

# SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH?



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*God Helps Those Who Cannot Help Themselves*

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*My Confession of Faith*

*Ten Biblical Dispensations*



## The truth about... **GOD**

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**W**HEN A DETECTIVE LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES or a forensics team is called in to investigate a crime scene, they are looking for one thing—EVIDENCE—fingerprints, blood, DNA, or any other traces left behind by the perpetrator of the crime. They are searching for answers to the question, “Whodunit?”

Have you ever looked up into a star-filled sky at night and wondered *where did all this come from... where did I come from... why am I here?* Have you marveled at the beauty of a sunset, the flight of an iridescent hummingbird, or the majesty of snow-capped mountains? Wherever we look in the vast universe around us, we see EVIDENCE—order, wisdom, intelligence, beauty, design—“fingerprints” left behind by a loving, powerful, wise Creator. In fact, the evidence is so overwhelmingly plain and clear that we are without excuse—we all know *Who* made these things:

**People know the truth about God** because He has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So, **they have no excuse for not knowing God.**

— *Romans 1:19-20 NLT*

On February 14, 1990, an iconic photograph of Earth known as the *Pale Blue Dot* was taken by NASA’s *Voyage 1* spacecraft 3.7 billion miles from the Sun. The image emphasized both the unique beauty of our blue planet and its smallness in comparison to the vast universe around us. Because the expanse of space is so great and incomprehensible, astronomers rarely use miles to measure distances in space.

For instance, it is 93,000,000 miles from Earth to Sun. Sounds like a lot, but our galaxy, the Milky Way, is 587.9 quadrillion miles across! So, scientists prefer to use another measure called the *light year*. One light year is the distance that light, travelling at the mind-boggling speed of 186,000 miles per second, would cover in one year—5.879 trillion miles! But here’s the clincher: The observable universe is estimated to be 93 billion light years or 546.8 septillion miles across! There are 170 billion galaxies each with 100 billion stars, which gives us a grand total of one septillion stars – that’s  $10^{24}$  or 1 followed by 24 zeros (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)—a million million million million stars! And the Bible says God breathed all the stars out of His mouth! He counts them and has given each star a name! No wonder David exclaimed in Psalm 8:

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?

Then, if we turn our gaze to the Earth, we see countless examples of God’s wisdom, creativity, and power. Here are just a few:

- 🔍 There are close to 8 billion people in the world today, and each one has a unique set of fingerprints! Even twins have different fingerprints!
- 🔍 God made birds that swim like fish and fish that fly!
- 🔍 Every fall, delicate monarch butterflies migrate 3,000 miles from all over the U.S. and Canada to their overwintering grounds in southwestern Mexico—a place they have never even been to before!
- 🔍 He created a furry mammal called the platypus that lays eggs and has a bill like a duck!
- 🔍 He made fish called seahorses that look like miniature horses and other fish that live in the subfreezing waters of the Arctic Ocean with antifreeze in their blood!

We have no excuse for not knowing God!

If you were stranded on a remote, uninhabited island (like Tom Hanks' character Chuck Noland in the famous film *Cast Away*) and discovered a brand-new, fully-charged Smartphone, you would immediately know two things: 1) someone brought the device to the island, and 2) someone with great engineering skill designed the Smartphone. You would never for a moment think: *Oh, this phone made itself—perhaps it evolved over millions of years through random chance—and then it flew to this island all on its own!* How absurd!

We need look no further than our own bodies—the Bible says we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:14). Ask any medical doctor! Consider the following:

- 🔍 Each of the body's 100 trillion cells all came from one single cell, and together they make up an enormously complex assembly of compartments, girders, factories, motors, sensors, and control systems.
- 🔍 The body contains 60 billion miles of DNA representing 70 billion terabytes of information storage. If all of the densely-coded information stored in the DNA of a single cell were written in books, it would fill a library of 4,000 books! If one set of DNA (one cell's worth) from every person who ever lived were placed in a pile, it would weigh less than an aspirin! Talk about miniaturization!
- 🔍 The heart is an efficient four-chambered pump that beats about 100,000 times/day, pumping blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels. Red blood cells are replaced at a rate of 2.4 million per second!
- 🔍 600 million gas-exchange chambers in the lungs have a total surface area equaling that of a volleyball court.
- 🔍 The body is coordinated by the brain, a three-pound, ten-watt supercomputer containing over 100 quadrillion electrochemical connections—more than all the connections in all the electrical appliances in the world!

