

Peace

Peace. We all seek fulfilment in our work and in our closest relationships. When we go to sleep at night and when we wake up in the morning we long to have that deep sense of satisfaction. Contentment. **Peace.**

We try to help people when we see a need. We feel good about ourselves and drift off to sleep for the night. But before long that nagging uneasy feeling creeps back into our heart. We just sense that something is missing.

There is a hole in our heart that only God can fill. He created us to find our fulfilment in knowing Him personally and having real joy and satisfaction in our lives. The first man and woman that God created, Adam & Eve, knew this joy in perfect fellowship with Him until they chose to disobey. They tried to cover up their sin but they could not avoid the **curse** that sin brought. **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”** (Romans 5:12). God instituted a plan so they could again be in a right relationship with Him. He gave instructions to sacrifice a lamb or other specific animal and shed the blood. The animal’s death would be the substitute to pay for the people’s sin. This foreshadowed Jesus Christ’s death on the cross—but this Old Testament system was *temporary*.

God’s plan for permanent forgiveness

Because of His great love, God gave of Himself to provide our ultimate substitute. He offered His only Son Jesus as the perfect **“Lamb of God”** (John 1:29). Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross to be the *eternal* payment for our sin. **“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”** (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”** (Ephesians 1:7). **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved”** (John 3:16–17).

What is it that we must be saved from?

Since **“death passed upon all men”** (Romans 5:12), we are all separated from God forever because of our sin. **“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”** (Hebrews 9:27). **“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”** (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

There is a real place called Hell. **“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”** (Matthew 10:28). **“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth”** (Matthew 13:42).

God’s plan saves us and gives us new life

God offers to save us from the penalty of Hell and secure our future in Heaven. **“For the wages [payment] of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Romans 6:23). Jesus said, **“In my Father’s house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am, there ye may be also”** (John 14:2–3).

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...” (2 Corinthians 5:17). God gives us new life in Him as His child when we receive Him as our Savior. **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”** (John 1:12).

Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. He said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6). **“Therefore being justified [made guiltless] by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Romans 5:1).

God’s plan is a gift that He offers—not a reward that can be earned

Many people feel that they can live a good life and God will take them to Heaven. But our ideas cannot change God’s plan. His plan never depends on whether we are good enough. God says, **“all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...”** (Isaiah 64:6). **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast”** (Ephesians 2:8–9). You must see your own sin as God sees it. If you are not saved you will be eternally lost in Hell. From your heart ask God for forgiveness and by faith accept Jesus as your Savior. **“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”** (Romans 10:9–10).

You can accept Jesus as your Savior right now—simply pray from your heart:

Dear God, You made me and You know me. I admit I am a sinner and I am sorry. You gave us Your Son to die in our place and He rose from the grave. Believing on Him as my substitute, I now accept Jesus as my personal Savior. Thank you for loving me and preparing a place for me in Heaven. Please help me as I begin my new life as Your child. In Jesus' name, amen.

When you accept God's gift of salvation, God adopts you as His child. You have eternal life in Heaven. You can have a life full of what is best rather than what is empty and false. Even through the storms of life, you can have contentment. You can actually have **peace**.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...” (John 14:27). **“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him”** (1 Corinthians 2:9).

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