

THE PASSPORT TO HEAVEN



Part **1** of 2

Svein-Magne Pedersen

The Passport to Heaven – Part 1

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The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

INTRODUCTION

- What will happen to me when I die? Is there something after death?
- Is there a creator, and if so, how can I get in touch with Him?
- What if someone could tell me what to do to have eternal life?
- How can I be sure that I will get to heaven when I die?
- How can I get rid of my bad conscience, and what should I do about all the mistakes that I have made?

Have you ever had these kinds of thoughts?

You are now holding in your hands the key to open the heavenly gates. This course will give you answer to life's most important questions. It answers question that will make great impact in your life for millions of years to come. This powerful message will change your life for eternity.

This course will also show you the way to be certain of your salvation. Based on biblical ref-

erences it explains how you can grow in your Christian life, handle spiritual problems and become a victorious witness for Jesus Christ.

Have you ever thought about what will happen to you when you die? In that case you are not alone, because millions of people have asked that question too. God created us to think vertically, or upward. God made in all of us a place for Him, a "platform" to land his "helicopter", where we can receive His calling by His Spirit and reply. It is natural to think on ones origin, which is exactly why you think these religious thoughts.

We can buy insurance for our earthly belongings, like our house, car, boat or cabin. But have you insured the most important part of your life: eternity? The Bible talks specifically clearly about heaven and hell. The earthly things have a certain value while living here but they cannot give comfort and help when death knocks on your door. Money, fame and fortune will then be left behind, on that day it will be totally worthless.

Life at one point is bound to end, sometimes it can happen suddenly and unexpectedly, then what? What will meet you when you open your eyes on the other side? Will you be on the right side? This is life's most important

question, and will without doubt be a critical point in your life if you do not have the right answer to this. God, who is a good God, is also a just God, and he will judge fairly.

The philosophers' theories on life and death are as many as there are philosophers. If we were to follow all their ideas we would only get confused. There is only ONE who lived a perfect life, who knew history and could make a way to build a bridge between a sinful mankind and a holy God – and that is Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God and was by God sent from heaven to earth to save mankind from the coming judgment. This was God's emergency plan.

Since Jesus came from heaven, He knows exactly what will meet you the day your heart stops beating. He had enough data to say:

- *“I am the bread of life.”*
- *“I am the light of the world.”*
- *“I am the resurrection and life.”*

- *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.”*

Jesus does not only *have* life and can *give* life. He *is* life itself. Eternal life has its origin in Him and Him alone. The core of Christianity is the person Jesus and not just stone-written commandments and boring rules, or an impersonal, mystical power, impossible to grasp. He was a 100 percent God and a 100 percent human in one person and He is the source of all life. No religious founder has ever said that about himself. No one has ever lived a sin free life, yet been condemned for all the sins of the world, except for Jesus. He also proved the truth in His words by rising physically from the dead.

This course gives you the answer as to why Jesus is Gods key to unlock heaven. It will also provide the answer to how you can be sure of your salvation, and how you can grow in your personal Christian walk and live a victorious life for Christ.

God wants all of mankind to be saved. Heaven is closer than you think!

Svein-Magne



Step 1 of 5 in Part 1 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 1 to 3**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 1

MANKIND IS SEARCHING FOR ITS ROOTS

The modern man is interested in his background and who his forefathers were. Genealogy and family reunions are very popular at the time we live in. The feeling of identity strengthens families. Modern technology has made man more rootless and lonely than ever before.

The world's native population are also searching for their roots. From 1982–1988 I was pastoring in two cities in the middle of Canada, in the province of Manitoba. A great number of the population there were Native Americans. When the white man came to Canada in the middle of the 16th century they eventually forced their culture on the Natives. A lot of their cultural traditions, which was not written down anywhere but handed down through the generations, were lost. Since then the Native Americans have neither felt like natives nor like the white man. Today these people are looking for their roots. Elders are giving lectures to their own on their ancestors' culture and religious beliefs to strengthen their identity. This is a trend with other natives around the world today as well.