The list goes on and on—the human eye, ear, muscles, skeleton—are all superior to the best machines that modern technology can build! What great love God demonstrated when He made man!

A second important part of crime scene investigations is TESTIMONY from eyewitnesses. There was only one eyewitness present at the beginning of creation—God the Creator! But He has given us a detailed, eyewitness account of the six days of creation in the first book of the Bible—Genesis Chapter 1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Who is God? He is the Creator of heaven and earth! He is eternal, wise, and powerful! Here’s what He says about the matter:

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. “To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? **He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.** Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Do you not know? Have you not heard? **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.** He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.

– *Isaiah 40:21-28*

Whenever a detective investigates the truth, he needs to look at all of the parties involved. Our mystery is far from being solved because WE are an important part of the story. Next, we need to investigate our relationship with God. 



*The truth about...*

## OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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**S**O, IF WE ARE FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE by God the Creator, what is our relationship with Him now? Well, to put it bluntly, it is **BROKEN!** That's right, our relationship with God has been broken since our first parents, Adam and Eve, messed everything up! Perhaps you've heard the story of them eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. It's a true and very important story.

God made Adam and Eve in His own image. They were immortal, spiritual beings, and God intended for them to live forever with Him! He placed them in the lush paradise of Eden. The *Tree of Life* was there, along with all kinds of beautiful fruit trees. Adam and Eve could eat from any of the trees, but there was one other tree called the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. God commanded them not to eat from this tree and warned them that if they did, they would die. Well, they were deceived by the devil and they disobeyed God. They ate the fruit, and the whole creation came under a curse. God had to banish our first parents from His Presence and the garden. But they didn't die—they lived many more years after that (actually, Adam lived to be 930 years old!)

So, was God's warning a lie? Not at all! Let's dig deeper here... Remember, God made man in His own image. But what does that mean? The Bible teaches that man has three parts—body, soul, and spirit. The body is the physical part that we can touch and see. The soul and spirit are the invisible parts that include our consciousness, mind, emotions and will. God is a Spirit, and it is our *spirit* that can communicate with God. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the Bible says that two things immediately entered the whole human race: **SIN** and **DEATH**:

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. **Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.**

— *Romans 5:12 NLT*

Although Adam and Eve lived for many years after they disobeyed God, they did eventually die physically, and so will every human that descended from them. The wages of sin is always death! More importantly, Adam and Eve's spirit died immediately – they were separated from their loving Creator and lived in guilt, fear, and darkness. Evil had now entered God's perfect creation. Sin brought death, and that sin entered all of Adam and Eve's children – the human race. (Note how the Bible only talks about *one race*, the human race – unlike all the politicians of our day who try to divide us into different races based on skin color, etc.) Adam and Eve's first son Cain murdered his own brother Abel, and before long, the whole world was so filled with violence and wickedness that God destroyed all but eight people in a worldwide flood in the days of Noah.

The simple truth then is, we are all born sinners – we are children of disobedience. And the same devil that tempted and deceived Adam and Eve has blinded us to keep us from seeing the truth about ourselves and God. But because God stamped His image within us deep down inside, we still know there is a God. We have a conscience, so we know right from wrong – it is God's built-in moral compass. The Bible says that God set eternity in our hearts – we know that God made us to live forever (Ecclesiastes 3:11). But we try to suppress that truth and ignore Him:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them... For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened... They **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen... Furthermore, since **they did not**

**think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God,** He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

– *Romans 1:18-32*

Not a pretty picture – we are blind, dead, hopeless, lost sinners! In ourselves, we can do nothing to remedy our condition.

