21) – “For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken; I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me.”

I started to cry over those who are perishing, praying to the Lord, asking Him to grant them repentance. For none can come to Jesus unless God Almighty calls them. In my tears, I had no anger against the lost, no indictment of their behaviors, but deep sorrow. When God gives you this burden, the anger, indignation, and divisive rhetoric will stop against all sinners.

It will be replaced by a deep desire to see them saved. And the only chance you have of helping them is to present your body as a living sacrifice to God so he can make you holy as he is holy. So that your prayers may be effective and that some may be saved by the grace of God.

But you cannot present your bodies as a living sacrifice while it is still a vehicle for your own personality and the instrument of your ego, self-

righteousness and biases. It is impossible for a man to be a prophet for God, which is to literally hear the voice of God and be a messenger to the peoples until he has presented himself to the cross of Jesus Christ. It is impossible for a man to have faith that can move mountains until he has died to self and is under the control of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Christ must live unimpeded and unrestricted in your soul. It will no longer be you but Christ living in you. You must relinquish all right to your personality so he can fill you, possess you and control you, living His life through you.

Death to self

I can tell you the day the Lord took me from a self-righteous Christian to the cross. It still brings tears to me as I write this. I was praying for a miracle, for a young 26 year old woman who was dying of cancer. I wasn't just praying I was demanding the Lord act. For it said in the Scriptures to come boldly to the throne of grace.

Then the Lord came to me and said, "Are you willing to trade your life for hers?" I was scared and speechless because I couldn't say yes. I was haunted for six days with what the Lord asked me and the thought that I couldn't say yes. And if I said yes, I truly thought the Lord would take my life. I immediately thought of my wife and children and who would take care of them. I then realized I was still a babe in Christ, not the mature Christian I thought I was. I had a long way to go to be like my Lord.

On the sixth day of being haunted by what happened, I was in my car on the way to work. Suddenly I felt like a knife was thrust into my side. I was bawling, and through my clenched teeth and streaming tears, I said "Lord what are you asking me to do?"

And before I reached my destination, through eyes glazed with tears and body wrenched with the

knowledge of what was about to take place, I said “Lord, if it is your will, take my life and do as you will.” And then, I knew what it was to go to the cross and die to self. Oh God, I am in tears as I recall that day. I cannot lie, it was painful.

Dear Christian, going to the cross we must all go, if God is to get the full glory out of our lives.

It would be after that day that I saw more miracles and answered prayers. It was as if the heavens opened up. God is merciful and faithful to his word dear friend.

Oh God your Spirit is overwhelming me! I prophesy that God is merciful, and patient, loving those who love Him, because he has revealed this to me. It is in my bones, I cannot stay silent. Praise him saints, his love is steadfast to those who love him and their children forever. Praise God. And glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

“I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” (1 Corinthians 9:19)

I become Democrat to save the Democrat.
Republican to save the Republican. I become friend to both gay and straight with no distinction. For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all (Romans 11:32). I love the one who has an abortion and the one who does

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not. I do not chastise but rather strive to let the love of Jesus permeate my soul so the words he will put in my mouth, at the right time, may produce fruit in the lost he calls me to witness, comfort and to teach.

Oh merciful Jehovah, your ways are not our ways. Your thoughts are not our thoughts. Who can understand the mind of God? We are called to obey. Be merciful as He is merciful. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Love as He loves. For he is kind to the wicked and the righteous. The apostle Paul illustrates the righteousness of Christ in 1 Corinthians 9:19 and again in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

1 Corinthians 9:19

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

“If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.”

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

Death bed confessions

There are those reading this message who would say, “Surely a profession of faith is worth something, look at those who make death bed confessions of faith in the Lord Jesus!” Dear friend, a convicted criminal who says the words given to him by a well-meaning pastor, to escape the fires of Hell, will not escape his fate if his heart has not repented.