Children, who are adopted, are most likely to search for their biological roots later in life. This longing to find our biological roots seems to be something that has been put there from creation.

Even more important than the searching for our biological roots, is our need to find our spiritual roots.

This longing runs deep inside us because it has something to do with the origin of mankind. People all over the world are searching for the answer to life's most important question. Materialism, secularism, rationalism, humanism and atheism do not give us the answer to our spiritual questions. These “isms” are leaving man with a spiritual void inside. This is



Roots. Indigenous people in North America are looking for their roots.

especially true about the people of the western world, where ideologies like these have flourished over the last centuries.

None of these movements are able to give us a solution to man's greatest problem – sin. That is why these “isms” cannot fill man's longing for God. The philosophers' answers differ substantially, as do their many religious speculations. Their longings though show us that man is created with a spiritual need, because there is a world out there which is so much bigger – God's world.

The Bible says:

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

HEBREWS 11:3

The architect and creator of the visible world is God, but the invisible came first. God has always been and He created the heavenly things before He created the universe and the earthly things. The most “real” of it all is the invisible world.

The Bible tells us that we are created with more than just body and soul. We are far greater than the animals, which are only body and instinct. God put something of himself in us. He created the first man, Adam, and the rest of us with a spiritual dimension. Listen to this:

“Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

GENESIS 2:7

God is spirit and invisible. He created us, unlike the animals, in His image and “programmed” us to communicate and have fellowship with Him. We are created as spiritual beings. As for God who is the trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are also an image of that: The spirit (which is the divine part in us), the Soul (our feelings will and intellect) and our physical body.

Jesus said:

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

JOHN 4:24 (NIV)



Yoga. Many are practicing yoga. A religious practice?

Since God is spirit, He is invisible (1 TIMOTHY 1:17) and He does not have a physical body as we do, but He is a person and not an impersonal, mystical force.

God is eternal, everlasting, without beginning and end (PSALM 90:2), omnipresent (PSALM 139:7-10), unchangeable (MALACHI 3:6), all-knowing ((PSALM 147:5), holy (ISAIAH 6:3), just (DEUTERONOMY 32:4) and loving (1 JOHN 4:8.16).

The Bible describes God with personal attributes such as a will, feelings and an intellect (GENESIS 6:6, EX 3:14, 1 KINGS 11:9, PROVERBS 6:16, JOHN 3:16).

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

1 TIMOTHY 1:17

"Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD."

JER 23:24

See also 1 KINGS 8:27, PSALM 139:7-12, LUKE 24:39.

the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are all eternal, equal and one, yet they operate on different levels. So, God is one, but reveals himself in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This divine union is called "the trinity," which means "three in one." This is not something we can easily understand but we have to grasp it with our faith. Just because you cannot fit all the oceans in one cup doesn't mean that they are not all there. The same can be said about God, and it is hard for us to limit His divine nature into our limited intellect.

The Bible calls each of these three persons God: **The Father** (MATTHEW 12:50; 18:14; ROMANS 1:7, 1 PETER 1:2), **the Son** (ISAIAH 7:14, 9:6, JOHN 1:1-5; 20:28, ROMANS 9:5, 1 TIMOTHY 3:16, TITUS 2:13; HEBREWS 1:8) and **the Holy Spirit** (ACTS 5:3-4, 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17). They are not separate Gods, but three persons in one, and God calls them "us."

"And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil."

GENESIS 3:22

See also GENESIS 1:26, ISAIAH 6:8.

The Trinity: The Bible reveals God as three different persons who is God the father, God

Still, God is One God:



Searching for god. We are all born with a spiritual longing, with a belief in an invisible god.

«Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.»

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

See also ISAIAH 44:6–8, 45:5, 1 TIMOTHY 2:5,
1 CORINTHIANS 8:4.