Perhaps you are thinking, *I'm not that bad... I'm a pretty good person... I never killed anyone or robbed a bank... don't call me a SINNER!* Alright, let's consider the word *sin*. Webster's dictionary defines sin as "an offense against religious or moral law... transgression of the law of God." Centuries ago, God gave His law through Moses in the form of Ten Commandments – you shall not steal, lie, murder, commit adultery, covet, take the Lord's Name in vain, and a few others. Let's do a quick self-check:

1. Have you ever stolen anything?
2. Have you ever told a lie? (If you answered no, you're probably lying!)
3. Have you ever coveted or lusted after something that belonged to someone else – perhaps their house, car, or wife?

How did you do? If you're being real, you probably had to answer "Yes" to all three questions. But even if you only broke one commandment, you're still in deep trouble:

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For He who

said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

– James 2:10-11

Despite the good things we might think about ourselves, the Bible emphatically states that we are ALL under sin, NO ONE is righteous, not even one! ALL have turned away, there is NO ONE who does good, not even one. This leads to some very troubling consequences.

You see, God is a righteous Judge, and He demands justice when His laws are violated—He punishes all sin. The Bible makes it clear that we all have two inevitable appointments—death and judgment. After death, there is a Day of Judgment when everyone, great and small, must stand trial before the Judge of all the Earth. People will be judged according to what they had done as recorded in books that God keeps in heaven. And all of the unrighteous will be sentenced to eternal punishment in a place of torment and unquenchable fire called hell.

That’s right, HELL! We’re not talking about a curse word or a place people joke about—hell is a very real place that God originally made to punish the devil and his angels. Sadly, it is ther place where many people will also spend their eternity. But is there no other way? Is there any escape from this horrible judgment? We will have to investigate this further.

It is crystal clear that sin has left mankind in a desperate condition, and there is absolutely nothing we can do about it. We can try to cover up our shame and nakedness with religious fig leaves—good works, ceremonies, ornate temples, etc.—but God isn’t fooled: The wages of sin is always death!

So, what would God do now for the human race He loved so much? We must dig deeper into the evidence. 



*The truth about...*

## **GOD'S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION**

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**G**OD LOVED THE PEOPLE HE MADE in His own image so much that He did the unthinkable—He sent someone to take all the punishment we deserved and die in our place! And that *someone* was His only Son, Jesus Christ! The wages of sin is always death, and God's righteous judgment had to be executed. Someone had to pay the wages—someone had to pay off the debt.

Before Adam and Eve's sin—even before the beginning of time—God in His infinite love and kindness had a plan for mankind's rescue from sin and death. He would send His own Son, born of a human virgin and without any sin, to die as a substitutionary sacrifice on the Cross for us all. God demonstrated His love to the whole world in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And to prove that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice, He raised Christ from the dead three days after His dead body was laid in a tomb, and Jesus ascended back to the right hand of His Father in heaven. The resurrection proved that Jesus was the Messiah—there were over 500 EYEWITNESSES!

Christ's sacrifice secured a number of blessings for us:

- 🔍 He paid the full price for all of our sins, freeing us from the judgment to come
- 🔍 All of our sins were forgiven
- 🔍 We were reconciled to God—our relationship with Him was restored
- 🔍 He offered us the free gift of eternal life—an abundant life on Earth and a glorious hope of everlasting paradise with God in heaven
- 🔍 We can be born again—brand-new creations in Christ

That's Good News—gospel truth—and it's for everyone! Truth is liberating—it sets us free! What's more, it is all FREE! Jesus paid it all—His sacrifice and life are the only payment that the Father accepts for our entrance into heaven.

For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 6:23

## *A Few Simple Steps*

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So, what do we have to do? Try really hard to be good? Go to church seven days a week? Become religious? NO! NO! NO! We only need to follow **a few simple steps**:

### 1. *Salvation is a free gift; we can't work for it or earn it—we receive it by faith*

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever believes** in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

—John 3:16-17

For it is by grace you have been **saved, through faith--** and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God— not by works**, so that no one can boast.

—Ephesians 2:8-9

### 2. *Receive Jesus into our hearts and become children of God*

To **all who received Jesus**, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to **become children of God—** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God**.

