

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.

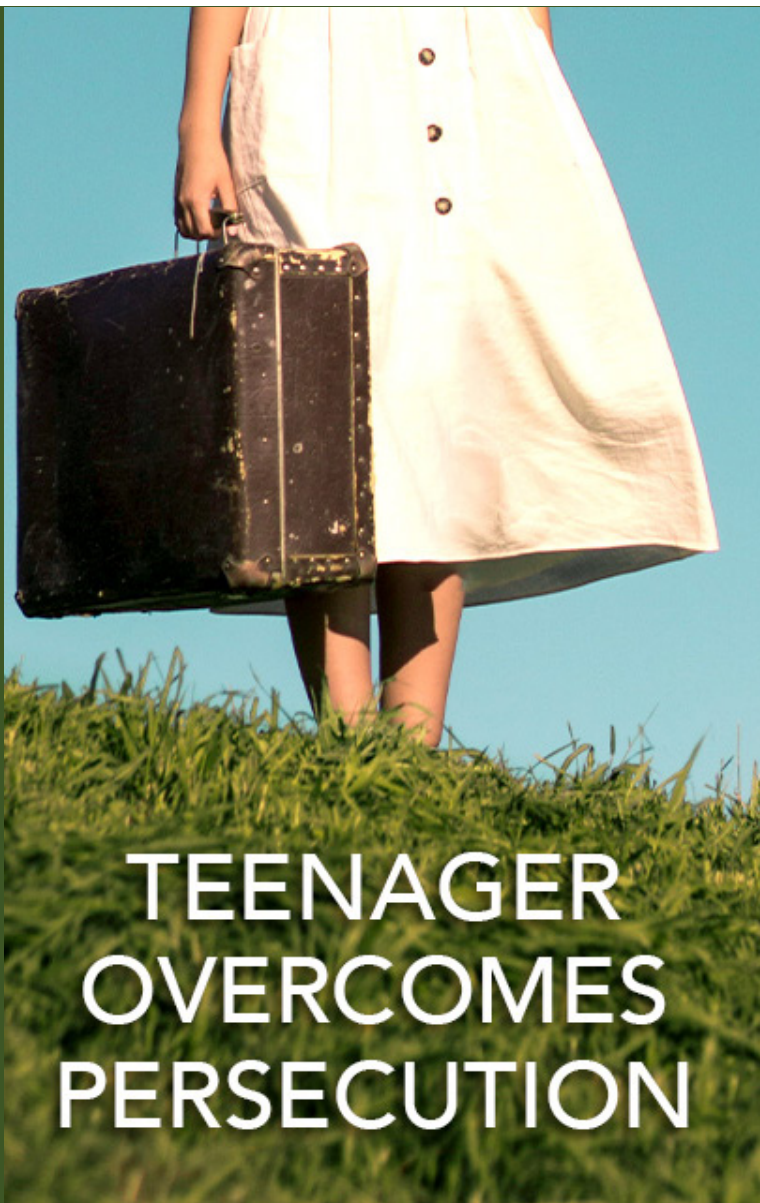
MAN

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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TEENAGER OVERCOMES PERSECUTION

Edna determined to stay true to her convictions despite abuse and threats at home.

By Edna Crawford

I was born on Christmas Day in 1896 and brought up in a humble home in Louisville, Kentucky, the oldest of four children. We were sent to Sunday school and church very faithfully, and I loved the Name of Jesus. However, my young heart was sorrowful because of the conditions in our home. No Christian life was exemplified there. Jesus' name was taken in vain, and quarreling and disunity prevailed until our family went through the divorce court when I was sixteen. Many times, I wished I had never been born.



In the spring of 1906, our family moved out West to Portland, Oregon. My grandfather, a Civil War veteran living in Portland, wrote and invited us to come. At the time, I wondered why we had to sell everything and move so far away. Later, when I saw God's hand in this wise decision, I stopped questioning.

I began attending our little neighborhood Sunday school. One morning, several years later, some of the children in our class told of a camp meeting being held in the Montavilla district, a suburb of Portland. I had no idea where that was or the name of those who were holding the camp meeting, but God put a desire in my heart to find out.

