

## 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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# FINDING A FRIEND IN JESUS

## FINDING A FRIEND IN JESUS

Lost in sin, Dial's mind went back to his childhood on a small island in the Pacific, and a simple prayer he had prayed as a boy.

By Dial Keju



**M**y family is from the Marshall Islands, which are located about halfway between the Hawaiian Islands and Australia. There were eleven children in our home, and I was the second to the youngest. My dad drank a lot, and because of that there were some scary moments when he was causing havoc. Yet, my mom became a Christian, and though she did not know much about the Gospel, she did her best to teach us to obey the Bible. Every morning, she would gather us around the table and open a hymnal for us to sing together. I remember how she would sing with a broken voice, and as a child I would think, *Even I can sing better than that!* Sometimes it sounded like she was sad, which made me feel sad, but later in life I realized that she was going through a hard time and was depending on God.

**When I was in grade school, I started going to Sunday school.** During my fifth grade year, one day the song leader told our group something that really stood out to me. He said, "You can pray and ask Jesus to come into your life, and He will be like a friend to you." I took that message literally, and it was a surprise for me to hear that Jesus, who is God, could be my friend.

**When I got home, I went to the boys' bedroom in the house,** and even though I had never been taught to kneel for prayer, I knelt and said a simple prayer: "Jesus, would You be my friend?" No one else was around, but something happened in my heart that day. Looking back now, I can see that God saved me, and He made a difference in my life. After that, I was obedient to my parents and always wanted to please them. At school, I loved my teachers and did my homework. During my seventh grade year, some bigger kids bullied me, but as mean as they were, I would still love them and want to play with them. Only the love of God could have made me feel that way.

**In Sunday school, we did not learn how to keep a relationship with Jesus strong through reading the Bible and praying every day,** so I never developed those habits. Yet, God was faithful to keep working in my life.

## MOVING TO A BIG ISLAND

**At age thirteen, I had the opportunity to move to Hawaii** for high school. When I arrived in Hawaii, I spoke no English and was in total culture shock. I was from a small island where life was traditional and simple. Landing in Honolulu, I saw the big airport, freeways, city lights—everything was new and my eyes were wide open.

**I had a hard time adjusting to my new school.** The kids made fun of me because I dressed and acted differently

than they did. I did not fit in with their modern city life. Every day, I would eat lunch alone in my classroom, scared to go outside with the others. But I remembered something my mom had told me just before I left home: “If anything comes your way that is too difficult, pray to Jesus.” I did pray, and eventually I made friends with some of the other kids. In fact, I ended up making a lot of friends.

**My mind went back to the experience I’d had with God as a child when I had prayed, “Jesus, would You be my friend?” My earnest desire was to have that same relationship with Him again.**

**Before I started eleventh grade, I moved again to** Michigan. As I became a young adult, I was introduced to new freedoms, and at first I was just having fun, but soon I began to leave God out of my life and slid into a lifestyle of partying and sin. It seemed I had forgotten about my experiences with God in the islands. The Lord was faithful to continue talking to me, but I did not fully grasp the consequences of what I was doing, and chose to ignore Him.

**After high school, I moved in with my brother in** Southern California, and there I found a much bigger party scene. There was a small Marshallese community in that area, and I became immersed in that culture first, and then into the broader California beach culture. I was partying all the time, until my life was out of control. I wanted to slow down but couldn’t, and eventually I realized that I needed

to separate myself from the Marshallese community. So I decided to move away. I applied and was accepted to a college in Eureka, a coastal town in Northern California. I thought that would be a place where I could still have fun, but maintain enough self-control to at least pass my classes.

## AN EVENT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

**My plan in Eureka was going as I expected, but** everything changed when one of my new friends at the school was saved. This friend was outgoing and boisterous on campus, so a lot of people knew him, and they knew he liked to party. After he was saved, all his enthusiasm turned to serving Jesus—it was a dramatic transformation that we could all see. I remember hearing him singing in the dorm on Sunday mornings. He couldn’t sing very well but he didn’t care, he would just sing out! The turnaround in his life made an impression on many of us.

**Eventually some of my buddies convinced me to visit** the place where that friend had been saved—the Apostolic Faith Church. The week I visited, it felt like the pastor’s sermon was specifically about my life. In fact, I became upset because I was sure someone had told him about me. At first I refused to go back, yet somehow my friends persuaded me to return a couple weeks later.

**After the sermon at my second visit, I started to walk** away when the pastor came and tapped me on the shoulder asking, “Young man, would you like to pray?” Though I hadn’t been planning to pray, I agreed and went to the altar. People were praying all around me. Right then, my mind went back to the experience I’d had with God as a child when I had prayed, “Jesus, would You be my friend?” My earnest desire was to have that same relationship with

Him again. I prayed, “Jesus, I want to be Your friend.” I asked God to forgive anything wrong I had done and told Him I would do whatever was needed to get back what I’d had as a child. That morning, Jesus did that for me. He saved me!

**God made a real change in my life that day. Instead of** partying on weekends, I wanted to attend church. God also immediately started talking to me about things in my life that were not pleasing to Him, like the people I hung out with, the music I listened to, and the way I dressed. I had been saturated in a lifestyle that was very ungodly, and the Lord helped me to stop doing anything that I knew was sinful. My dorm room became a place where I could pray and the Holy Spirit would talk to me and teach me, and He faithfully let me know what types of activities were not good for me.

**My dorm room became a place where I could pray and the Holy Spirit would talk to me.**

**I knew very little about the Bible and its teachings at** that time, but God shaped me and taught me how to live in a way that is pleasing to Him, and He is still doing that to this day. Eventually I was able to go back and live in the Marshall Islands for four years, and then in the states of Hawaii and Oregon, and later Washington, D.C. Through all these years, God has continued to be my Friend. I know there is no limit to what He can do when we put our faith and trust in Him, and it is my desire to serve Him with my whole heart and point others to Him. ■

# 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)*