—John 1:12-13

Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again... I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. **You must be born again.**"

– John 3:3-7

### 3. *Repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*

When the people heard Peter's preaching, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "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.**"

– Acts 2:37-39

*Repent* simply means to turn around, change our mind. We turn to God and His way, forsaking our old way of sin and selfishness. Water baptism is our first step of obedience by which we choose to become a disciple of Jesus and walk in newness of life. The gift of the Holy Spirit will empower us to live the Christian life.

### 4. *Confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead*

If you **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead**, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

– Romans 10:9-13

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jesus *IS* the truth—He is the only way—there isn’t a Plan B, and that’s the plain truth! God has made it very simple: There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Jesus isn’t one of many religious roads that leads to heaven—He is the only Way!

Now, almost everyone in the world has heard about Jesus. But many still do not know Him. The only way to know Him is to ask Him to forgive our sins, come into our lives, and be our Lord and Savior. So, why have so many not asked Him? What are they afraid of? Is it because they love their sin or worldly lives more than Him? Or is it because the Good News sounds too good to be true—that God loves us and has prepared an Eternal Kingdom for us, all for free?

Have you made a decision to receive God’s free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ? If so, the Bible says your name has been written in the Book of Life in heaven! Christ stands at the door of your heart and knocks. Will you let Him in? He wants to come in and help you start a brand-new life with Him. You can receive God’s grace right now to turn from your old life and begin a new life in Him. Today is your day!

Just pray a simple prayer something like this: “Dear God, I’m sorry for all my sin—please forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died in my place on the Cross for all my sins, and You raised Him from the dead on the third day. I receive Christ into my heart now and declare that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. From this day forward, I choose to follow Christ as His disciple. God, thank You for the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life. In Jesus’ name. Amen!”

What a hope we have in Jesus! Many have already believed in God’s love and discovered His great plan for their lives. To finish our investigation, it is wise to listen to the testimonies of two people whose lives have been greatly impacted by the truth. 



## TRUE LIFE TESTIMONIES FROM THE AUTHORS

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### *Wayne's Story*

I WAS RAISED IN A TRADITIONAL CHURCH, enduring the boredom of meaningless liturgies and sermons week after week until, at the age of 16, I decided I had had enough. Church would soon become a memory from the distant past.

I had started playing guitar at the age of 12, and joined a rock band that performed regularly at high school and college dances, parties, etc. I was plunged into the whole hippie subculture of the late 1960s—alcohol, drugs, sex, and rebellion. Then in college, my thinking and worldview were radically transformed by the constant exposure to evolutionary and atheistic philosophies.

At the tender age of 19, I got married and was looking forward to living happily ever after. Unfortunately, the marriage ended after just two years, leaving me disillusioned, angry, and depressed. After college, I began working as a Park Naturalist at a nature center and park in Arlington County, Virginia. I was doing so well that after several years, I was offered an attractive promotion to become the manager of the entire park. But I was becoming increasingly restless, empty, troubled, and confused. To everyone's amazement, I turned down the offer and gave my two-weeks' notice of resignation instead! I told my boss that I had many nagging questions, and if I couldn't find answers, I didn't want to live anymore.

During that same time, I was hitchhiking one day with my new girlfriend. We were about 2½ hours from home when the sky suddenly became black from an approaching thunderstorm. Just in time, a man stopped to pick us up, and informed us that he was heading in the same direction we were. We soon discovered that our driver was what I then called a "Jesus freak." Yes, a fundamentalist

Bible thumper! For the entire trip, the man went on and on about Jesus, the Cross, salvation, and the need to be born again.

As we neared our destination, our preacher friend made his final appeal, “So, are you ready to receive Christ into your hearts now? Make Him Lord of your lives, and be born again?” To his utter disappointment, I snapped, “No, but thanks for the ride. Bye!” And that was that! *Whew, we dodged another religious kook*, I thought. (I often wonder if that man was an angel—he must have been so discouraged after preaching his heart out to us and getting such a cold response.) But the story doesn’t end there... from that day on, the words that man spoke to me kept replaying in my head over and over like a tape recording. The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword!

