

## WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

### MAN

### GOD

**IN THE BEGINNING . . .** The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created by God and enjoyed perfect fellowship with Him. They were without sin and lived peacefully in a beautiful garden that supplied all their needs. God gave them only one rule, which was not to eat the fruit of a particular tree. However, Satan tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit by saying it would benefit them. They ate it, and that act of disobedience against God was the first sin. It severed Adam's and Eve's relationships with God because He is holy and cannot have fellowship with evil.

### MAN

### SIN

### GOD

**OUR CONDITION TODAY . . .** Since we are all Adam's descendants, every child in the world has been born with his fallen nature. Instead of coming into the world desiring to do right, we are all born with an inclination toward sin and evil. Proof of this natural downward tendency is abundantly evident anywhere human beings are found. Our sin results in tremendous pain, sorrow, and suffering. The consequences of sin reach far beyond this life because those who reject God and die in a sinful state will go to Hell and be separated from God eternally.

### MAN

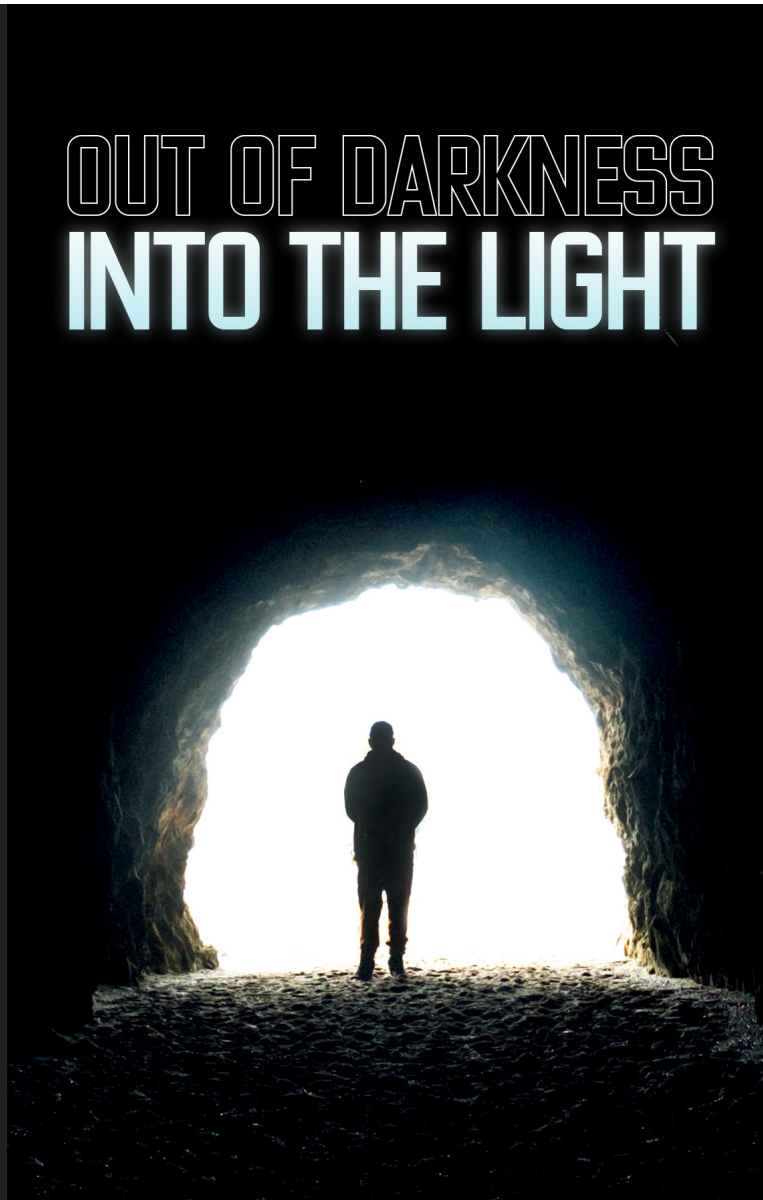
### JESUS

### GOD

**GOD'S PLAN . . .** God wants to remove sin from our lives so that we can have a relationship with Him and spend eternity in Heaven. However, the penalty for sin is death, and that penalty must be paid. Out of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus lived as a man and died in our place for our sins. Because of that, if we follow the steps that God has laid out in the Bible, our sins can be forgiven. God will change our desires and give us power to live without sin so we can enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven one day.

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# OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT



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After being set free from witchcraft, idolatry, and alcoholism, Agustin now lives to see others find freedom in Christ.

By Agustin Cueva Quiroz

**T**he family I was born into was Protestant Christian.

My parents and grandparents were all believers, and my father was a pastor who founded our local church. We lived in a small village in the northern Andes Mountains of Peru, at a time when Protestantism was not accepted. Only the Catholic religion was protected by the state, and evangelicals were considered heretics.

**Witchcraft was also practiced in our region, and** when I was seven, an aunt took me to my first spiritualism session. When the man leading the session saw me, he called me to his side and said, "This will be a great man. No one will overturn him and he will have power over all



the spirits." I did not understand what was going on, but my aunt began taking me to these sessions frequently and my understanding grew.

## ABANDONING HOME

**At age thirteen, I decided to leave home. My father** tried to dissuade me, but I was determined. With no real plan of what to do, I went to some nearby cities looking for work. Most would not hire me because of my age, but a man in a coastal town took me in to work on his ranch.