When the Bible talks about the unity of God, He speaks of it collectively not as a mathematical figure. We might speak of one nation, one people and one flock, yet there are more than one included. Here are some examples:

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

GENESIS 2:24

“And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one...”

GENESIS 11:6 (KJV)

“...the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem.”

EZRA 3:1

The persons of the divine are alike in nature, quality, power and glory but have different tasks they do. In the divine family, The Father is the leader who puts up the plan for creation, salvation and other important events in His plan for mankind (JOHN 6:38). He protects His people and supports their every need (PSALM 23, 103:13).

The Son is doing the will of The Father; He obtained salvation through suffering, death and resurrection (John 4:34; 5:30 and 18:11). The Holy Spirit is the one who convinces us of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:8), that we need to be born again (John 3:5), testifies our salvation (Romans 8:15–16), sanctification (2 Thessalonians 2:13), renewal (Acts 2:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16), guidance (John 14:26), strength and power (Ephesians 3:16), healing (Luke 4:18, Romans 8:11) and so on. Even if **the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit** have different tasks, they all took part in the creation (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 104:30; John 1:3).

Let us use this illustration as an example to establish the truth of “the trinity:”

When we think about the sun, we can think about three different aspects: like the heat, its size and the light, but it is still one sun. Or look



at water, it is still the same even if it comes in different shapes, as water, ice or steam. When we think of God we think of Him as *The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit*. The trinity can be illustrated like this:

God is not: $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$

God is: $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$

The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit and the Spirit is not the Father.

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

GENESIS 1:27

God put in us a longing for the eternal and invisible world:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

God created the fish to live in the water and He created man to be in contact with God. Some years ago I participated at a course in Sociology at a Canadian University. Upon reaching the subject “religion” the professor, who was not a Christian, said this: “There is one thing in common for all mankind. They all have some sort of belief in God.” My heart rejoiced at this proclamation because that is exactly what the Bible tells us.

CHAPTER 2

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

You were not created at random. God has a plan for all of us to have contact and fellowship with Him while we live on earth, and to make sure that we will be on Gods' side after we die.

Jesus said:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

JOHN 10:10

The core of Christianity is not just about rules and commandments. The Ten Commandments are to serve as a protective guard, but they are not the way itself. You cannot drive on the guard, you have to drive on the road. The commandments show us how to live. They will help you to stay on the road and protect you from harming your own or other people's lives by running off the road. God's commandments tell us what is right and wrong and He judge the



Reaching the world. Svein-Magne Pedersen has an international ministry. Here he is preaching in India.

offenders guilty by His law. If not, forgiveness and salvation would not be attractive to us.

«Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.»

ROMANS 3:20

The law has its limits because it can only judge us accordingly; it is not able to save us. It will only tell us that we have sinned but not be able to remove the sin from us. The law is like a mirror – revealing the dirt in our faces; however, we cannot wash ourselves with a mirror. If we are to get saved by His commandments, we would have to be a hundred per cent perfect in our motives and thoughts in what we say and do, if not we will be under God's judgement:

«For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.»

GALATIANS 3:10

Only Jesus can remove the sinful stains in our lives by offering us salvation and erase all the wrongs we have said and done. Whereas other religions put emphasis on rules and regulations, the core of Christianity is the person Jesus Christ who is alive and who had this to say about himself:

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 14:6

No person in history has ever said that about himself. “*The way*” means that He is the way of life and the core of our faith. “*The truth*” means that His teachings about God, the devil, man, sin, salvation, damnation and the invisible world are unique and a hundred per cent true. “*Life*” means that He is full of divine power, which He wants to give to us. This is proof that His teaching is true and not just some

religious nonsense. It means that we are able to accept forgiveness and eternal life. It also means that He wants to give us the power to get through difficult times on an everyday basis. Jesus wants to give us abundance, for our bodies, soul and spirit. Rules and commandments without life are like a car without the engine, or eggs without substance. – Have you ever thought Christianity to be like that?

