

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.

APOSTOLIC FAITH WORLD HEADQUARTERS
5414 SE Duke Street | Portland, Oregon 97206 USA
WWW.APOSTOLICFAITH.ORG
TX015-0623

GOD CAME TO THE RESCUE



GOD CAME TO THE RESCUE

My life was shattered, but God put the pieces together.

By Berda Northup

Sitting near the edge of a cliff, I looked up to Heaven and poured out my heart to God. "God, I love my husband, but I don't like what is happening to our marriage." I felt so helpless. The devil whispered to me, "Fall off this cliff into the water." I was so ignorant I did not know that if I were to fall into that water, I would be falling into Hell because I had sin in my life.



I had been raised in a home filled with hatred, sorrow, and unrest. It was a very ungodly home, and it left terrible scars on my life. I cannot remember any peace or happiness there. My dad was a drunk, and that caused fights between my parents. It seems that was all I knew during my childhood. I have a brother and sisters, and we would try to comfort each other. We had laughter then, but there was

fear in our home of what would happen when Dad came home drunk.

As a child, I was sent to a church where I learned that there was a Heaven and a Hell. I knew at a very early age that I did not want to live with the devil, but I did not know how to make Heaven my home. We had many crucifixes and pictures of Jesus on the Cross in our house, and I remember looking at them and wondering why Jesus was on the Cross. At church, I watched the priest do certain religious rituals and questioned this also. No one at home could explain these things to me. I do not ever remember being told that I needed salvation—that I needed to ask Jesus to come into my heart.

When I was in junior high school, I would get off the bus in the mornings and walk a few blocks to a little church that was always open. There I would pray the only prayer I knew: "God, please help me to be a good girl." Then I would go to school and try to be a good girl, because I knew I would not go to Heaven if I did things that were wrong.

SEEKING TO FILL THE EMPTINESS INSIDE

At the age of fifteen, I met a man in the Navy who was stationed near our home. I knew the very night I met Darry that he would become my husband. I was seventeen when we ran away and were married in the state of Nevada. I had a lot of turmoil inside because of my childhood home life, but I thought all that would be over once I had a home of my own. I was seeking something, but I did not really know what I wanted. There was emptiness in my heart and life.

Darry was discharged from the Navy after we married, so we moved to the city of Port Angeles, Washington, where he had been raised. Our first child came along, and

I thought Darry and I were a happy couple. But sin was in our lives, and it brought sorrow into our home.

Five years into our marriage, shortly after our second child was born, we became unhappy and restless in our life together. We were renting a run-down house, and we did not have much. Our children slept on mattresses on the floor. There was drinking and partying in our home, and my heart was heavy. I realized I needed God, but I did not know how to reach Him.

I told God, “I don’t understand what they are doing or telling me, but I know I want to make Heaven my home. Please help me.”

These circumstances led to the Sunday afternoon out on the cliff when I cried out to God. I had put our children down for a nap, and Darry was sleeping on the sofa. I went for a walk and sat by that cliff overlooking the ocean, my heart broken. Tears poured down my face as I looked up to God and said, “God, I love my husband. I don’t want our home to be broken, but I really don’t know what more to do.” I begged Him to save our marriage and help us. The thought came to me that if I fell into the water below, nobody would miss me. The Lord was faithful, though, and He heard my cries. He saw that my heart wanted to serve Him, and He helped me to stand up and walk back to the house.

A short time later, we left Port Angeles and moved to the town of Clallam Bay. Darry had injured himself on the job, so we were without work. For a while, our home was a little motel room. Even after Darry returned to work, we had next

to nothing to call our own. But God was working in our lives. I remember taking our little boy to a local Sunday school, where he learned the song, “Jesus Loves Me.” I would have him sing it for his daddy, not knowing that the words of the song were bringing conviction on my husband’s heart.

DARRY CAME HOME A NEW MAN

One day, while visiting Port Angeles, Darry stopped at his dad’s house and asked for prayer. I did not know this at the time. Darry had never mentioned to me that he came from a religious family. Then Darry was invited to revival meetings in Neah Bay, Washington, and he went with his dad one evening. I did not want to go, so I stayed home with the children. That night, Darry came home a different man. He told me, “Berda, I’m saved.” I thought, *What does that mean?* I did not know that Jesus could save me from sin, but God knew that deep inside, I was longing for Him.

On another evening, my husband’s father stopped by and again invited us to church. I had no excuses that night, so I went. The building was small, and the crowd was large. I do not remember what was preached or the songs that were sung, but I remember that everything seemed strange to me. I had never been in a Gospel meeting. An invitation to pray was given at the end of the service, and everyone went forward to the altars in the front. I did not understand what that was all about, and I became frightened and ran out the door to the parking lot.

As I stood by our car and looked up at the stars that were so bright, I told God, “I don’t understand what they are doing or telling me, but I know I want to make Heaven my home. Please help me.” As the tears ran down my face, the Lord was helping me, although I did not realize it then.

I POURED OUT MY HEART TO GOD

The next day, while Darry was at work and the children napped, I knelt by my bed in the motel room. There I poured out my heart to the Lord. I said, “Jesus, they say You must come into my heart in order for me to make Heaven. Would You please do that?” That is what He did!

From that moment on, everything was different in my life. Jesus put peace in my heart, and I was happy at last. I learned songs at church and loved to sing them. The song I enjoyed most was “In the Garden.” It said that Jesus walked with me and talked with me, and that thought was so special! Little by little, I began to understand what the Cross was all about—I knew that Jesus died to take my sins away, and that His love kept Him on the Cross for me. I wanted to tell everyone about this wonderful salvation, and for everyone to have what I had received.

It wasn’t long before Darry and I could clearly see the Lord working on our behalf. I know that if it were not for God, Darry and I would not be married today, but I am so thankful for the miracle He did for us. Later on, Darry became a minister and then a pastor for over twenty years, serving in the states of Arkansas, Washington, and California. Now in our retirement years, we are still serving the Lord!

Today, I do not look back longingly at my old life. There is nothing there that I want. I have a Friend who is closer than any other, and not once has this Friend failed me. Not once has He deserted me when I have needed Him. There have been difficult places in my life, even since I gave my heart to God, but He has always been there to see me through. One day, I want to kneel at Jesus’ feet and thank Him for the many blessings He has given me. ■

**If you are a new Christian,
we encourage you to write
and request the tract titled
“STARTING OUT.”**

**If you are not a Christian or
if you have been walking with
the Lord for some time, we
want to do all we can to help
you with your spiritual needs.**

Email us at info@apostolicfaith.org or address
a letter to the Apostolic Faith World Headquarters:
5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206 USA.