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In Luke 23:39-43 we are given the picture of a death bed confession accepted by the Lord. As one of the thieves hangs on the cross, the grace of God moves on his heart. He remembers the Christ next to him, who preached the Word of God in the streets and healed all who came to him. This man is then rendered sorrowful as the fear of God comes over him. He realizes he has committed a crime not only against his neighbor but has sinned against God. He then makes a confession of his sin before the Lord.

Then in his final hour he turns to the Lord to ask for mercy. In his own words he humbly asks the Lord to simply “remember him.” Such a heart-felt cry for mercy the Lord answered. And the Lord himself, not a pastor or priest, gave this man assurance that he would be received into the Kingdom of God.

Luke 23:39-43

“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

And so Psalm 116 is fulfilled:

“I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, save me!” The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.”

You cannot be saved unless you have repented and you cannot repent unless you have had a revelation of your sin and standing in relation to a holy God. And you cannot have a revelation of your crimes against God unless God gives it to you according to his grace and mercy. No one comes to Jesus that doesn't have a sorrowful heart, humbled by God himself. This is why you must seek God. He wants you to search him out, to “find His face.” The Scriptures say he will reward all those who diligently seek him.

More revelations of Christ

It took a period of 3-4 years after my conversion that God fulfilled the promises He offers to every true follower of Christ. The Lord said he himself would teach the children, he himself would put the fear of God in every heart, he would change a believer's heart of stone into flesh, he would put his law into each heart, he would cause every repentant heart to follow him, he would cause living waters to flow from every believer, he would manifest himself to every believer, and he said his Spirit would witness to every believer who is born again.

These are all supernatural acts that are evidence of a living God. God said he would do these things, not organized religion, men's ministry, women's ministry or a pastor. He himself would do these things, he is a living God that is King and Lord and intercessory priest for every believer.

The church in America, through human endeavor, has tried to do the things that only God can do through His Spirit. The results have failed miserably and have put false hope into untold millions who will be condemned on Judgment Day.

While I devote myself to the Bible, my growth in Christ has come through wisdom and understanding, by the grace of God. In these revelations he put something in my soul that gave me vision and

knowledge; that both weakened and strengthened me at the same time. Let me explain.

Illumination of the Scriptures

I can tell you the day the Scriptures, the Old and New Testament illumined my mind. As I was reading the Scriptures one night, it was as if someone suddenly cast a flood light and in an instant the words which were once sometimes difficult to understand, appeared like third grade English. I started to see the relationships of the messages in the Old and New Testament. God's word truly became living since that day and my wisdom and understanding grew.

The love of Christ

I can tell you the day the Lord put the revelation of the love of Jesus for mankind into my heart. I got a small glimpse of the depths and heights of the love of the Lord. Loud weeping and tears came out of my soul that day.

Love for the Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I can tell you the day the Lord put the revelation in me of the love for the brothers in Christ. I began to feel affection and connection to people used by God, as far away as China, with whom I had no previous

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relationship. But I loved them as Christ loved them. How and why is a mystery of the grace of God.

The fear of God

I can tell you the day the Lord put the fear of God in me. It was about a year and a half after my conversion. I literally got scared and trembled as I understood the horrific consequences of sin, and how the Lord's hedge of protection around my family would be impaired if I sinned. This fear came shook me to my soul. And it keeps me obedient, humble and away from evil.