CHAPTER 3

LACK OF DATA

Let us just imagine that there are people living on Mars. People living in New York think they have red eyes, but people living in London are sure its opposite. They think the “Martians” have yellow eyes. Then all of a sudden a UFO lands at the Royal Palace Square in London. People gather, from New York and London, to have a look at the grey unidentified object in front of them – to prove they are right. Then a “Martian” comes out of the UFO and everybody looks excitedly towards the little man. A sigh of disappointment goes through the mass of people – he has green eyes! They had built their information on the lack of facts and data on the “Martians.” They did not have the right information because none of them had ever been to Mars or met a “Martian” before.



Data: If a UFO were to land, we would collect a lot of data from it. Jesus Christ, the Son of God has “landed” and has given us a lot of data about God, heaven, hell and salvation. We do well if we take notice of His words.

Human philosophies about God and the devil, heaven and hell, right and wrong, and of life and death have too little data to be a completely trustworthy. Many people do not like what the Bible has to say about sin and that God can condemn people into damnation. They say that “My God is full of love. He is not harsh and judging.” What if God is like that, then what? Do you take the chance of building an eternity based on these conclusions on something that you have figured out yourself? They are built on a foundation of your own limited understanding – where an obvious lack of knowledge about the spiritual is overwhelming. Do we make our own “household god”, a god created in our own image?

The world had never been as evil and sinful as in the time of Noah. Most of us are familiar with what the Bible tells about the flood where all of mankind perished. God let that happen as a result of sin. This is just one example that God has the power to judge us (GENESIS 6 and 7).

“He did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.”

2 PETER 2:5-7



Saved: A woman in India received Jesus in the city of Nidadavolu, India.

Foto: Linda Helén Haukland

The psychologists say that people have a tendency to deny what they don't like. Could this be the reason why so many rejects the Bible's clear message on hell?

Can you imagine a state with a court system where the criminals are not punished accordingly? Of course not! Does God have a lesser sense of justice than we humans have? Never! Breaking human laws is one thing, but breaking God's eternal, holy commandments has even greater consequences.



Saved: Many people are saved in Svein-Magne Pedersen's meetings in Norway.



"Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

GENESIS 18:25

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations."

REVELATION 15:3

"This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might."

2 THESSALONIANS 1:7-9

Jesus proclaimed to be the Son of God (JOHN 10:36). He came from heaven, knowing therefore the truth about us, about God, salvation, heaven and hell. He had enough data to say what we need to hear in order for us to get right with God.

"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

JOHN 3:3

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."

JOHN 3:36

"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

JOHN 8:23

Part 1 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 1 of 5**



**Study chapter 1 to 3 in this booklet,
*The Passport to Heaven.***

We welcome you as a student on the course “The Passport to Heaven”! Together we will go through 5 + 5 letters based on my book “The Passport to Heaven.” This course is for all who want to understand more about who God is, the road to salvation and how we can have a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is separated into two parts, each containing 5 letters. You will receive a diploma after you have finished each part.

Study the chapters according to every letter, answering them the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, do try your best, if not, you can move on to the next. Any questions you might have for the teacher can be written down at the end of every letter

Part I of covers Chapters 1–3.

Based on these chapters, you must answer the following questions:

CHAPTER 1

1. Why do you think people are searching for their roots?

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2. Why do you think people are searching for their spiritual roots?

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3. In your opinion what is the greatest problem for people?

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4. What is the most important difference between humans and animals?

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5. How would you describe God as a person? Name seven attributes of God.

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6. What does it mean when we say that God is “triune” or a “Trinity”?

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7. What are the names of each person in the “Trinity”?

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8. What would you tell a person who believes God represents a mythical and impersonal power?

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9. Man can also be “triune.” Can you name each of these?

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10. What does it mean to be created in God’s image?

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CHAPTER 2

11. What is God's plan for mankind?

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12. What is the purpose of God's commandments?

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13. What are the limits of the commandments?

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14. What or who is the core of Christianity?

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15. Name three important attributes about the person Jesus Christ.

