

The ABC's of Salvation

Nothing will change your life faster than a personal relationship with God. Some people think that is something only theologians can comprehend. Actually, God's plan of salvation is simple enough for everyone to understand.

All persons need salvation. Each of us has a problem the Bible calls sin. Sin is a refusal to acknowledge God's authority over our lives. Everyone who does not live a life of perfect obedience to the Lord is guilty of sin. Since none of us is perfect, all of us are sinners (Romans 3:10-18). The result of sin is spiritual death (Romans 6:23). Spiritual death means eternal separation from God. By God's perfect standard we are guilty of sin and therefore subject to the punishment for sin, which is separation from God. The Bible says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

Because God loves each of us, He offers us salvation. Although we have done nothing to deserve His love and salvation, God wants to save us. Jesus Christ is the only answer to our sin problem that separates us from God. Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins and bridged the gap between God and people. The Bible says, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18a). Jesus' resurrection promises us that, like Him, we can live forever.

Come to Jesus for eternal salvation. The desire in your heart to be saved is the Holy Spirit offering you the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of eternal life. The apostle Paul wrote that in order to be saved, we must believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose again. Then we must confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord of our lives. You can receive Jesus Christ and enter a right relationship with God right now if you will admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and arose from the grave on the third day.

Pray a prayer similar to this: "Dear Father, I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, and I now trust in Him and Him alone to save me. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins. Thank you for giving me new life."

If you prayed this prayer, share your decision with a Christian friend, Sunday School teacher, or pastor. Ask to be baptized as a public expression of your faith. Get involved in a local church so that you can grow deeper in your faith. Read your Bible every day to know Christ better. Talk to God in prayer every day. Tell others about what Jesus has done for you.