

# ***“Unshackled: My Spirit Set Free”***

## ***The Salvation Story***

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Have you ever considered what God thinks of you? As far as He’s concerned, while He loves you (for He loves His creation), you’re lost to Him, separated from Him. As far as He can see (and He sees all), you virtually ignore and perhaps thumb your nose at His presence. [Jeremiah 2; Ephesians 2:2-3]

One of the deep mysteries of life that you should know is God’s expectation of you and that is that you love Him with **all** your heart, **all** your soul and **all** your mind. He requires that you love Him (your creator) with everything you’ve got. [Matthew 22:37]

He had that expectation when He made Adam (the god of the earth) to rule over the earth -- its plants, waters, birds, animals, etc. God gave man the authority to rule knowing that man was connected to Him by way of his spirit which is that part of man which is capable of communicating with God. [Genesis 1:26-29, Genesis 2:20, Psalm 8]

We must consider here the love of God. God loved man and wanted to be loved back. [Jeremiah 31:3; Matthew 22:37] He did not create robots or pre-programmed computers because He wanted a love **relationship** with man, and this is possible only when love is reciprocal (goes both ways). Additionally, a relationship is a relationship only when both parties **will** to participate. So God took the greatest **love chance** in eternity and gave man a **will**.

Man was made by God, in the very image of God, being a spirit and having a will. We must also know that Satan, God’s enemy, was also upon the earth having been thrown from heaven for thinking of himself more highly than he ought [Isaiah 14:12-15]. Since Satan hates God, realizing he can never be God, his only purpose in life is to destroy man and any hope for that love relationship between God and man. Satan knows he cannot destroy God, but he can take chances at destroying you, God’s love creation. [John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8]

### **THE NEED FOR SALVATION**

So in the Garden of Eden, Satan appealed to man’s soul (his intellect, his emotions, his will). He told Eve that if she would eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Eve considered the notion that Satan proposed and she and Adam chose to, decided to, willed to and assuredly ate of the tree that day. (Genesis 3)

Have you really considered what sin is? Yes, sin is disobedience to God. But it goes even deeper than that; sin is choosing your will over God’s will. In fact, sin is promoting you as god, ruling out and perhaps even ignoring the presence and reality of the only true God. [Jeremiah 11:8, Ephesians 2:2-3]

Adam’s act caused spiritual disease which resulted in the death of his spirit (For the wages of sin is death ... Romans 6:23). When God said, “You shall surely die if you eat of the tree...,” He meant, “Your disobedience will offend My holiness which will cause your separation from Me.” We are dead without God; walking, talking, breathing, and doing, but **dead**.

When Adam sinned, all sinned. When Adam died, all died. We have spiritual genes that have passed from generation to generation the sickness of Adam’s spirit (Romans 5:12). And since the spirit in you was always

meant to influence the whole of you, your mind, emotions, and body have always been in some sort of imbalance, stress or disease.

Your spirit must be born again, and set in right relationship with God in order for your whole person to be healed and delivered [John 3:3]. This is made possible only through the shed blood of Jesus. For God has said we cannot be forgiven unless blood is shed [Hebrews 9:22].

God is God. He is holy and righteous; the epitome of purity. He couldn't just accept any old blood to pay the price for us (to make up for the sin that we had committed.) Our penalty was death. Only the blood of Jesus, the life of Jesus ("for life is in the blood" Leviticus 17:11) was pure enough, precious enough, powerful enough to be acceptable unto the Father. Jesus, God's own Son paid the price. God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). So God, in His great love for us, provided a way of **salvation**, a way to be **reconciled** unto Himself. That is, we must believe (trust in, rely on, abide) in Jesus.

### WHY JESUS?

Why Jesus? When we acknowledge Jesus we are acknowledging the very **holiness of God**. We are acknowledging not only Adam's original sin, but all of the years we have insisted on not giving God first place in our heart and life. In acknowledging the holiness of God and the fact that we were created for the sole purpose of glorifying Him, we would have to see that for such sin we deserve to die.

When we acknowledge Jesus, we are acknowledging the **love of God**, the fact that He loved us enough to pay the penalty for our sin, which is offensive to His holiness. Isaiah 53 will tell us even more about how He, through Jesus already "took the beating" on the cross that we might be saved. It is important that you acknowledge Jesus because without Jesus there is no salvation; there is no reconciliation with God. No way can you go directly to the God of holiness without going through the cleansing blood of Jesus.

### TO RECEIVE SALVATION

So now the big question is how? How can you receive salvation? Exactly how can you make things right with God? John 3:16 says, "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."

The key is in the word **believeth** (to accept as truth or real which leads to faith in God.)

