



BREAK

FREE

**WITH
JESUS**

Salvation

SALVATION

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

Firstly, let's identify what it is not!

- It is NOT by being born into a Christian country
- It is NOT by having Christian parents
- It is NOT by doing your best and living a good life
- It is NOT by being christened or baptised as a baby
- It is NOT by going through any ritual or partaking of any sacrament

A Christian is someone who:

Recognises their sin (disobedience to God's Law) See Isaiah 53:6a and Romans 3:23.

Repents (turns away) Receives Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

HOW THEN DO WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

This is an inward, spiritual experience, an encounter with Jesus Christ which puts us in the right relationship with God as His children. Sometimes people refer to this as being "saved", "converted" or "born again", or receiving "eternal life".

When we do these things we enter into a right relationship with God - this is our salvation and we inherit eternal life.

GOD'S SALVATION PLAN

God made man in His own image (Gen 1:26). Adam spoke directly to God - he had a personal relationship with Him. Adam, however, sinned and broke that relationship because God is holy and cannot have communion with sinful man. Isaiah 6:3; Isaiah 59:1; Hab. 1:13.

The Bible makes it clear that man is a sinner; not just any man, but ALL men and women. God says, "*ALL have sinned and fall short...*" (Romans 3:23). We are separated from God by sin. Thus man cannot save himself because he is continually doing that which keeps him from eternal life...sin.

In spite of our sin, God is merciful. He loves us because "*God is love*" (I John 4:8b). But the same Bible that tells us God loves us also says God is just. Being just, He always renders perfect justice. He therefore must punish sin, "*by no means clearing the guilty,*" (Exodus 34:7b).

SALVATION

Now, we recognize our problem. We are sinners and God - being just - must punish our sins. Jesus is the only answer to our problem. But, who is Jesus? What did He do for us?

Jesus Christ the Son of God is God come in the flesh (John *J:1*, 14). He came to this earth, lived a sinless life and died on the cross to purchase a place in heaven for us.

"God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

"... The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity (sin) of us all." (Isaiah 53:6).

Jesus' life and death is the gift offered to sinful man.

Yet God so loved us that He sent His Son, Jesus, who became a man like us, though He never sinned. Jesus offered Himself on the cross as a sacrifice to God, taking on Himself the punishment our sins deserved. He was then raised from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is sitting at the right hand of His Father. We, too, can inherit eternal life and once more commune with God when we believe in Jesus, because through His death, not only do we inherit eternal life, but His blood cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16

"For God _____ the world that He gave _____ and _____ Son,
that _____ believes in Him shall _____ but
have _____ life."

John 1:29 - the words of John the Baptist concerning Jesus.....

"Look, the Lamb of God who _____ the _____ of the world."

Let's look at this plan in more detail.

READ Ephesians 2:1 - 1 a

SALVATION

1) THE OLD LIFE

How does Paul describe our condition? vs 1 & 5

This isn't physical but spiritual (Rom. 5:12; 1 Corinthians. 15:22)

Note the three things we followed - Ephesians. 2:2, 3

v2 _____

v2 _____

v3 _____

2) THE BIG CHANGE

Who takes the initiative to do something about this? Ephesians 2:4, 5

Why does he do this? Rom. 5:8 - 11 _____

How are we saved? Ephesians 2:5 "For it is by _____ you have been saved through _____"

GRACE: is God's unmerited favour - we receive what we don't deserve.
God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

F AITH: is a belief that you act upon - **Forsaking All I Trust Him.**

3) WHY ARE WE SAVED?

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's _____ created in Christ Jesus to do _____, which God _____ for us to do."

