

Tell others of your salvation. You will want to tell your close associates. We would also like to know what God has done in your life! You may write to us at the address below. Request the free pamphlets “Starting Out” and “30 Days on the Road to Eternity” for additional encouragement and guidance in your new walk with God.

APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

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STEPS TO A NEW WAY of Life

Why am I here? Why do I feel as if something is missing in my life? Is there more to life than what I have found? What happens after I die?

At one time or another, you may have pondered these questions. Perhaps you are struggling with one of them now. Maybe at some point you felt you had found the answers, but that feeling did not last. Something is missing, but you do not know what it is or where to find it. Something is not right, but you do not know how to fix it. Every answer, every relationship, every experience leaves you feeling empty. So you keep looking, keep trying, keep searching.

The problem is not “what” you are missing. The problem is “Who” you are missing. That Who is God!

God is the One who created you, and He made a place inside of you that only He can fill—a God-sized spot just waiting for Him.

God is not a philosophy. He is not a concept. He is the Creator of the universe, and He loves you very much! He knows the moment of your birth, every part of your personality, each event of your lifetime up to this instant, and what lies in your future. His Book, the Bible, says that He even knows the number of hairs on your head and the thoughts and motives of your heart.

The emptiness in your heart, that feeling of something missing, is there because you are separated from God. That separation is caused by sin—the “something wrong” that is at the root of all selfishness, wrong actions, and bad feelings. Here is how it happened.

In the beginning of time, God created the first man and woman on earth, Adam and Eve. They enjoyed perfect fellowship with God. They walked and talked with Him, living pure and joyful lives in a beautiful garden that supplied all of their needs. God’s only rule for Adam and Eve was that they were not to eat the fruit of a certain tree: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That rule was made out of love for them, because up to that point Adam and Eve knew only good, and God was aware that the knowledge of evil would bring pain. However, God had created them with the ability to choose whether or not to obey Him, and they chose to disobey. They ate fruit from the forbidden tree and, as a result, sin entered into their hearts. Because God can have nothing to do with sin, their sin separated them from Him.

The descendants of Adam and Eve—every person born into this world—inherited the sinful nature of their ancestors. Instead of coming into the world desiring to do right, each one of us is born with a natural inclination toward evil. As we grow older, we make

personal choices to sin (disobey God's law). Sin may be obvious or subtle, but it always separates us from God, and sin's ultimate penalty is death and separation from God for all eternity.

Thankfully, that is not the end of the account.

God loves us so much that He made a way to bridge the gap of separation caused by sin. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to this world to live as a human and pay the penalty for our sins. The penalty of sin is death. Because Jesus was sinless, He could pay for the sins of others, so He died on a cross in our place. Then, after three days, Jesus rose from the dead and walked on earth once more! That amazing fact was witnessed by hundreds of people who saw Jesus after His Resurrection. Now He lives in Heaven with God.

However, just because Jesus died for the sins of mankind does not mean that we are no longer separated from God. Just knowing about Jesus' death is not enough. Each person must individually come to God in order to receive a personal pardon from sin.

How can you approach God and receive His pardon? In the Bible, God has laid out steps for you to follow. When you take each step honestly and sincerely, He will assure you that you have received His pardon. That experience is called salvation. When salvation takes place, the

sense of separation and emptiness will vanish in a moment of time. You will feel complete, loved, and your heart will be at peace. You will have love for God and for other people. The proof that this is true is in the countless numbers of people who have experienced God's pardon and experienced a complete transformation in their lives.

If you want to receive God's pardon, here is what to do:

Acknowledge your need. Admit that you have sinned and that you need God's help. The Bible tells us, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). One man, whose prayer is recorded in Luke 18:13, said simply, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Confess and repent. Be genuinely sorry for the sins you have committed and ask God to forgive them. God's Word promises, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). It also says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

Forsake the sins of your past. Determine that with God's help you are going to turn away from all sin in your life. We read in Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto

the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him . . . for he will abundantly pardon." That is a promise!

Believe in Jesus Christ. First, you must believe that Jesus died for your sins and that He is alive today. Then, when you have honestly and sincerely taken the steps above, believe that God will hear your prayer and save you. "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" (John 3:16).

Invite Jesus Christ into your heart and life. You can be a child of God today if you reach out to Him with all of your heart and take these steps in complete honesty and surrender to Him. Pray a prayer like this one from the depths of your heart.

Dear God, Thank You for loving me. I come to You today believing that Your Son, Jesus, died for me and that He is alive today. I know that I have sinned and that my sins are against You. I want to turn away from my sins and never go back to them. Please forgive me for every wrong action or thought that I have ever committed. I ask You to come into my life to be my Lord and Savior. I choose to live for You, and I ask You to lead and direct me for the rest of my life. Help me from this day forward to obey and to please You. Thank You for hearing me and answering this prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God will let you know when you have been saved. The Bible tells us, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). You will feel happy and free! Joy and contentment will replace all feelings of guilt, emptiness, and heartache.

When you have the assurance that your sins have been forgiven and you are no longer separated from God, what should you do next?

Get a copy of God's Book, the Bible. Begin by reading the Book of John in the New Testament. You will learn about Jesus' life on this earth and how He died to make a way for you to be united with Him.

Start talking to God. He wants to hear from you and walk with you through each day. You can talk to Him just like you talk to your other friends.

Seek Christian companions. The fellowship of others who have committed their lives to Jesus will be a great source of spiritual strength and encouragement.

Purpose to continue to live for God. Make a commitment to cherish your connection with God and value it above all else. While it is possible to turn away from God and cause yourself to become separated from Him again, that does not need to happen. He will help you stay saved if that is your deep desire.