The crimes of the condemned

Let's go back to those professing Christians who the Lord told "I never knew you," and cast into Hell. What was their crime, why did he call them - including pastors and priests, law breakers? Here is what the Scriptures say about the condemned:

- Your iniquities have separated you from God
- They had no fear of God
- Did not repent and turn to Him as Lord
- They had greed, malice, bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, desire to exploit others, or lusts in their heart
- In their hearts they had no intention of obeying God beyond lip service
- They worshipped God and other gods (idols)
- Desired praise and acceptance from others (church, society, family, work, politics) more than the praise that comes from obedience to God

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- In their hearts they did not want Christ to be their king and rule over them
- Had no desire to renounce the world and only follow Christ
- Desired the things of the world more than the righteousness of God
- Did not depend or trust in God but trusted in themselves or others
- They do as they please without regard for the rights of God or the rights of others
- Pursued idols, self-centered desires, or lusts of life and did not follow God
- Showed no mercy to others therefore will receive no mercy from God
- Refused to follow Christ and obey him
- No intention of giving up everything (family, ambitions, religion, career) for God regardless of the consequences
- Saw the cloak of godliness as a means of gain

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- Desired status in church more than the praise that comes from God
- Engaged in Christian ministry but did not keep Jesus as their first love. Ministry became an idol
- Had a form of godliness but are lovers of pleasure, self and money more than God
- Gave priority to religious and denominational traditions rather than the Word of God
- Were full of malice and all deceit, lies, violence, hypocrisy, envy, and slander; unjust
- Followed and were loyal to religious leaders, church organizations and traditions, but did not commit to following Christ if it meant rejection by their leaders and religion
- Loved their religious leaders, church traditions, and denominations - more than Christ
- They claimed they had not sinned and were faithful

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- Denied the power of the Holy Spirit
- Wished to be a friend of the world and became an enemy of God
- Were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on others
- Unprofitable servant - Word produced no fruit in him - which is faith and righteousness in Christ
- Foolish bridesmaids - Believers in the Gospel with no Holy Spirit - - did not prepare themselves (repent and obey) and receive the gift of God promised to all who love Jesus
- Believers in the Gospel who fell away - denied Jesus when trouble came because of the Word - in their denomination, workplace, politics, church organization, family, relationships
- Believers in the Gospel who fell away - pursued money or focused on the worries of life

Guilty as charged

Despite having heard the Word of Christ, and having a form of godliness, the condemned never repented. They were never born again by the Spirit of Christ and thus never truly followed and obeyed the Word of God. On the Day of Judgment, not one professing Christian, who fully expected to enter the Kingdom of Heaven but did not, could say to the Lord, “I repented of my sins, and followed and obeyed you, and you alone, with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. And I loved my neighbor as myself.”

In Jeremiah 2:12 it tells us that all the heavens and God himself are amazed at such rejection of God: “The heavens are shocked at such a thing and shrink back in horror and dismay,” says the Lord. And so on the Day of Judgment, all the host of the heavens, all the angels, saints and Jesus Himself will applaud as these are cast into Hell.

These professing Christians felt justified because of spiritual experiences, a decision they made when they were children, blessings, spiritual gifts, miracles, baptisms, ministries, charities, religious activity and loyalties to church traditions. But none could say they gave up everything to follow Jesus Christ and him alone, until the end of their days. And in the eyes of God the one who treats his Word with contempt is evil and judgment is justified.

Words are not enough

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You have learned the words of the crucified life, and intellectually and emotionally agreed to the Gospel and believed this was enough, but it is not.

If you have not gone down in death to self and been resurrected in the new life by the Holy Spirit, born again by the Spirit of Christ, you are still under the sentence of death. You know the plan of salvation, you can recite the Scriptures, but you have not the reality of the Kingdom of God. We serve a living God, not a dead idol. And he has promised to reveal himself to every person born of His Spirit and all born of the Spirit will hear his voice and be changed. Not in the afterlife but now. This is a supernatural thing, not a myth.

No person who has ever been possessed by the Spirit of God is the same. The Spirit reveals himself to you and gradually changes your desires, convicts your conscience of sin, and opens up your mind to hear the voice of God and to know His will. The power of God comes into you to accomplish God's will in your life.

Professing Christians, pastors, preachers, and elders, who have never been regenerated by the Spirit of Christ, know nothing of what I speak. They have read the passages in the Bible but assume the Holy Spirit is a state of mind, not knowing it is the reality of God himself on earth.