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16. What do each of these mean?

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CHAPTER 3

17. Why does Jesus have more information on God, heaven and hell than us?

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18. Why do you think people so easily deny hells existence? Name at least one cause.

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19. Write down a Bible verse that says God has the right to condemn us for our sins.

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Here you can write questions to your teacher:

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Step 2 of 5 in Part 1 of 2

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**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 4 to 7**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 4

THE FALL OF MAN

When you close your eyes at night, how do you know for certain that you will wake up the next morning? That is the reality of life. If you were to die tonight, where would you wake up? Maybe you have been waiting a long time to be at peace with God and yourself?

How can a normal person have contact with an almighty, invisible God? How can an invisible, divine power be a part of your life?

The Bible explain it as becoming a child of God, which means that you receive forgiveness and eternal life and are reunited with your creator on a spiritual, invisible level.



Every person has been created in God's image. From creation we have, unlike the animals, been given a spiritual, invisible dimension. Therefore we do not just only have social, emotional and physiological needs, but we will not be contempt before we have found a biblical answer to these basic questions:

- What is the meaning of life?
- Where do I come from?
- Why am I here?
- What happens after I die?
- What is God like?



Communication with God. To be created in the image of God is like having an invisible walkie-talkie in our hearts. We can hear God speak to us and respond to Him.

Created in God's image

To be created in the image of God, figuratively speaking means that we have a "built-in Walkie-Talkie." We are capable of receiving signals from the invisible world, like when God is speaking to us, and to reply (prayer). From the beginning we have been "programmed" to be in contact with God. We might be healthy, have a good job, many friends, a strong economy and so on, yet there still is something missing. We have forgotten the perspective of eternity! It is natural for humans to search for their spiritual roots. To be created in God's image means that we, like God, are able to live eternal lives and that we have the ability to know right from wrong (moral conscience).

The fall in the Garden of Eden

Something terrible happened after God had created man in the Garden of Eden, in Paradise. The first human beings, Adam and Eve, opposed to the will of God and ate from the tree of knowledge. They were free to eat from any tree in the garden, but God had said they could not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God did not create man as robots but He gave them a free will to either serve and follow Him or go their own way. That is why God planted the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. The spectacle broke out when Satan, God's opponent, appeared as a serpent, deceiving them to go against God's will. Adam and Eve ate from

the tree of knowledge of good and evil, something God had forbidden.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'"

GENESIS 2:16-17

The devil told Eve:

"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

GENESIS 3:1

Satan deceived Eve into a discussion whether you could eat from any tree in the garden at all. He made her doubt the exact wording of God's commandment. Eve repeated the word of God, adding, "must not touch it." The devil made her doubt if God's word was to be taken literally.

"The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

GENESIS 3:2-3

Then he changed tactics. At first, he pretended to be the one seeking out the truth with an intellectual question. Later he chose to confront Eve making her believe that God was a great ego that only kept the best to himself; like knowledge, power and authority, which God were in control over. Besides, he denied God would eventually judge man if he ate from the tree, the contrary of what God had told Adam (GENESIS 2:17).

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

GENESIS 3:4-5



Life in abundance. Jesus is the only one who can satisfy our spiritual needs. He said: *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* JOHN 10:10

First Eve took a fruit and ate of it and then passed it on to Adam, who ate of it too. Since then what we call "sin" entered the world, and the fall of man was a fact! They certainly got to know about good and evil, but they were not "all-knowing." Now, the knowledge of evil also led them to be slaves of sin, followers of Satan. He had promised that they would be gods, but they were not. Instead they were fallen, sinful humans who needed forgiveness and salvation.

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned."

ROMANS 5:12

The power of death began working in Adam and Eve. Sin, sickness and death were a fact. Since then war and evil, jealousy, violence, lies, cheating and all sort of sin have flourished among man. God cannot be held responsible for that. After the fall of man evil and wicked forces invaded our world, constantly trying to influence us into thinking, speaking and acting against the will of God.

