

WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

MAN

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'S PLAN FOR THE BABY IN THE SNOW



GOD'S PLAN FOR THE BABY IN THE SNOW

Placed into a snowbank to die as an infant, this Inupiat Eskimo was miraculously spared and grew up to become a witness for God.

By Paul Patkotak

The remote North Slope of Alaska, located three hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle, is home to an indigenous group called the Inupiat. Extreme conditions there have always been challenging, and were especially so at the end of the nineteenth century. By November of 1891, disease and starvation had driven most families from their igloo homes, but the Alasuuraq family remained, awaiting the birth of a son they would name Patkotak (later called Paul). They had no food and were reduced to boiling and eating their boots, which were made of skins.

After the birth, the malnourished family finally began the long walk in search of food. A day later, they reluctantly had to move ahead of Patkotak's grandmother, as her slow progress could mean the difference between life and death for the others. Soon they faced another agonizing choice: what to do about the infant, as the mother was unable to produce milk for him. With no better option, they placed him in a snowbank and went on.

Miraculously, the grandmother came upon her grandson and wrapped him inside her parka. She continued walking, and just as her strength was failing, she spotted caribou hunters. They brought the two to a hunting camp, where they later reunited with the rest of their family.

This is Paul Patkotak's story, in his own words.

From the depths of my heart, I praise the Lord for what He has done for me. I am an Eskimo, and I come from the "top of the world." The youngest of six children, I was born in Alaska, back of Wainwright on the Utukok River. In my boyhood days, we were always short of food in the village. During some of our winters, the people would almost starve to death because all they had to share was an occasional kill of a grouse or a quail.



When I was a teenager, missionaries came to where we lived. The wife taught us in school. When I read from the Bible, I had a hard time understanding the big words. I was encouraged to go to a school of higher learning somewhere and get more education, but we had no money.

I knew that if I trapped enough foxes I could pay my fare to the Outside (the world beyond Alaska). My older brother showed me how to use the trap in the snow, and my dad made me some snowshoes. I walked about ten miles over tundra to where the foxes were. When the trapping season was over, I had nineteen white fox pelts. I was so happy. I asked my dad, "Can I go Outside, so I can go to school?" He said, "Yes, you can go."

The government boat took me down to Nome for nothing. At the dock, I told some of the officers of the Alaska Shipping Company that I wanted to go Outside, down to Seattle, Washington, by their boat. They said, "You can go if you have money to pay your fare." I said, "I have no money, but I have fox pelts." I asked him how many he wanted and he said, "Five."

That was in 1911, and I attended a seminary in Seattle. One day, in 1913, I stood on a street in Seattle and looked at the many churches that were there. An old man came up to me and asked, "Why are you standing here?" I told him, "I am from Alaska, and I came down here to get an education so I would be able to understand the big words in the Bible." I told him that I had read in the Book of Revelation that the Lord does not want "lukewarm" people; He wants them "hot." I said, "I want to be among those who are hot." He said to me, "I will show you where to go. The name of the church is the Apostolic Faith."

As soon as I opened the door and stepped inside, I felt as though someone said to me, "These are the people you are looking for." Each person who came into the church went to his seat, but knelt to pray before sitting down. I said to myself, *There is something to that.* Then came testimony time, and many people got up (sometimes five stood at once!) and told what God had done for them. Something began to move in my heart, and I felt condemned for the sins I had committed against God. I was surely under conviction! I felt such a hunger for what I heard, and I wanted the preacher to stop preaching so I could pray and call on God to have mercy and take the sin out of my heart.

At the altar call, I went forward and with a cry in my heart, I asked God to forgive me of my sins. God heard my prayer and forgave me. I faced the people of the congregation and told them I had found Jesus! It was so wonderful what the Lord had done for me. From that day to this I am happy.

After six years of schooling in Seattle, I wanted to go back to Alaska to see my old dad and mother before they died. When I arrived home, I said to my dad, "I have found Jesus, the Son of the living God, and He has made me happy." I told my

dad to call on God and ask Him to have mercy and take the sin out of his heart as He had done for me.

My dad did pray. From his heart he called on God, and the Lord saved his soul. It made me so happy. He said, "I am ready to go like you, Sonny; I have found Jesus too." From that day, he never stopped talking about Jesus, until he was called Home—no more worry about food or anything else. God saved my mom also before He took her. Oh, how I thank God that I had the privilege to tell both of my parents about salvation!

I felt such a hunger for what I heard, and I wanted the preacher to stop preaching so I could pray and call on God to have mercy and take the sin out of my heart.

Whenever I need the Lord to help me, He always answers my prayer. At Barrow [now called Utqiagvik], Alaska, we have no trees; it is just bare land covered with snow and ice for many months of the year. In the spring, after the snow melts, we always look for driftwood and blubber for our fuel. In the fall, a big blow starts. One fall, when a storm was over, there was a lot of coal on the beach. We went down and sacked it up, and some people packed it on their backs and put it on top of the bluff right away. I put mine on the sand because I didn't want to work so hard and tire my body. I thought I would take it home before the next storm, but before I could do that, another one had already started to blow. I took a few sacks to the top of the bank, but it was getting too stormy. I prayed, and asked God, "Protect my coal; and don't let the waves bother it." Then I went home.

The wind blew hard, and I thought perhaps the coal would be gone. But then I said, "I have prayed; God has never failed me." As soon as the wind had gone down, some of the men went to the beach and looked at my pile of coal that was still there. They said among themselves, "That is too much of a miracle!" They wondered why the waves of the sea went around that pile of coal, and said, "This coal must belong to a praying man!" It made me praise the Lord because even the waves obeyed Jesus.

Another time, I traveled with my wife and my little daughter, who was not quite a year old, to hunt at a place about seventy-five miles east of Barrow. We stayed in an old sod igloo that someone had made many years before. In the morning, after our devotions, I heard a still, small Voice saying, "Paul, you had better leave your rifle with your wife." I said "No! My dad always told me not to leave my rifle home." I heard the Voice again, "Something will come today!"

I left the rifle with my wife and had only been gone about ten minutes when the Voice spoke again, "Paul, turn back quick! QUICK!" When I got back, I saw cartridges scattered on the snow and thought surely a bear had hurt my wife. When she finally came out, she said, "Araa, nanut" (meaning, "disgusting polar bears"). Bears had tried to get into the igloo, and my wife had used the rifle for protection.

The Lord has done so much for me. When I needed Him most, He never failed me. He has rescued me from accidents and healed me from affliction, and many other miracles. I feel like traveling on.

■ **Paul Patkotak passed away on November 25, 1980.**

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)