The Kingdom of God is Spirit and God is Spirit. His children must be born of Spirit to enter the Kingdom. If you have not received this gift of God drop to your face and plead with God, day and night, until you have received the promise to every heart that follows and obeys Jesus Christ.

Witness for Christ

The only people who can witness for Jesus Christ, that have a testimony, are those who have been resurrected with Christ in the new birth. This is why no disciple of Christ was allowed to witness for Him until they received His Spirit (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8).

If you have not received the Spirit of the Lord and been regenerated, you are still serving the god of this world, the devil. All of your religion and ordinances are utterly useless and you have no part in the forgiveness of Jesus until you have renounced the god of this world. And how do you know you still serve the devil?

The apostle John tells us in 1 John that all that is in the world is the lust of the eyes (desire for things), the lust of the flesh (pleasure and experiences) and the pride of life (position, stature, self-will, fame).

Idolatry

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In these substitutes for the worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the idolater seeks positions of power, pleasure, prestige, fame, love, security, knowledge, material possessions, wealth, peace and leaders in his own image. He assumes authority to do what is right in his own eyes without regard to the rights of his creator and his neighbor.

But the idolater satisfies the disturbances of his conscience by continuing to worship the Lord, attending church services, putting on a form of godliness and calling himself Christian. He deceives himself that all is well with his soul while continuing to pursue the lusts of the eye, the lusts of the flesh or the pride that comes with stature, position, authority, fame and achievement. Saying in effect, God is insufficient to meet my needs.

The original sin

This was the original sin. When the Lord told Adam & Eve if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they will surely die, we know after they ate they did not physically fall down and die.

An interpretation to consider is after they ate of the fruit, they and their children “now knew how to commit evil.” And the greatest evil committed in the Scriptures is when a covenant person, a person who has heard and accepted as truth the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejects Him by seeking idols offered by the

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devil. The tragedy in all of this is that an idol cannot offer life, but only death and destruction at the hands of a righteous and holy God.

What the Lord requires of you

What is it the Lord your God requires of you, but to repent, to turn back to him. To renounce the world and all things in the world, for all that is in the world is of the devil and brings death. Turn to the Lord for everything; this is what He means when He commands us to “love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.” Our passions and desires, our bodies, our thoughts, our will, our possessions and ambitions – all are to be committed to the Lord for his purposes and plans. Praise God.

Self-preservation

In America’s churches, the average professing Christian sees salvation as self-preservation from an angry God. They do not see or refuse to see that salvation is a person, Jesus Christ. Salvation is not a scripture verse and it is not a decision. He who has the Son has life. And he that eats the flesh and drinks the blood of Christ will have life eternal. The person that consumes Christ and is consumed by Christ is the child of God.

No place in scripture do you see a “sinner’s prayer” that leads to salvation. No place in scripture do you see water baptisms of adults or water baptism of babies guaranteeing a person’s right standing with God.

The Lord says that if you have a right standing with Him, there will be evidence of it. Folks may come to Jesus by way of a multitude of situations and means according to the infinite grace of God. But all will bear the same evidence that the Spirit of Christ has possessed and regenerated their hearts.

Primary evidence of the New Birth

The book of 1 John tells us the primary evidence that you have passed from death to life, and that your heart has been regenerated by God, is that you will love the brothers and sisters in Christ. It does not say you will love the folks in your church, or denomination or religious sect. But the burden of Christ will be revealed in your heart, supernaturally, and the love for God's children born by the Spirit will be manifest. No matter where they are scattered on the earth, in every race, culture and denomination, you will love them.

Your hunger and thirst for Christ will grow and deepen as God yearns for God. Christ in you yearning for the Father. You will not continue to sin, but hate sin as the fear of God comes over you. God will refine you and discipline you through trials and tribulations, so you become salt and light to a world in need of the truth. You will receive power to carry out God's will on earth and your faith in Christ will never fail.