"We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."

1 JOHN 5:19

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

ROMANS 1:21

We do not have to teach children about sin, they are automatically immersed into it as a part of being human. "The virus of sin" is a generational curse. Education and knowledge will not help us get rid of it. Peace treaties are mostly not worth the paper it's written on. We need conversion and salvation in our lives if we are to put an end to this slavery. The apostle Paul wrote:

"But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance."

ROMANS 6:17

In the Garden of Eden God's peace treaty was broken. We became God's enemy and sin created an insurmountable gap between God and us. Sin, which simply means, "missing the target," is breaking God's rules and it will make us feel distant to God. We have a sinful nature that want to go its own way not depending on God. As "free people" we became slave to sin. Now, in our own power we cannot get rid of

the desire to do evil, but God had a plan to save the world and restore our relationship again into the unity and fellowship He originally created us to.

Over the next chapters I will share four steps on how you can be saved and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Afterwards I will explain what it means to be saved and how to live your new life.

CHAPTER 5

GOD LOVES YOU

God loves us despite our atrocities. His love is without boundaries or demands on special moral qualities or other human qualifications for that matter. We on the other hand, love on different terms of conditions. We tend to love people who are polite and act kindly towards us and we don't want to have anything to do with those who dislike us.

God is not like that. He loves the criminal just as much as He loves good people. We love because of, God loves despite of. The greatest proof for that is that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue man from judgement.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

JOHN 3:16-18

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:8



In the original language the word for love, as shown above in these Bible verses, is the word "agape." It describes a love that is devoted on behalf of another person. This involves caring for, wanting the best for and even sacrifice oneself for his neighbour. It is a love determined on the will, not unstable feelings. The word describes a love determined to love no matter what it cost and whether this person is likeable and deserving. This is what God's love for us is like, and this love is the love that God has for you. Believe it, even if you don't feel like it. God demonstrated His love by sending His Son into the world because He wanted to restore the relationship with us.

CHAPTER 6

YOUR SIN HAS CREATED A CHASM

Man was created to live in harmony with their creator. Sin came into the world after the first people broke with the will of God in the Garden of Eden. It spread like wildfire to all mankind.

As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

ROMANS 3:10-18

To sin means to “miss the target” when it comes to the right decisions according to the will of God, which is exemplified in the Ten Commandments.

It simply means to break God’s known will or any principle or law as it is expressed in the Bible. Sin is a destructive force in our existence. First of all, it violates the best in us and it damages our relationship with others; with our neighbours, and eventually sin break the connection with God.



The target It makes a big difference if hit or miss the target. Also when it comes to God’s will for your life.

God, in His nature, is holy and just and there is nothing He hates as much as sin. That is why He cannot let us come into His holy heaven with our “black spots.” God is love, and as much as He might want to, He cannot do that because He is also a just God. Jesus is not only our saviour; He is our judge as well. God has given Jesus authority to judge (JOHN 5:27). As an earthly judge will sentence a criminal for his misdeeds, Jesus has to do the same:

“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

ACTS 17:31

Three forms of death: The Bible talks specifically about three forms of death; the physical, the spiritual and the eternal death. On the cross, Jesus paid for all three. “Death” in biblical terms means separation.

1. Physical death happens when spirit and soul is separated from the body:

“And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died).”

GENESIS 35:18 (KJV)

2. Spiritual death means that you are separated from life in God, even if you are still alive physically:

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.”

EPHESIANS 2:1

"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

LUKE 15:24

3. The Bible says that a spiritual death only has one exit: eternal death and eternal separation from God:

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death."

REVELATION 21:8

"And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

MATTHEW 25:30

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

MATTHEW 25:46

We are in the same boat. These Bible verses talk about an eternal separation from God (damnation). God has to judge the world in order to put an end to the development of sin. God will not allow for His creation to be sinners and doers of evil forever. We have all sinned and are therefore in the same boat.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

ROMANS 3:23

"Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."