When you receive God's salvation, there is a total change. It can be easily described as an old and new garment. (2 Corinthians 2)

Col. 3:9 "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your _____ with its practices and have put on the _____, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator,"

SALVATION

THE OLD GARMENT

(Vs. 5 & 8)

Our "old clothes"

THE NEW GARMENT

(\Is. 12 - 14)

Our "new clothes"

_____ THE PERSON _____
_____ MUST REPENT _____
_____ FROM SIN _____
_____ TURN ABOUT _____
_____ TO GOD _____

The Big Change is brought about through repentance. What is repentance? Repentance is literally "rethinking", a new way of approaching life, a new way brought about by the renewed life you now lead.

Repentance takes place after sin has been confessed, and after sin has been confessed Jesus does something wonderful in our lives.

Read what he says in 1 John 1:9. "If we _____ He is faithful and _____ and will _____ and purify us from _____"

Wrong relationships must cease - 2 Corinthians. 6:14 - 18

Getting rid of wrong relationships helps in the process of strengthening our relationship with God and other Christians.

BURNING YOUR BRIDGES

Here is an exercise that is designed to get you to focus on your old life and to realise how wrong some of those activities were. This has no bearing on your salvation. What God has already done in your life cannot be changed and is not affected by anything in these lists. Repentance is an active choice of your will, and God requires you to choose to leave the old life, especially the occultic parts of your old life.

John 8:34 "I tell you the truth, _____

SALVATION

Before we committed our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ we were under bondage to the 'prince of this world' - Satan. He ruled our lives and prevented us from seeing the freedom and life which everyone can experience in Christ.

Note what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:4. "The _____ of this _____ has _____ the minds of the unbelievers, so that they _____ the _____ of the gospel of the glory of Christ"

THE REALM OF THE SUPERNATURAL

There are two sources of supernatural power or knowledge.

- (a) God (b) The Devil

The only way to God is through His Son Jesus (John 14:6)

This infers that any other way in which we have approached God has been wrong – and if we have sought knowledge or power (e.g. healing, etc.) elsewhere this is very probably counterfeit.

One of the most successful methods Satan uses to blind people's eyes and blind them from the truth is "THE OCCULT" (which means 'hidden things'). Many times people do not identify every day practices as the Occult, but through it Satan has brought many into bondage. -

If we have called upon demonic sources for help, no matter how inadvertently, we can place ourselves in bondage to:

- (a) sickness (b) fear (c) oppression, etc.

THE REASON FOR THIS: - We have violated the 'hedge' (Job 1:10)

God places a hedge around us to protect us from the supernatural. In calling upon demonic forces we place a gate or access through that hedge for whatever force or spirit we have called upon. For example, when consulting Ouija boards or horoscopes, we give an access into our lives to a spirit of divination (Deut. 18:14).

If we have violated this hedge by an act of our will, we need to repair it by another act of our will. **NOTE** - It is not enough to get others to pray for us. We need to, by an act of deliberate choice, renounce any such past actions, personally.

SALVATION

ACTION:

(a) Renounce the gods of our fathers (2 Chronicles. 29:5 - 6)

You cannot and should no longer want to take those gods with you. (Otherwise they have access to your life by route of your permissive will... and the right to such access!)

(b) If we confess our sin (1 John 1:9) we will be cleansed from it.

NOTE THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS:

Isaiah 61:1 "To proclaim _____ for the _____ and _____ from _____ for the _____"

Phil. 2:10 "At the Name of _____ knee should _____"

Consider the list of 'Occult' practices and influences (the scope may surprise you) and list those which have influenced your life, in order that you can BURN YOUR BRIDGES in areas where Satan has sought to bind you.

Pray, therefore, that the Holy Spirit will bring to mind all the relevant matters.

PRAY this PRAYER with your House Group Leader or Elder, mentioning specifically the involvement which you have responded to in the list.

For example:

"Lord Jesus, I'm sorry that I've been involved in occult practices, and I ask your forgiveness for playing with ... tarot cards, levitation, reading horoscopes, etc. I turn away from those things and renounce them in my life. Satan, I therefore, renounce your practices in my life and any hold you have had over me. I RENOUNCE ... tarot cards, levitation, etc."