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You will be used by God to carry out the purpose of Christ on earth: to save His people from their sins. For this purpose Christ was manifested on earth; to destroy the works of the devil – not to get people to Heaven. You will receive eternal life, but as a consequence of obeying the will of God.

Persecution will come if you are a child of God. And the persecution may come from your church or denomination as you turn to Jesus and Jesus alone to follow Him, no matter the consequences.

Notice the Scriptures do not say the evidence you are a follower of Jesus is if you made a decision, talk in tongues, attend church, memorize Scriptures, tithe, are blessed with health and wealth, have taken an oath or said a prayer, can perform miracles, have been baptized in water, are a missionary, pastor, deacon or Christian worker. For the great Deceiver, Satan, can do all these things (Revelations 12:9).

A new heart

The evidence you are child of God is that God Almighty has supernaturally changed your heart so that you love like Christ loves. A man may love his family and friends but only Jesus loves his enemies and persecutors, and is kind to the wicked, the wretched of society, and the sinner. Only the love of Christ in a man desires that all men come to Jesus and that none should perish. There is no prejudice in

the heart of Jesus Christ and neither should there be in the redeemed child of God.

Love is a supreme choice of the will to seek the greatest good and happiness of God Almighty and your neighbor. Everything you would seek for yourself and your children you seek for your neighbor and brother in Christ. It is easy to hate, but so hard to love as Christ loves without the Spirit of God.

The Lord says the heart of man is intent on evil from childhood (Genesis 8:21) but the heart of Christ serves only the will of the Father. Thus the professing Christian with the heart of man, who has not been converted, will not love the brothers and sisters in Christ. He will use politics, race, religion, denomination, socioeconomics, gender, culture, nationality, personality, sexuality or style of worship to find reason to keep separate from God's elect. The love of the saints in Christ cannot be faked. This is why the Lord says "By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

A good tree will always bear good fruit. And the fruit he speaks of are love for the brothers and sisters in Christ, and faith and righteousness in God Almighty. Some will bear 30, 60 or 100 fold harvest of fruit. Whatever the amount, the harvest will always be bountiful in those who love Jesus.

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Love for Jesus

The picture of the redeemed Christian, the one granted eternal life, is given in Psalm 27: 4, Luke 10:38 and John 12:3. Here we understand salvation is all about love for Jesus. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end of all our desires. He is beauty, truth, wisdom, joy, love, kindness, patience, healing, caring, and a comforter. He is king, master, friend and priest.

Psalm 27:4

“One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.”

Luke 10:38

“As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being

concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

John 12:3

“Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair.”

We are called to love Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We are called to sit at his feet, to praise him, to worship him, to submit to him and to glory in his presence. And the evidence that we love him is that we will love our neighbors as ourselves. Praise God.

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Are you convicted?

The Word of God, the Scriptures say, cuts like a sword. After reading this message you should either be concerned, angry or encouraged but not indifferent. If you are indifferent, I would be concerned.

If you feel you have not come to know the Lord Jesus, in repentance and obedience, or have not been converted by His Spirit, then drop to your knees and pray to the Lord for mercy.

The day the living God came into me

It was in December of 2006 that I realized that something was missing in my life and I started to seek the Lord. I wanted to find out if God was real, if He was what was missing in my life. I had no organized religious upbringing. My mother was a woman wholly dependent on the Lord and she did her best to instill faith in us, but we (her children) grew up ignorant of the Lord.

I spent eight months seeking truth, searching the Internet, libraries, and everything I could find about the origin of man. I wanted to find out if the story of Adam and Eve was true, why people thought the God of the Bible was real and why others thought he did not exist.

The Truth

Then on the night of August 23, 2007, at 2:30 AM, as I was in the shower, a revelation came, through the loving grace of the Lord, that he was as real as my flesh and blood mother. I dropped to the floor of the tub in tears. A voice was talking to me and all I could say was "I understand, I understand." I don't recall what was being said, as I was in complete tears, my body shaking and overcome with emotion.