**There, I began to expand my understanding of the art** of witchcraft, working with at least five different occult teachers. There was a restlessness inside that drove me, and I studied several different types of magic. I was trained to use local herbs and a variety of instruments to make concoctions for rituals, and learned incantations that summoned spirits.

**Six years later, in August of 1953, I returned home to** see a cousin, and she told me that a group was planning to hold a session that night to cast out a spirit from one of our aunts. Since I knew what to do, I went to assist. The witch who was leading the session was a well-known medium. She did not know who I was, but she called me over and was able to tell me about my past. Then she called my cousin, and told her that her uncle and aunt (who were my parents) had been harming her. This upset me because I knew she was lying; my parents were honest, upright people. Indignant, I took her own instruments and used them against her to call for her death. She immediately fell ill and quickly died.

**This was the first time that I would use spiritualism to** bring about another person's demise, but sadly it was not

the last. Looking back now, it is painful to recall my evil deeds and to know that I was a tool of Satan. But thank God, He did not give up on me.

**As time went on, my life became totally reckless. I was** an alcoholic and a fraud. Friends abandoned me because I used illegitimate money, and I became enveloped in debts I could not pay. My employer discovered that I had defrauded him of a large sum of money and began to pursue me for what I owed. To top it off, my occult books, which I considered valuable, were lost in a house fire.

**Around that time, my father sent me a letter that** impacted me deeply. It included these Bible verses: “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (1 Corinthians 5:11) and, “For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” (Revelation 22:15). Those words pierced my heart. I said to myself, Agustin, stop and consider! You are one of those!

**My father said he suffered to see what I had become.** Yet, my family could not turn me to the true path. Satan had captured my mind, and darkness covered me. I sought refuge in the mountains, at the coast, and in the jungle, but everywhere I went, my reputation preceded me and I found no place to hide.

## A DECISIVE NIGHT

**Eventually I was sent to jail in the city of Cajamarca on** charges of fraud. A friend who was a lawyer helped arrange for me to work off my penalty. The deal allowed me to work during the day as a custodian at a parish, and in the evenings I returned to a jail cell.

**One day, I happened to notice a flyer in a waste bin. The** subtitle asked, “Are You Happy?” and that question resonated in my ears from 3:00 in the afternoon until 10:00 at night. I was not happy. There in my cell, I finally began to pray. My father had said that God was powerful, and I told God that if my father was right, then I would serve Him and suffer for His cause. That night, I was born again! My debt of sin was truly more than I ever could have repaid, but Jesus paid the penalty of my sins on the Cross, and He forgave me of all. The Lord freed me from witchcraft, idolatry, alcoholism, and so many other vanities. My spiritual chains were broken by the power of Jesus Christ!

**When the sun came up the next day, I had a new mind. I** was a new creature, a new man! I realized that happiness could not come from work, money, or friends; only Christ satisfies, when He reigns in our hearts. The darkness in my life had disappeared and God’s light was shining. It was thrilling, and still is!

**Miraculously, only two days later I was granted an early** release from my jail sentence. I arrived back home on April 1, a different man than when I had left. My old friends thought the change wouldn’t last more than a week, but months passed and I never went back. Christ had made a change that neither my father nor the pastors who visited our village could make. Christ transformed my whole being!

## GOD HAS NOT CHANGED

**A few years later, I felt led to move to the town of Bagua** Chica. I was offered a place to rent in a home where the current tenants were being evicted for not paying their rent. When I visited the home, the old tenant served lunch to the landlord and me. However, the food tasted strange and I could not finish eating. Immediately I felt sick and

excused myself to get some fresh air. I walked a ways and then collapsed under the shade of a tree, and for four hours I suffered there, thinking I might die. When I was finally well enough to walk back, I found the landlord and told him what had happened. He explained that the man’s wife was a witch. She had poisoned me out of spite.

**The whole next week, I continued to feel unwell and** could not attend church services. Finally, I asked my pastor to pray that God would show me what was going on. I did not pray for healing because at that time I thought divine healing had only been a sign for the Apostles. Well, I was very mistaken. That night, I had a dream that God healed me, and when I woke in the morning, my body was whole! God convinced me that divine healing was for yesterday, it is for today, and it will be for tomorrow. God is the same and He has not changed! Since that time, God has healed me of many other injuries.

**After that healing, something arose in my soul that I** could not keep quiet. I wanted to go tell everyone in every place what Christ had done for me! I had no money for transportation, but Christ was by my side as I travelled by foot to hundreds of villages, entering homes and sharing my testimony. God also confirmed His Word; through prayer, many sick individuals were healed, souls were converted, and lives were transformed. Later I married, and my wife became a great help in serving the Lord, first in the mountains and then in the jungles of Peru.

**At one point I was used by Satan for evil purposes, but** Christ forgave me, and today I am His servant. I am a witness that Christ is greater than any idol, more powerful than any principality, and He is Lord of all.

■ **Agustin Cueva Quiroz is the Apostolic Faith District Superintendent of Peru.**

# STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

## ACKNOWLEDGE

**Admit that you have sinned and need God’s help.**  
*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

## CONFESS AND REPENT

**Be genuinely sorry for the sins you have committed and ask God to forgive you.**  
*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)*  
*Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)*

## FORSAKE

**Determine that with God’s help you are going to turn away from all sin in your life.**  
*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. (Isaiah 55:7)*

## BELIEVE

**When you have honestly and sincerely taken the steps above, then 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)*

## RECEIVE

**God will let you know that the work is done in your heart.**  
*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)*