

## 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](http://WWW.APOSTOLICFAITH.ORG)  
TX024-0823

## Searching for More

## SEARCHING FOR MORE

Is there more to life than rock and roll? This guitarist's search led to an amazing answer.

By Dave Andersen

**A**lthough God was not an important part of my life while I was growing up, He still found me. When I was a child, my grandmother took me to Sunday school. Then, at thirteen years of age, I told my mother that I no longer wanted to go. I thought that I was too old for it. I had a different desire in my heart—I wanted to be a rock-and-roll star. I had seen the Beatles playing on the Ed Sullivan show on television, and I wanted to be just like them. I got a guitar and, over the years, taught myself how to play. By the time I was in high school, I was playing in a band.



**After finishing high school, I went to a community college for a year, but I was a horrible student. All I wanted to do was play my guitar, so I never studied. The result was a 1.67 grade point average. My parents were so disgusted with my lack of effort that they took away their school funding from me. That was okay with me because then I could concentrate full time on playing rock and roll.**

**The first couple of years I played with the band, I thought it was great. We traveled around the Northwest having a blast playing at clubs and colleges. We partied all night, and I thought life couldn't be better. However, I started to recognize that I was not in control anymore. It seemed I had to keep going further in order to remain satisfied with life—a bigger stage, more equipment, and more power. Also, from the time I got up in the morning until the time I went to bed at night, I did drugs. We called it partying, but in fact, I was trapped and could not stop myself.**

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE

**Then our drummer's father passed away, and those of us in the band began to discuss whether or not there was life after death. I said, "No, it's all over when you die; you are done." Then we got a new roommate who was practicing an eastern religion. Around the table at night, usually after we had taken drugs, we started discussing whether or not God was real. I told people I was an atheist and didn't believe in an eternity.**

**One night after playing at a dance, we took some drugs, and then on the drive home started talking again about whether or not there was a God. In my heart, I questioned: *God, I need to know. Are You really there?***

*Do You really exist?* In an instant of time, God revealed to me that He does exist. It was such an amazing thing that I immediately sobered up. I went into our house where a wild party was raging and excitedly announced to everyone, “God is real! God is real! God is good, and He is alive!” The people partying could not believe I was saying this, and they were so afraid that they all ran out of the house.

**That should have turned me to Jesus Christ right then, but** somehow I still could not believe that Jesus was who I was looking for. In my mind, Jesus was for Sunday school children. I was older and thought God had to be more sophisticated than that, so I began reading about Hinduism and other Eastern religions. They told me how to live a decent life, but I did not have the willpower to live it. I could not stop myself from doing drugs and the things associated with the rock-and-roll lifestyle.

## SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

**Then one day, after I had read several books on Eastern** religions, I picked up a book I had brought with me from house to house—the Bible my grandmother had given me. I just started reading at the beginning. By the time I got to the New Testament and began to read about Jesus, God was talking to my heart. As I read that Jesus died on the Cross to save us from sin, I could relate; I certainly was a sinner. God was speaking to my soul in a big way, and also to the keyboard player in our band. He and I would go back and forth about whether Jesus or the Hindu religion was right. We prayed and asked God to show us.

**One night, after taking drugs, the keyboard player was** in his room meditating and I was doing the same in my room. What I did not know was that he was thinking about killing himself. He was so confused and tired of our lifestyle that

he thought he would just end it all. Right at that instant, a memory came to his mind from seven years earlier in Spokane, Washington. He had been walking down a street where a man was handing out religious tracts, and my buddy crossed to the other side to get away. The man saw him and yelled, “Just remember, Jesus saves!” Recalling that incident, my friend got on his knees and said, “Jesus, if You are real, save me.” Jesus saved him at that moment! He came to my bedroom and said, “Dave, Jesus is the way! Jesus is the One we’ve been looking for.” That night, it clicked that Jesus is the most important part of the Bible. My friend prayed with me, and I was saved also.

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**The next morning, I got up just as I always had and sat** down at the kitchen table. The drugs were passed around as usual, but when they came to me, I did not take any. I wondered what was wrong with me because I had always wanted the drugs before. God was showing me that He had something different and that there was more to life than rock and roll. All of the sins dropped off my life—the swearing, the cheating, the lying, the drugs—all the wrong things that I could never control. God changed my behavior immediately, and I didn’t want that life anymore.

## A NEW WAY OF LIVING

**In the days and weeks following, God taught us how to** follow Him and led us to a church where we could learn

more about the teachings of the Bible. He also helped me to make restitutions. For example, once I had accidentally driven into a parked car and then took off without telling anyone. After I was saved, I went back to that home to make it right. A man was outside working in the garden, and I asked, “Did you ever have a yellow Volvo?” He said that he had. “And did someone run into it and wreck it?” He answered, “Yes.” I confessed that I was the one who did it. He asked me into his house, and I had the opportunity to tell him how I had been saved, and I made it right with him about the car.

**Soon after I started attending church, I asked a minister** if it was okay for Christians to play rock and roll. He said, “You just keep praying and ask God what you should do with your life. God will be faithful to show you.” And God did. One night as we were playing in a club, God made it clear that I should not be playing rock and roll, so during our break, I told my band mates that I had to quit the band.

**Playing music had been how I made a living. Now I was** without a job, and had no talents other than playing music. Yet, God was faithful and led me back into college. My first year, I was afraid that I would not be able to make the necessary grades since I had done so poorly before. I did not think I was smart enough to go to school, but God helped me. I ended with a 3.97 grade point average my first year. I graduated with high honors—not because of what I did, but because God was blessing me.

**Life is so different with God in control. I know I cannot** do things on my own—I spent years trying, but I always messed up. Now, I trust God for everything and I would not want to live my life without Him. I am so thankful that He came into my heart and soul.■

# 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)*