Soon after that, I left my job in Virginia, loaded my few belongings into my VW beetle, and headed off to California to join my girlfriend, who had already gone ahead a few weeks earlier. But driving solitary across the country, there were many lonely hours to think, contemplate, and reflect—and many hours to keep hearing the recording of that “Jesus freak” preaching inside my head!

I questioned everything: *Is there a God? Is this story true about Jesus being born in a manger, dying on a Cross and being resurrected after three days, or is it just a fairy tale?* This went on for several days until I finally made up my mind: *No, God doesn’t exist and the Bible is just a book that man invented.*

Thankfully, what ensued shortly thereafter doesn’t happen to everyone who decides to be an atheist. I was involved in a very serious accident that could have easily ended my life. Travelling at 75 miles per hour, I had to swerve off the highway to avoid a tractor trailer, plummeting down a 10-foot embankment. All of a sudden, everything seemed to be in slow motion. The car began to roll over and over—2½ times before finally coming to rest upside down. I saw my whole life pass before me.

More importantly, in that critical moment, I was certain of two things: 1) I was definitely going to die (there was no way I was getting out of this alive); 2) I was positively going straight to hell.

It is not difficult to understand the first revelation, but the second is more puzzling. Remember, just moments before the accident, I had decided that God was a myth, the Bible was a fiction book, and heaven and hell were figments of man's imagination. How is it that I was now so sure about hell?

When the car finally stopped tumbling and came to a halt, for a brief moment, an indescribable terror filled my heart as I truly believed that I had died and gone to hell. But then I realized I was still very much alive, and proceeded to extract myself from the wreckage. I was covered with dirt and glass, as every window in the car had been smashed out. The VW was flattened like a Coke can that someone had crushed underfoot. It was hard to imagine anyone surviving such a horrendous crash.

As I was climbing out of the debris, the driver of the tractor trailer came running over to the scene of the accident. Surprised to see me alive and moving around, he asked, "Are you alright?"

"Yeah, I am fine," I replied. Amazingly, I did not have a single scratch or bruise on my body.

I'll never forget the truck driver's next words: "Well, thank God." *Thank God? Why should I thank God?* I thought. My heart was so stubborn and hard, I gave no more thought to God that day. I caught a bus back to Maryland, bought a second VW, and in a matter of weeks, I was on my way once again to California! But this time a big surprise awaited me in California—my girlfriend was already living with another man, and I was the odd man out!

After careful deliberation, I came to the realization that I was 3,000 miles from home, I had no place to stay, and I had no job or future. I felt like a fool, a total loser. Suddenly, I remembered my own words from a few months before: "If I can't find something worth living for, I don't want to live anymore." *Suicide!* Feelings of despair and hopelessness overwhelmed me, and ending my life now seemed to be the only option.

I made my way out onto a bridge over the San Jose Freeway, and was preparing to jump when a total stranger came out onto the bridge and began to strike up a conversation with me. I wondered,

*here I am trying to kill myself, and this guy wants to talk? I wish he would just leave.*

This stranger, I would soon learn, was a Christian named Burt. He was so persistent that I finally made a deal with him just to get rid of him. I agreed to go into the nearby Denny's and have a cup of coffee with him on the condition that he would then leave me alone. It was probably late afternoon when we entered the restaurant, and we were still sitting there at 4:00 a.m. the next morning!

Burt shared many things about his own personal life. It seemed to be a carbon copy of mine, except for the last part—the part where he received Christ and found forgiveness, salvation, and true joy. Having exhausted every question in my mind, to my own amazement, I found myself asking one final question that fateful morning in Denny's: "Burt, what do I have to do to be saved like you?"

"Wayne, salvation is a free gift of God's grace," Burt explained. "Jesus already paid for all of your sins through His death on the Cross. God raised Him from the dead three days later to prove to all mankind that He is the Savior of the world. All you have to do is repent, ask God to forgive all of your sins, and receive Christ into your heart. It's that simple. We can pray together right now."