1. **Believe** the Gospel – Romans 1:16 tells us that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

2. **What is the Gospel?** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

a. Believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. This means that you agree with God that you are a sinner and that the root of your sin goes back as far as Adam. And that root with its trunk and all its branches and twigs can be cancelled with the covering of the blood of Jesus. Jesus died for my sins. Jesus died for your sins.

b. Believe that he was buried. He died ... so he was buried. That was living proof of death. You don't bury somebody who is still alive. When you believe that Jesus was buried, it confirms the fact that you believe He actually died. Remember now, as far as God is concerned Jesus took our place. He died in our place. We're the guilty party. We're the sin-sick culprits. He took our sin and sickness upon

Himself. When Jesus died, we died. When He was buried, we ourselves were buried.

c. Part three of the Gospel is that we believe that Jesus was raised (from the dead) on the third day according to the scriptures.

Do you want to know what the good news is? (Gospel means good news); it's that Jesus exchanged places with you for your execution, was buried in your place, then **rose from the dead** on the third day declaring that the great exchange was accepted by God. **Jesus rose, You rose! You rose with a new heart, a new spirit, and a reconciled relationship with a God who never stopped loving you.** (Ezekiel 36:26- 27) God SO LOVED YOU! God STILL LOVES YOU!

### 3. **Believe** in Him

What does "believe" mean in John 3:16? It means believe the Gospel; further it means clinging to, adhering to, yielding to the very One who took our place, the One sent from God, the only begotten Son, the Lamb of God, who took the beating.

Only by clinging to Him, becoming dependent on Him, abiding and believing in Him, can you or I receive salvation. Only by trusting Him can we have eternal life. Only by receiving His unconditional love and trusting Him to help us to love ourselves in the same way that He loves us ... and we must love others in the same way. Judgment and unforgiveness must be erased ... cleansed by the LOVE of God ... the Blood of Jesus ... the Truth, the Way, the Life!

You can never perish **for you shall have eternal life.** What is eternal life but God Himself, the Eternal Presence? How can you perish when life Himself comes into your being to live? (1 John 5:11-12, 20)

#### THE ETERNAL PRESENCE

The Eternal Presence is in you from the moment you make a commitment to trust in, cling to, and depend on the Christ presence who took your place and died and rose for you. You have Him now: Eternal Life. You have Him now; His name is Eternal Life. He makes Life worth living now. Not just when we die, but now. (John 10:10)

Don't you see that it is because of the Eternal Presence in you that makes it possible for you to renew your fellowship with God, which Adam broke. It is because of the Eternal Presence in you, made possible by the blood of Jesus, that you are reconciled with God, cleansed and made righteous before Him. It is God's Spirit in you that makes it possible for you to stand in right relationship with God. (Romans 3:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24)

Finally, it is important to note that salvation is not an end unto itself. You are not saved just to be saved. You don't get saved just to sit down. Salvation is not an end. It's the means to an end. We get saved so that our relationship (which was originally broken by Adam and remained broken through our own personal sin) can be renewed ... spiritually reactivated. When God calls us to salvation, He's saying, "Come Home, Come Home to Me. You've been unfaithful to me but come home. You've tried countless times to replace Me by your playing god or temporarily setting up other gods, but come home."

Oh children, when you get a clearer understanding of this thing called salvation, how can you be ashamed of the gospel? How can you continue to say "my faith is a personal thing"? Once you're saved, your job is to share the gospel that others might be saved. Since your salvation, how many others in your life have been saved, healed or edified (built up) in Christ? Who have you truly loved lately?

### YOU MAY RECEIVE TODAY

And then there might be one who before reading this tract had not committed themselves to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. You can make that commitment to Him right now. Simply determine to turn from your old way (which is life without Him as the center) to Him. Have a change of mind and heart from sin tolerance to God (repent). This is a part of **believing** in Christ. You've got to turn from the old way in order to trust in, cling to, and be made one with Jesus.

Once you determine to become one with Christ, (once you believe), tell someone. Romans 10:9 instructs us that "if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth**, the Lord Jesus (as Lord of your life) and **believe** in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead (that you might be free) thou shalt be saved."

From then on "the sky is the limit". Seek the face of the Lord. He will teach you all things concerning Himself. He will mold you and make you, reflecting through the unique you – Himself.

[Here's the bottom line – God loves you and wants to be in relationship with you. You are precious to Him! He loves you so much, that in order to win you back from death, He sent Jesus to die in your place. When you see the Blood on the Cross and realize that it is your freedom, the reality of God's great love for you will begin to sink in more and more. And as you spend time getting to know Him, you will learn more and more about who you are and why you are in the earth. You will be cleansed from the inside out and you will never be the same again. Born again as a new born spiritual baby! – CATurner 6.2.17]

PRAYER OF SALVATION (Even if you are already saved, you may want to pray this prayer as a prayer of rededication.)

Father,

I want to be saved and in right relationship with you. The thought of breaking your heart breaks my heart. I choose to repent – I am so sorry for my sins. Please forgive me! I turn away from them and turn to you. Lord Jesus, come into my heart today. Save me and fill me with yourself – Your Holy Spirit. Teach me who you are. Cause me to know your will for my life. Teach me your ways. Change me from the inside out. I ask you to heal every part of my life until I look like Jesus. And, if you would, please use me so that others might be set free like me.

In Jesus' Name I pray,

Amen (let it be so).