EXODUS 34:7

This is what Jesus had to say about God's judgement:

"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has

authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

LUKE 12:4-5

God is very thorough and does not look between His fingers when it comes to our sin:

"But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every empty word they have spoken."

MATTHEW 12:36

Every day you and I produce approximately 10.000 words. That will be 3,500.000 in one year. How many stupid things have we said that will not stand the judgement of God? The older we become before we die, the more we need to count up for.

Three sins per day. Have a look at this example to illustrate a truth. Let us say that you are the most moral person in the city where you live. You only sin three small sins per day. By that you will probably end up as one of the worlds nicest persons, but on a larger scale your situation will not be that bright after all. Look at the numbers: After a week: 21 sins. After a year: 1092 sins. If you were to die when you are 40 years, you would have 43.680 misdeeds on you conscience. If you die when you are 70 you are responsible before God with 76.440 transgressions.

Through the fall of Adam all who are born are born as sinners: "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners." (ROMANS 5:19) The sinful nature was with us from conception. King David says:

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

PSALM 51:7

Every person has the "original sin" to count up for:

"We were by nature object of wrath."

EPHESIANS 2:3

Because we all have sinned, and God hates sin, we have become enemies of God (ROMANS 5:10).

We have to be conformed and reconciled with God. Even if you are a good person and have only sinned one time, you stand no change before the throne of judgment:

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

JAMES 2:10

For example: if you make a rift in Leonardo da Vinci’s valuable painting, “Mona Lisa,” the whole picture is as good as ruined. A shortcoming in a bridge is enough to crack the entire bridge. Only one sin is enough to ruin your relationship with God.

Sin – an illusion?

There are those who try to explain away sin as human weaknesses they can’t be held responsible for. Others explain it as psychological mechanisms that do not work, as they should. They believe that sin is relative and that it has to do with different cultural perceptions.

Imagine if a doctor were to come forward, saying that sickness no longer exists, that sick-



Imagine a doctor. Imagine if a doctor were to come forward, saying that sickness no longer exists.

ness is just an old fashioned and out-dated concept, despite people’s suffering. The same doctor would not take you seriously if you went to see him and you wouldn’t be getting any treatment either.

We should take sin seriously, turn around from it and receive treatment from God. Otherwise we would have to suffer the consequences both in life here, and in the life after death; an entire eternity apart from God in a place of punishment called “hell.” This is God’s judgement over sin.

“It’s no big deal.” Imagine that one day you find a lump in your stomach. At first you are afraid because what if it is cancer? But, instead of getting a check at the doctor, you decide that it is probably just a lump of fat and nothing to worry about. You keep telling yourself that every day, until you start believing it. Life continues as usual, but one day you discover that the lump has grown and is becoming painful as well. You discover other lumps too on your body. No one gets rid of cancer by overlooking it. The reality of sin will not become less dangerous if you ignore them or call it something else, like human errors and shortcomings, a small blunder and so on.

The omelette: Let us illustrate this with another example. You invite me home one evening for a snack. I’m waiting in the living room while you are in the kitchen preparing an omelette. To your surprise the last egg you put in the batter, is green and smells horrific. You think to yourself: “He won’t notice, the other 9 eggs were all fine.” A few minutes later you are ready to serve the omelette. I am hungry and I really look forward to eat. I take a big bite of your lovely omelette ... only to feel a bitter and

One rotten egg. Imagine an omelette of ten eggs. Nine good and a rotten one. Would the omelette be good?



awful taste in my mouth that makes me spit it out again. Ashamed you apologize the inconvenience and explain that you did not think that one bad egg would ruin the whole thing.

Everyone has sinned and have a sinful nature. Some even have a lot of sins on their conscience; other might be living a good moral life, but we all have in common at least “one rotten egg” we have to count for. The evil Adolf Hitler probably had nine “rotten eggs,” and one “good one.” The kind Mother Teresa probably had nine “good eggs” and only one “rotten one.” The point is: Everyone has broken God’s commandments. To God we all smell like “rotten eggs” and certainly none will enter into heaven with one either.