A VISIT TO CAMP MEETING

On a hot afternoon in July of 1909, when I was twelve years old, my brothers and I started out to find the camp meeting. There were few paved walks in those days—mostly dusty, dirt roads. We grew tired of walking and sat on the porch of a grocery store to rest. Across the street stood a woman with a Bible in her hand, waiting for a streetcar. I ran to ask if she knew of a camp meeting being held in that district. She replied, "Just up this street about a block." When we found it, a meeting was in progress in a large canvas tent. The minute we entered, I felt a calm come over me and I knew I had found what I was looking for.

I don't remember anything the minister said, but the Spirit of the Lord was dealing with my heart. He showed me I was a sinner and I needed to repent. An invitation was given to come forward and kneel at the altar of prayer. I didn't know how to pray from my heart or what to say to the Lord, but one of the Christian women who was kneeling by me said, "Ask God to be merciful to you a sinner." Tears

started flowing from my eyes; I saw myself as a lost soul who needed God’s mercy. I uttered that prayer from the depths of a broken and contrite heart, and it reached Heaven. The awful unrest and heaviness left my heart, and God gave me joy and peace that I never knew were possible. I had tried to adjust myself to going through life with a broken heart, but that day the sunlight of Heaven broke in upon my soul. Jesus washed my sins away, and I knew I belonged to Him.

PERSECUTION

After I became a Christian, I was severely persecuted at home. In anger and blasphemy, I was beaten many times without cause. There was no kindness shown me, but from morning until night there was abuse—all because I loved the Gospel of Jesus.

I was not allowed to spend time with friends or attend church services, and I longed for the fellowship of God’s people. My only comfort was to select promises from God’s Word and pray. I made a booklet from scraps of paper, and in those pages, I wrote a promise for nearly every letter of the alphabet. I cherished that little book; it brought me strength and courage. One day my mother held it over an open fire as if to burn it and my heart broke. However, the Lord prevented it.

I was not of age and did not want to disobey my mother, because I knew God’s Word said to obey your parents. I was confident He would never forsake one whose trust was in Him. Many times, as I went through great trial and testing, I read Psalm 27:10: “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.” Thank God for the Arm that is stronger than mine because it kept me under those conditions.

Eventually, I was taken before the Juvenile Court with no other charge than that I wanted to serve God and go to church. In a miraculous way, the Lord undertook for me, and I was granted permission to attend meetings twice a month. This brought great joy and encouragement to my soul.

I had tried to adjust myself to going through life with a broken heart, but that day the sunlight of Heaven broke in upon my soul.

I wanted whatever the Lord had for me and sought for sanctification. He did not disappoint me but sanctified me wholly. Then I still hungered for more of the Lord. The Apostolic Faith people told me of the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. I sought it incessantly, and within a few days the Lord poured out this blessed experience upon my sanctified soul.

On many occasions, I came home from school, tired after having walked several miles, and was met at the door and told I was not wanted. I was called abusive names that cut deeply into my heart, but there was no other place for me to go. After my parents divorced, this situation did not improve, and I eagerly looked forward to the Christmas Day when I would be of age. On that very day, I was again asked to leave home. I packed my few belongings in an old suitcase and left. Before long, the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church asked me to live in her home. My joy was almost more than I could contain! That is just like the love of Jesus toward one who will follow in His footsteps.

Arrangements were made for me to attend a business college, and then I worked for Honeyman’s Hardware Company, where I typed letters and did bookkeeping and other clerical tasks. Before long, I was asked to work in the Apostolic Faith Church office. From that day to this, I have had the privilege of giving God my life and my strength.

RECONCILIATION

After years of praying, I was reconciled with my family and saw some of them pray through to salvation. My father lived a sweet Christian life during his last years, and my mother was saved too before she died.

God also performed mighty miracles of healing in my body and for members of my family. An auto accident left me with internal injuries, and I suffered much for eight years. Then, one day after walking about four miles, something I had not been able to do for years, I suddenly realized that God had healed me. My brother was dying of a ruptured appendix, but through prayer, he was healed. My nephew had leukemia and there was no earthly hope for him. A request was put in for prayer, and God raised him up and added years to his life.

It certainly pays a thousandfold to live for Jesus. He has given me many years to work for Him. What a glorious privilege has been mine! And after our work on earth is done, there is that hope of seeing His blessed face. What a day that will be!

■ **Edna Crawford was wife and secretary of the Reverend Raymond R. Crawford, former General Overseer of the Apostolic Faith. She continued working at the world headquarters church office until shortly before her death at the age of eighty-nine.**

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)