

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

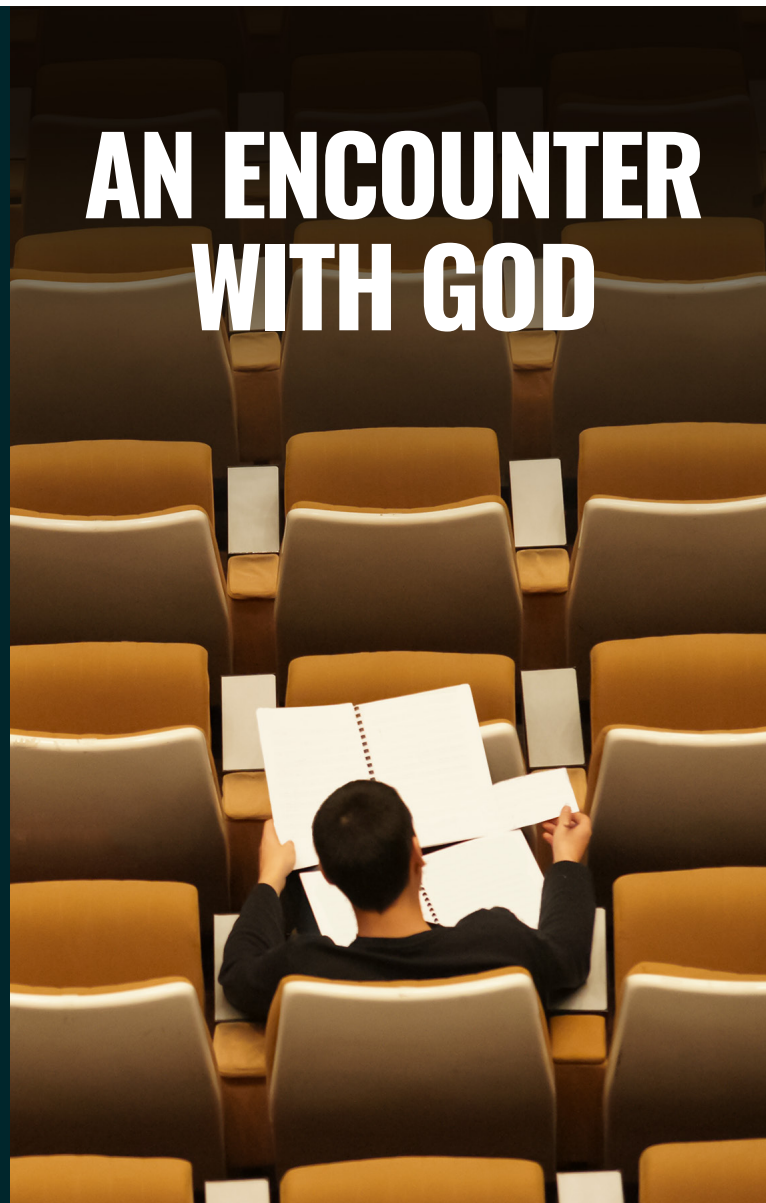
JESUS

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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AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD



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Skeptical and concerned about his sister's religious experience, a young college student began to investigate the Bible. What he found surprised him!

By Darrel Lee



While I was a student at Oregon State University, I took a class called "Ten Ways of Being Religious." I was not particularly concerned about the first nine ways, but I was very interested in the last one we studied—Christianity. During the session on Christianity, the professor challenged the class and said that the only way an encounter between God and man could be experienced was if God initiated it. A young girl who sat at the front of the class declared that wasn't true and that she could initiate an encounter with the God of Heaven. At that moment, I was not worried so much about who initiated the encounter but that an encounter could, indeed, happen at all! As I thought about it, I began to be afraid and wondered what would happen if God spoke to me.

The reason I had enrolled in that class in the first place was out of concern for my youngest sister, who was a Christian and was getting more involved in a church. I didn't really know too much about her church except that I had the feeling they were somewhat unconventional in their style of worship. To be specific, I heard that they prayed during their services. I had never been to one of their meetings, but I thought she was getting entirely too serious about the whole thing, and I determined I was going to learn a bit about what she was getting involved in.

My three brothers and three sisters and I had been brought up in a good, moral home on a farm outside the city of Roseburg, Oregon. Our folks taught us to do what was right and not to do wrong to anyone. They did not drink or smoke, and we never heard them fight. But they did not know about being saved or about praying and repenting of sin.