When I left the bathroom I felt compelled to go to my computer. It was about 4:30 or 5:00 AM and I then wrote a letter to the CEO of a company I had never met or talked to, but was pursuing for a job. And in the letter I made a confession of my sins. I then faxed the letter about 7:00 AM. Later, I would realize I was being led by the Spirit in this act of repentance. There would be no turning back.

Repentance, belief and the birth of Christ in me all happened at the same time, through the grace of the Lord. I never went to sleep that night; it felt like my body was charged and aglow.

That very night changes started to happen. I was no longer interested in many things I used to enjoy. A growing and insatiable hunger for all things pertaining to the Lord grew in me - a person who previously after reading one page of the Bible would

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fall asleep. The Spirit of Jesus was being formed in me. Praise God.

A humble and contrite heart

I became so tender to the Word of God I was always in tears, week after week. The kindness and merciful nature of God overwhelmed me and I was always weeping while praising and thanking him. And as more revelations of the wisdom of God came, they were always accompanied with tears. A contrite and humble heart was being formed in me. And it continues today.

Each year since my conversion, I became convicted of different things, causing me to change behavior or lose interest in specific things of the world. It was God working in me. The Holy Spirit was disciplining me – not a church discipleship or accountability program created by men, but the Lord himself, as he promised all his sons and daughters he would do.

It is important to note these changes in me happened not because I desired them, had a moral code, or even a sense of obligation or duty. All I prayed for, almost every day was “Lord let thy will be done and not my will.” A force, the Spirit of the Lord was working from the inside out to effect these changes. It was like I woke up one day and had no desire for alcohol, or much TV. And each year something else

was changed in me. What was okay the day before suddenly didn't seem right anymore.

I later gained a discernment of good and evil in a spiritual sense. A different view of the landscape, of false teachers and false Christians I could see. I could see those Christians who the world of religion rejected but were precious in the eyes of God. I saw these not with natural eyes, but with the eyes of Christ. It was indeed a miracle I was witnessing.

The Lord began to use me to comfort the dying, to strengthen His saints, to go into prison and lay hands on a man to bring him from death to life, spiritually speaking; to see the miracle of the new birth in others from a word spoken or written.

Each year I received different revelations of Jesus Christ as I continued to seek the face of God and desired to do his will. The Lord did not release me to write this message until I had experienced everything he wanted me to write about. He birthed in me a testimony, that the power of God still manifests itself to the faithful.

It would be over four years, in the wilderness so to speak, before He would launch me into this ministry of salvation for the lost captive in America's churches.

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Beware of the false pastor, teacher or Christian worker

Dear friend, the Scriptures say the Lord rewards those who diligently seek Him. If your conscience is troubling you and you know things are not right with the Lord, pray to the God of mercy for mercy, wisdom and understanding, for he is faithful to answer. And beware of the false teachers, pastors and others who tell you “Don’t worry, you have peace with God,” based on your profession of faith or membership in a church.

The sign of a false prophet, according to the Scriptures, is he will try to take the fear of God away from you (Jeremiah 6:13, Jeremiah 8:8, Ezekiel 13:10, Micah 3:5, Micah 3:11, Deuteronomy 13:1). They will tell you “All is well with your soul, God loves you, He wants to bless you with wealth, health and happiness; and there is peace with God if you call Him Lord.”

However, if the Spirit of the Lord troubles your mind then you have no peace. Trust in the Lord thy God and Him alone. These wicked, condemned men who would lead you astray, and preach “peace, peace” are already sealed in their fate.

Benediction

I leave you now in God's hands. May the Lord keep you and strengthen you. I pray for your heart and mind to be opened so that you may hear and receive the Word of God. May he grant you repentance and a pure heart. And in receiving Him, gain faith and joy in Jesus Christ. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.