It is then wise to ask the person praying with you to pray that you will be filled with the right Spirit! (Luke 11:24 - 26)

REMEMBER that you won't need lists to watch out for avoiding the occult in the future, the Spirit of God within you will warn you when you are off limits. If unsure, refer it to the Elders or your House Group Leader.

SALVATION

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE OCCULT

Are you aware that either of your parents or grandparents were involved in spiritualism or any occult practices? Yes/No

Are you aware that any other relative or person that you have had a close contact with at any time was similarly involved? Yes/No

Have you ever been aware of 'voices' speaking to you in your mind? Yes/No

Do you feel that you are 'psychic' and that you are sometimes made aware of future events? Yes/No

Have you attended any spiritualist séance or tried to contact the dead? Yes/No

Have you seen séances at the cinema or on T.V.? Yes/No

Have you ever read:-

Books on reincarnation? Yes/No

Books on pagan religions claiming them to be good instead of acknowledging Christ as the only way to God? Yes/No

Books on Metaphysics? Books on Mind Science? Your horoscope, or had it read for you? Yes/No

Books on spiritualism and/or Magic? Yes/No

Have you been to a medium, fortune teller, palm reader? Yes/No

Have you played with an 'Ouija' board, Tarot cards, for guidance or even just for fun? Yes/No

Have you used or caused others to use water divining? Yes/No

Have you submitted yourself to hypnosis, including dental or medical, which is not bringing your mind subject to Christ alone? Yes/No

Please underline any of the practices listed below in which you have engaged, or which you have watched others engage in:-

Mental Telepathy, Clairvoyance, Casting spells, Using a divining rod, Mind control, Pendulum (even a wedding ring to predict the sex of an unborn child), Table tipping, Levitation, Astral travel, Automatic writing.

Have you sought the help of any 'healer' other than those who minister in the name of JESUS alone? Yes/No

SALVATION

Have you ever taken mind expanding drugs such as LSD, 'pot' or marijuana, or been addicted to sleeping pills or valium etc.? Yes/No

Have you looked at pornographic literature, engaged in any sexual deviation or illicit sexual acts? (Pornography is a consenting to adultery and all forms of sexual deviation are a door to occult forces). Yes/No

Have you practised superstitions or given lip service to them e.g. touching wood, wishing upon a star, throwing salt over our shoulder, Friday 13th? Yes/No

Have you committed yourself to a secret sect/society or Masonic order? Yes/No

Have you made a blood pact with anyone (even as a child)? Yes/No

Have you been involved in, or belonged to any of the cults:
Mind Science, Moonies, Theosophy, Unitarians, Jehovah Witness's, Mormons, T.M.,
Scientology, Hare Krishna, Christian Science? (Underline which one)

Heavy metal rock groups: AC/DC, Black Sabbath, etc.? Yes/No

Putting these things into action can be painful, costly and take time - but if they are not faced, the old nature and life will eventually cause us to fall away from our new love and freedom in Christ.

Once these items are dealt with it is strongly recommended that these pages be removed and destroyed.

SALVATION

REMEMBER: John 8:34 - 36 Compare this with Romans 6:16 - 19

God has made this big change possible in Christ Jesus - now you must honour this by allowing this change to be effective in your life.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM BORN AGAIN?

- a) John 1:12 -13 I become a _____
- b) 2 Corinthians. 5:17 I become a _____
- c) Col. 1:13 I am born into a _____
- d) John 5:24 I receive _____
- e) Luke 1:77 My sins are _____
- f) Matt. 1:21 I am saved from _____

HOW CAN I BE SURE! AM SAVED?

I cannot relax my full weight in a chair if I am not confident that it is strong enough to bear my weight. Neither can I relax fully into the things of God if I am not certain that I have eternal life.

God has given us two main means of assurance:

1) Rom.8:16

By the testimony of _____

2) Rom.10:9

By acting in faith _____