Then one summer, my eleven-year-old sister came home from a church youth camp and spoke to some of my siblings about their need to be saved. I was a smart-aleck fifteen-year-old at the time, and when she finally cornered me up and told me that I needed to have Jesus come into my heart, I just laughed at her.

About four years later, I started college. There were 15,000 students at that university, and it seemed many of them lived from weekend to weekend, from one good time to another. Yet the good times had begun to grow stale for me. By this time, I was tired of the way I was living and wanted a way out, but I did not know there was one. I began to observe the other students, and they seemed to be living in a phony world. I would say, "I never want to be like them," but then a shocking realization hit me—I already was like them!

During Thanksgiving vacation of my sophomore year, I noticed my sister's faith again. She had been maturing as a Christian, and God had been teaching her about modesty and behavioral issues. By Christmas, some of my family members were concerned because of the way she looked, how she dressed, and the things she did were different than they had been before. I remember telling her that she was trying to escape reality by going to church. She told me, "I am facing reality." That year, when I returned to Oregon State University following Christmas break, I signed up for the class on religion.

The next time I went home, my concern had not abated. Since I thought my sister went to church entirely too much anyway, I began to worry about her mental stability. I wanted to help her, so I determined to read the Bible for the first time. Since I had heard that the Bible was full of contradictions, I began reading it with the intent of finding those discrepancies. To my surprise, all of the passages simply seemed to make common sense. Through that, God began speaking to me, though I was unaware of it at that time.

When I went home for spring break, my sister invited me to go with her to a Sunday morning service at the Apostolic Faith Church. I went to church with her for one reason—I felt sorry for her, because it seemed she was standing alone in our large family. I walked into that service not knowing what to expect. I was braced for anything except what I found—the simple Gospel.

In that meeting I heard something I had never heard before. As I sat there, I recognized someone who used to play basketball with my brother. He stood up and testified about something God had done for him. The smile on his face seemed to confirm the peace of Heaven that he said was in his heart. A lady got up and testified of how she had been sick and had prayed for God to heal her—and He did! I could not

deny what they were saying. The minister who stood up to preach was an unpretentious man with a sincere and hopeful message from the Bible, and he seemed to truly believe what he was saying. To top it all off, when the sermon ended, many of the people knelt to pray. I had never seen anyone pray before. I did not know what it was or how it all worked, yet I couldn't help but think that they were sincere in believing that God had done something for them. It still did not register that He could do the same for me.

In that instant, God changed my life. I didn't know that it was called salvation, but things were completely turned around from that time on.

That night, before retiring for the evening, I read the Bible as I had been doing for the previous two or three nights. After I turned out the light, God initiated an encounter with me. The Spirit of God flooded my room. Though I did not know how to pray, God gave me the right words to say. I asked Him to forgive my sins. I told Him that I would try my best to serve Him if He would help me. In that instant, God changed my life. I didn't know that it was called salvation, but things were completely turned around from that time on.

I didn't know how a Christian was supposed to live, but when I returned to college, God gave me victory over the old habits and appetites that had been in my life. The profanity that had laced my everyday conversation was gone. My temper was gone. Nobody had to tell me not to do the sinful things I had done before—God cleansed me of those things. Nobody told

me I needed to make restitution, but before long I was sending out letters and paying money to make things right.

The Sunday after Mother's Day, I was able to go to another church service in Roseburg. I talked to the minister and listened carefully as he told me what God could do in a person's life: "When a person gets saved the old things of life will pass away. You will be a brand new person." It finally clicked with me, and I told him, "That happened in my life two months ago!" Without my knowing what to call it, God had given me two months of victory.

The following summer, I attended my first camp meeting in Portland, Oregon. It was at an altar of prayer there that God sanctified me. What a wonderful experience it was! The Lord moved in my heart, and a great change took place right then.

Soon, I was hearing that I needed to be baptized with the Holy Ghost. I was hungry for more of God, and while still attending Oregon State University, I spent a lot of time in prayer asking God to help me. One Monday night, after a Bible study in Roseburg, the Lord came down and baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

Those experiences, and the many blessings God has given me throughout the years, have helped me in my service to Him. From the moment God saved me I have had such peace in my life. I love the Gospel, and I thank God for His goodness.

■ **Darrel Lee was the Apostolic Faith Superintendent General from 2000 to 2024.**

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)