

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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GOD TURNED ME AROUND



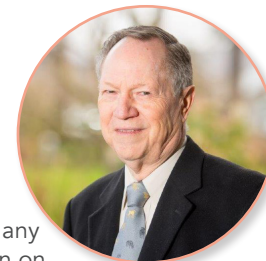
GOD TURNED ME AROUND

I was only eighteen years old, but because I had ignored so much Gospel light, I felt like I had been a sinner for forty years.

By Dwight Baltzell

As I was growing up, I often wondered why I was one of the few people in the world who had to spend so much time going to church. My sister, brother, and I were brought to the Apostolic Faith Church regularly. Many times I felt God's hand of conviction on my heart. Sometimes when the altar call was given at the close of a service, my knees would shake so much that I would have to hold on to the chair in front of me. Still, I stubbornly resisted God. I began to let the enemy of my soul convince me that, even though God's salvation worked for others, it would not work in my life.

As I grew into my teens, I became more and more rebellious against God. I felt confident that I was completely in control of my plans, opinions, and desires and, as a



result, I became quite unmoved by spiritual things. One day as I was leaving my sister's house, she asked me with tears in her eyes, "Dwight, aren't you ever going to get saved?" I remember laughing and brushing off her question with a wave as if it were ridiculous.

In spite of my flippant attitude toward the things of God, I knew what salvation could do. One night, the older brother of one of my friends was degrading people who attended church. After he left, I said to my friend, "All of the people who attend church are not crazy. I know God can do something in a person's life." I began to tell him some of the testimonies I had heard through my growing up years. He finally looked at me and said, "If God can do that, why haven't you done something about it?" Without thinking, I blurted out, "I intend to someday."

After graduating from high school, I went into a trade and began making good money. I became caught up in fast cars and racing, and that course of action brought me to death's door on numerous occasions. The kind of car I owned was supposed to be capable of doing 180 miles per hour directly off the showroom floor, and I decided I would prove it for myself. There were times I raced in town at 120 miles per hour. I had been in skids at 90 miles per hour with

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the car going sideways and out of control. Regardless of my recklessness, I was still irritated when I would come home at

night and find my mother on her knees in the darkened living room. I knew she was praying for me.

Thank God for His faithfulness! One evening, I was home alone with my mother, who was ill, and I thought I heard her call. I went into her bedroom and found she could hardly breathe. Her eyes began to roll back into her head, and at that moment, God asked me, "Will you give Me your life?" I knew that as soon as I said yes, my mom would be all right. At first I held out, but when I figured she was taking her last breath, in my heart I said, "Okay, Lord. If You don't let her die here like this, I will give You my heart." Not one word was spoken, and yet she instantly opened her eyes and said, "I think I'm going to be all right." I knew that I had made a promise to God that would have to be kept.

I still went on in my own stubborn way, but I began bargaining with God, saying, "If You will keep me alive until the next camp meeting, I will pray to get saved." When camp meeting came, I was only eighteen years old, but because I had ignored so much Gospel light, I felt like I had been a sinner for forty years.

I stubbornly resisted God until the final service of the camp meeting. As I stood to my feet while that last altar call was given, I thought, *There's no way I can pray. I'm just going to have to be lost.* But somehow, I found my feet taking me down to the altar.

That night I surrendered my heart to God. A great calm and peace settled in my heart and along with it, there came a real change in my life. For the first time, I had a desire to go to church. During the day, instead of thinking about my plans for the evening, hymns went through my mind. After one particularly hard day, I remember stopping for a moment and saying, "Lord, are You still there?" It seemed as though a

reassuring Voice spoke peace to my heart, and a tear went down my cheek as I realized how different my life had become.

After a church service one night, some of my peers gathered around me and began to pray that God would sanctify me. I was enjoying salvation so much that I had not

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thought much about my need for sanctification. As I prayed, God blessed me in a way that I knew the work had been done. Then people encouraged me to seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I remember praying, "Lord, You'll have to give me a hunger, or I don't see how I'll ever receive it." Just a short time later, God gripped my soul with such a desire for His power that I could hardly eat or sleep. That hunger kept me focused on what He had for me, and took me through until the night He baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

In the years since, I have had the privilege of working for the Lord in many capacities and locations. There have been changes through the years, but God and His salvation have always been the same. I cannot boast of a thing I have done for God. I can only rejoice that He called me and helped me to shed my rebellion and doubts and to have genuine faith in Him. The best move I ever made was to give God a chance in my life. My purpose is to remain true to Him.

■ **Dwight Baltzell was the Apostolic Faith Superintendent General from 1993 to 2000.**

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.

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)