I agreed, and Burt led me in a short prayer right there at the table. All this was like a dream... standing on the bridge, meeting Burt, and now, praying and committing myself to be a Christian. Something, or more accurately, **SOMEONE**, was changing my heart! **SOMEBODY** loved me! I was becoming a different person.

I ended up staying with Burt for the next month, during which time he prayed with me, taught me the Bible, and took me to church almost every night! I took water baptism, and was gloriously filled with the Holy Spirit one night in a charismatic church.

That was the start of an amazing 47-year journey that has continued to this day. Along the way, I have seen God's amazing miracles of provision, answered prayer, healing, and most of all, changed lives. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and His truth will set us free. Amen!

## *Tom's Story*

**M**Y FATHER WAS A CATHOLIC, and my mother was a Methodist. When they moved to Maryland, they made a compromise and decided to join a Presbyterian church. I was raised in Sunday School, was in the choir, and I was even the moderator of the Youth Group. After High School, I joined the United States Marine Corps. I served 7 years and was in the Vietnam War. I am not proud of all the sin I committed during that time – drunkenness, prostitution, etc. – you can imagine!

After returning from Vietnam, I started attending a Baptist Church. There, I saw a few young people without any fellowship, so I asked the pastor if I could hold some meetings with them. In 6 months, we had grown to about 30 young people. But I heard that there were 750 Christian youth gathering in a school every Tuesday night. I was curious how this many young people would come together for Jesus, so one Tuesday night I decided to go see for myself.

Was I ever surprised to see all these people worshipping God with their hands and hearts lifted to God! I had not seen anything like that before, but I truly felt the presence of God. When I left the meeting, it was raining outside – I mean very hard! My car was at the end of the parking lot, so I ran with all my strength. I suddenly realized someone was following me, and when I reached my car, a man drenched in the rain handed me a piece of literature. I just put it in my pocket and went on home.

The next afternoon, I was having a cup of coffee and decided to see what the man had given me the night before. It was a Gospel tract, and as I began to read it, I came to the Scripture that said, “The wages of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

I did not understand the meaning of this Scripture, but as I thought about the word *GIFT* a great light like a camera flash appeared before me. And there stood JESUS! He had His left hand out and in His hand was a set of justice scales. As I looked at the scale on the right side, it was hanging very low and filled with rocks; the scale on the left side had only a few rocks, and it was much higher than the scale on the right side. As I looked at the right scale with all the rocks, my whole life of sin passed before me like a movie—from when I was a little boy stealing money out of my mother’s purse to all the other ugly things I had done in my life.

Then, as I looked at the left scale (the side with only a few rocks), it was again like a movie showing every good thing I had done in my life—helping my grandmother and neighbors, all my good deeds in cub scouts and boy scouts, and all the times I had gone to church. But my sin far outweighed my good works. Then both movies came together. I saw myself go to church on Sunday and park in my car with my girlfriend on Friday night.

Then Jesus spoke. He said, “Salvation is not by good works, IT IS FREE!” Then He went away. I did not know what to do. I got down on my knees and said, “Lord if You can do anything in my life, here I am.” And instantly, I felt something lift off of me. Later that night I realized that I had been saved—I was born again!

This made me very hungry for the Word of God so I dusted off my Bible and began reading the New Testament starting with the Gospel of Mathew. By the time I got to the book of Acts, the apostle Peter was my hero. He had denied Jesus three times, but on the Day of Pentecost, Peter was boldly preaching Christ to a large crowd of people. I was on my seat listening with all my heart. Finally the people asked, “What shall we do?” Peter responded, “Repent, be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

When I read the word *GIFT* again, another light flashed, and I heard the Lord say, “I have another gift for you.” It was not too long

after this that I received the gift of the Holy Spirit and speaking in a new language.

