

## 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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# THAT CRAVING IS GONE!



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Earl promised to quit smoking after doctors told him he was dying, but he did not have the strength to beat his addiction.

By Earl Phillips



**I was brought up in a home** where Mom was a Christian, but Dad was not. That home was happy, though, because my mom prayed.

**My mom always took us to church, but I never** wanted to pray. My dad went to church about twice a year; he seemed to get along all right, so I wanted to live like him. He smoked, and I followed in his footsteps and began smoking when I was about eleven years old. He also gambled occasionally, so I later gambled too. I was never saved as a child, but I knew the Voice of God. I remember the first cigarette I smoked and how God talked to me before I smoked it. Whenever I did something against His will, He let me know that I should not do it.

**Throughout my youth, my mother continued to pray** for me. When I would come home at night, I would hear her praying. I finally moved my bed into the basement so I could not hear her prayers and so I could smoke my last cigarette at night and my first in the morning without her knowing. God talked to me down there, though, and I would toss and turn on my bed as I tried to sleep.

**I was only seventeen years old and wondered why I should die when so young. As I lay on my sickbed, I prayed a prayer that God heard.**

**One day I was driving on the highway with a friend in** my Model A car. We had some beer in the back seat and were planning to enjoy the weekend. Suddenly my car was caught between three semi-trucks, and there was no way out. To this day, I do not know how we got out of that, but we were alive, and my car was not wrecked when it was over. I heard the same Voice that day as when I was a little boy. My friend saw my anxiety, and he said, "What's the matter with you?" I told him, "Oh, nothing," but I knew what was wrong. God was talking to my heart, and I am glad He continued.

**Not long after that, God got my attention when I** became very sick. The doctor told me I was dying and had no chance to live. I was only seventeen years old and wondered why I should die when so young. As I lay on my sickbed, I prayed a prayer that God heard. I had a pack of

cigarettes in bed, but I told the Lord I would quit smoking and would go to church if He would let me live. I got well, but I did not keep my promise to God. I didn't smoke for a while, but soon the desire got so strong I couldn't resist. I remember the next cigarette I smoked. I made a friend light it for me, and I shook like a leaf—afraid the Lord would strike me dead for not keeping my vow. I kept thinking, *I will go to church, and I will pray.*

**God talked to me until I could not stand it, and I decided** to quit smoking. One Saturday night, I went to a theater and purposely left my cigarettes in the car. Halfway through the movie, though, I went out and hunted through an ashtray, looking for a cigarette. I was bound.

**When you make a promise to God, it will follow you** wherever you go. I am thankful God held me to the promise I had made. The next morning, my best friend and I attended church. At the end of the service, I turned to him and said, "I don't know what you are going to do, but I am going to pray." I stepped into the aisle, and he followed. We did not get saved that morning, but we made a good start. My misery increased throughout the rest of the day; I knew I had to do something.

**That evening, we went back to church and prayed.** I believe I was able to pray because my mom had prayed for me. Those prayers made a way for God to talk to me when no one else could. I repented that night, and the Lord saved me. What a change! I did not need to put the cigarettes away and merely hope I could quit. To my surprise, God took out the desire for smoking and for all other sins. I should have expected that; Mom had always told me of the power of salvation, and I had heard victorious testimonies in church. For some reason, though, it had gone over my head until I experienced it myself. The Lord gave me new desires, and from the moment I began to serve Him, I wanted to stick with it.

**A short time later, I gave my first spiritual testimony.** My friend and I went to a technical show at the high school he had attended. As we walked up the school steps, a young man we had known came to me and asked, "Earl, do you have a cigarette?" I said, "I don't smoke anymore, Carl. I'm a Christian." He must have had a hard time believing that, because he said, "You are the one who taught me to smoke; you taught me to drink." I was glad I was a new person. God had changed my life.

**The Voice of God was still with me, but it spoke in a** different way. God guided and led me. I remember a time when someone near me lit up a cigarette. As that smoke went by, the devil said, "Ah, wouldn't that taste good?" Then the Voice of God reminded me, "But that craving is gone." He showed me the difference between temptation and sin.

**Later the Lord sanctified me, and the devil said, "You are** not really sanctified," even though I had a wonderful feeling in my soul. The next day, I went to work and was building a scaffold. A big double-hung window was on the scaffold, and I had one hand on it while I hammered with the other. Suddenly, the window came down and smashed my finger. I did not get mad; I did not throw things. The Lord said, "See? You are sanctified." He continued to lead me to a closer walk with Him as He helped me seek and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That Voice still directs me today.

**After all this time, I still cannot believe I am the fellow** who ignored God and relied on cigarettes as a young man. I enjoy life today. If I had known this thrill and satisfaction as a young boy, I am sure I would have chosen the Gospel sooner. It is good to serve the Lord.

■ **Earl Phillips is a retired Apostolic Faith pastor in the United States.**

## 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)*

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.

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