

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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A Pilot Under God's Watchful Care



A PILOT UNDER GOD'S WATCHFUL CARE

After a dangerous plane crash,
God gave Ray a testimony of
healing to share with unbelievers.

By Raymond Crawford

When I was a child, my family moved from our farm in southern California to the big city of Los Angeles. There in that great metropolis, where thousands of tourists came every year, I had access to many pleasure resorts and places of amusement. I smoked cigarettes, danced, played cards, went to the theaters, and blasphemed. I had what the world called a "good time," but it did not satisfy. I failed to find what my heart craved.



Many a time, I would come home from a night of worldly pleasure with a broken heart. I would wet my pillow with tears, wishing I could find more happiness than I found in a life of sin.

In 1908, at age sixteen, I decided to come up north to be with my mother, who had moved to Portland, Oregon, to establish the Apostolic Faith work in that city. She had become a Christian when I was about ten years old. Her religion had always spoken loudly to me, but I thought that as a young man I didn't need it. I was full of ambition, with every promise of the world before me. But God knew how to deal with me.

At the church in Portland, I heard men and women testify to the power of transforming grace in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In one of their meetings, God spoke to my heart. He cornered me up until I could not see any way out but the way of the Cross.

At the close of the service, the invitation to pray was given. I resisted God to the very last. Then someone laid a hand on my shoulder and said, "Won't you come to God tonight?" The whole place seemed to turn black before my eyes. At that moment, it seemed everything and everybody vanished from my presence—the old associates, the job, and the friends. I said, "Yes, Lord, I will settle it, and I will do it tonight."

COUNTING THE COST

I walked up the aisle, knelt at the end of the altar, and cried out to God for mercy. My heart was wrung within me as I saw myself weighed in the balance and found wanting. I began to see a life behind me that was not very pleasant to look upon.

I was called a respectable young man, held in esteem by my friends and associates, and trusted by my employers. But I saw the deeds I had done. The wages I made didn't pay the bills that a life of sin brought on, so I had tapped the till for a considerable sum of money.

When I went back among my old associates, my life was so completely changed that they came around and wanted to know what had happened to me.

That night I said to God, "If You will save me, I will go back and straighten up my past life." Satan whispered, "You will go to jail if you make that confession." The man I worked for was an atheist and had no regard for God, man, or religion. But I thought I would rather go to Heaven by the way of the penitentiary than go to Hell free.

Down on my knees I settled it. God saved me. The next day, I wrote letters to straighten up old accounts, enclosing money that I never had intended to pay back. The recipients wrote that they freely forgave me, and commended me for the stand I had taken.

I was working for one of the largest firms in the city. When I went back among my old associates, my life was so completely changed that they came around and wanted to know what had happened to me. God had taken out the appetite for cigarettes, the desire to gamble, and the love of the theaters and dances. Instead, He had given me real satisfaction and happiness, something I had sought for and failed to find in my worldly pursuits. He gave me a heart that

loves to do the right thing, and I found that the greatest joy on earth is to be a real Christian and give my life in service to Jesus.

A WITNESS OF GOD'S HEALING POWER

I have proved this Gospel in many ways. I was an airplane pilot in the early days of airplanes, and on many occasions the hand of the Lord protected me from death. Nine pilots with whom I was associated died through crashes, but God in His mercy has spared my life, and I praise Him for it.

On one occasion I was flying a plane in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and it went into a tailspin. I fell four hundred feet to the ground. I was taken out of the wreckage and rushed to the hospital, not expected to live long enough to arrive there. My ankle was broken and my shoulder was dislocated. I had internal injuries along with bruises and abrasions all over my body. Three doctors and nurses worked on my leg to set the bones. The small anklebone was broken, the end of the large bone fractured, and the ligaments torn loose. They put the leg in a plaster cast, and the doctor said that the slightest jar would deform my foot for life. He said that it would be six or eight weeks before the cast could be removed, and then I would have to walk with crutches and hobble around for an indefinite period of time. But he did not know my Physician.

Within ten days I was out of the hospital, and the cast was cut from my leg. I prayed, "Lord, if You have permitted this for Your glory, You will heal me." The Lord gave me the passage of Scripture where Jesus said of the blind man, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest." My soul began to cleave to that verse. I said, "Lord, You are going to heal me as surely as Your Word is true, for You promised that the works of God should be made manifest." That was what I based

my faith upon: God was going to manifest His works before that wicked city and those unbelievers with whom I came into contact every day.

God came down in power and healed me instantly in the hotel room where I was sitting. I got up, put those crutches aside and began to walk on the leg that had been broken. That morning when I had put my foot on the floor, I could not bear an ounce of weight upon it. Now tears began to flow down my cheeks, and I said, "God has healed me!" I walked for a solid hour, praising God.

I went down into the lobby the next morning without the use of cane or crutches. People wanted to know what had happened. I had the chance to witness that the God of Heaven had healed me. I also had the opportunity to let all the doctors and nurses of the hospital know. They knew what a dangerous condition my leg had been in, and I walked before them all, just a week and a half after the accident. They looked on with amazement.

I often think of the testimony of a prominent physician at the time I had the accident in Tulsa. The day following the accident, when the doctor came to see me he said, "There is some satisfaction in working on someone who is clean internally, externally, and eternally." I said, "Thank God for that! God has made me clean."

I thank God for His watchful care over my soul and my life. God saved me when I was young, and later sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire. He spared me from many dangers and pitfalls that might have overtaken me, and I thank Him for it.

■ **Raymond Crawford was the son of the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church, and also led the work from the time his mother passed away in 1936 until his own death in 1965.**

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)