Still hungry for the Word of God, I kept reading until I came to 1 Peter 2:24: “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” I then heard a voice reminding me that I was very sick. When I returned from the Vietnam War, I was diagnosed with *sarcoidosis*, a disease that causes inflammation of the lungs and lymph glands. In my case, the lymph glands had enlarged to the size of grapefruits, causing severe chest pain even after climbing a few stairs. After many tests, doctors told me my condition was incurable. As a result, I was discharged from the Marine Corps and was put on disability at the Veterans Hospital in Washington DC.

But what did Peter mean, “by His stripes we were healed?” As I pondered this, I noticed a reference note in my Bible that said, *Isa. 53:5*. I did not know where that was in the Bible, so I looked for a book that started with “Isa.” I found that it was the book of Isaiah. I turned to Chapter 53 and verse 5: “But, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him: and with His stripes we are healed.”

Peter said, “we *were* healed,” and Isaiah said, “we *are* healed!” I then started to realize that Peter was speaking in the past tense, looking back to the Cross where Jesus died. And Isaiah was looking forward to Jesus dying on the Cross. I thought to myself, *Did Jesus take our sicknesses on the Cross? Does He want to heal me?* I then closed my eyes and started praying: “Jesus if You want to heal me, here I am.” After about two minutes, an audible voice spoke loudly through my ceiling. It was Jesus, and He said, “It is finished.” Immediately, power went through my body from the top of my head to my toes. I was instantly healed. Weeks later at the Veterans Hospital, they confirmed my healing—no more sarcoidosis!

I can tell you that Jesus is alive today. And I am only alive because He lives!

## What Is Truth?

That was a question Pontius Pilate asked Jesus. Jesus had already answered the question with these words, "I am the Way, THE TRUTH, and the Life."

Friend, do you really want to know the truth? We hope this booklet has helped you examine the evidence, facts, and testimony that will lead you to the truth.

### Here's a promise from the Bible:

*God wants all men to be saved  
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

—1 Timothy 2:4

### Jesus gave us this promise:

*If you continue in My teachings,  
YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH,  
AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.*

—John 8:31-32

Dear friend,

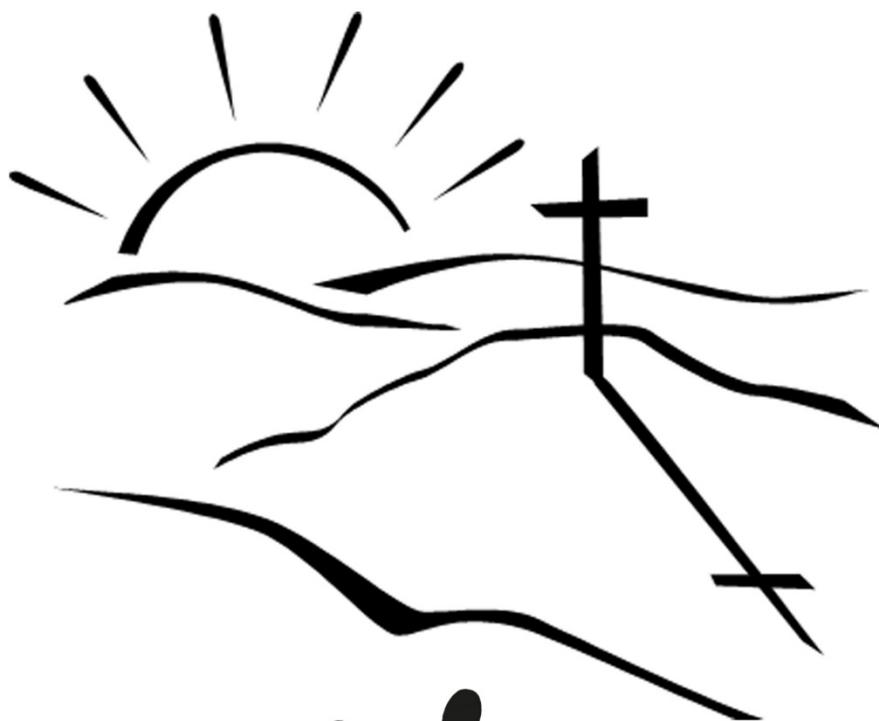
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God bless you!

# JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!



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"Words of Eternal Life" - John 6:68

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