

## Sharing the Plan of Salvation

We have been exposed to different beliefs by our parents and grandparents. But, it doesn't matter what we think or what we have heard. What matters is what the Bible, the infallible word of God tells us. Let's go straight to the source and see what God says we must do to become His child.

You may have heard Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This means everyone has sinned and could never be good enough, nor could we ever do enough to earn a spot in Heaven. Becoming a child of God is not about what we have done – it is about what He has done for us.

What we have done – our sin – has earned us a life sentence in Hell. Romans 6:23 tells us that "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". So, our sin condemned us to Hell, but the story doesn't stop there. No, God is so good that He offers us an out – an escape – a plan B.

In John 3:3 we learn that "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The Greek word for born again means to be born anew. But how can we be born anew? Well, stay with me... John 3:16 tells us that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." So, our only hope is faith in Jesus Christ. When we trust in Jesus or believe on Him, God imparts spiritual life to us – and we become born again.

To "believe" is not just an acknowledgement that God exists. After all, even Satan believes in God. But "to believe in God" means to believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit – that is called the Trinity. To believe means to accept Jesus as our Savior and to make the decision to live our life for Him.

In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." So, Jesus is the answer. He is the only way we can become a child of God. We can be born again when we believe that Jesus was born of a virgin; lived a sinless life; bore our sin on the cross; rose again and is alive today.

Romans 10:9-10 says, "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." This is the one and only way to experience salvation, to have a relationship with God and to be assured of eternal life.

Revelation 3:20 says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me." Opening our heart to Jesus is our choice. He is eager to come into our lives – but never forces the door open, nor opens the door for us. He waits for us to open the door, invite Him in, surrender our all to Him and build a relationship with Him.

2 Corinthians 5:15 tells us that "God died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." Because we have been given life anew, we have a fresh start to build our life on a firm foundation of faith in God and a relationship with Jesus.

Have you done that? If you haven't or if there is any uncertainty for you at all and you feel that now is the time to do this - here is a simple prayer for you to earnestly pray:

*"Heavenly Father, I come before you in prayer. I am a sinner, Lord. My sin has separated me from you. Please forgive me for my sins. Please wash me clean. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me. I believe He arose again. Father, I surrender my life to you. I give you all of me and I invite you, Jesus, to come into my heart. I want to live for You. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen."*

If you believe the scriptures; asked for forgiveness and earnestly prayed this prayer – YOU are now a child of the King! Woo Hoo!!!! You did it! Welcome to the family!