Bank robbery: Sin must be atoned and cannot be paid for with good deeds, as we humans often believe. Let’s use Mother Teresa and Adlof Hitler as an example once more. Imagine that the two of them lived today and decided that they would rob a bank together. They planned the robbery and threatened the staff at the bank with a gun and ran away with a considerable amount of money before the police caught them and imprisoned them. When the judge were to sentence a verdict he could not let Mother Teresa go free because of all the god things she had done for the destitute people of

Calcutta, and give Hitler ten years in prison. Both would get the punishment they deserved for their misdeed.

As you probably understand, both “good and evil” people are lost, and God as a fair judge will judge us for all our sins. About heaven it says:

“Nothing impure will ever enter it.”

REVELATION 21:27

Heaven is a holy place and not a junkyard. Since everyone have sinned we all have a dilemma. With God there is no room for compromise and no one even stand at chance before God’s throne of judgement. To sin against an eternal God and His holy eternal laws will lead to eternal damnation. In spite of this God offered a solution where we can be reconciled with Him. He himself made the atonement through Jesus’ death on the cross (COLOSSIANS 1:20–22). God himself restored what had been broken between Him and us humans.

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.”

1 PETER 3:18

CHAPTER 7

ATONEMENT FOR YOUR SINS

How then, could God eliminate the punishment resting upon every human being, and be righteous at the same time? God could not forgive your sins without a cause. He had no reason to let the guilty go unpunished. No judge has the possibility to let a criminal go free. God had a perfect plan to solve the greatest problem in history – our sin problem. A totally innocent person was going to take the punishment for the guilty. God allowed for Jesus to be crucified, fulfilling His genius plan.

There are only two religions in the world today. Christianity is the only religion that claims that God must be reconciled, and that it is *He* himself that carries out the reconciliation.

“The DO or DONE religion?”

All other religions can be dealt with in another category; “**the DO-religions.**” By that I mean that all the other religions have their rules and commandments that the people have to fulfill to avoid punishment after they die. Its followers are constantly living in fear of provoking wrath from their god or gods by not doing enough to satisfy them. It is not until after you are dead you will know if you “passed the test,” living a morally good and satisfying life, and can enter into a so-called better condition.

Christianity is alone in being what I call the “**DONE-religion.**” At the cross the sin free Jesus carried the judgement and punishment for our sins so that we can, here and now, receive eternal salvation. Jesus did it for us, therefore the “**DONE-religion.**”

Three important requirements fulfilled

God has only one Son and if He was to carry our sin and punishment He *first* had to become a human being like you and me. *Secondly*, He had to live a perfect life without sin and nothing to be punished for. *Thirdly*, He had to be

willing to take the punishment for their sin. Jesus fulfilled all the requirements.

1. Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent human. He renounced the glory of heaven and was implanted by the Spirit of God into the virgin Mary’s womb (LUKE 1:35). Mary had not been with any man (MATHEW 1:18–20; LUKE 1:27). The Holy Spirit was behind this; Jesus was a 100 percent God and a 100 human in one person.

Human:

“... but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:7

See also ROMANS 8:3.

“For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”

HEBREWS 2:17

As a human Jesus had physical limits. He got tired (JOHN 4:6), hungry (MATTHEW 21:18) and thirsty (MATTHEW 21:19). He also had human emotions like anxiety (MARK 14:33–36), sadness (MATTHEW 26:37), Joy (LUKE 10:21), love (JOHN 11:5), wonder (LUKE 7:9) and grief (MARK 3:5). He was also tempted but He never sinned

(MATTHEW 4:1-II; 12:38; 27:42; MARK 8:33; LUKE 11:16; JOHN 8:46; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; HEBREWS 4:15; 1 PETER 2:22, 1 JOHN 3:5).

God:

John calls Jesus “*the word*” and “*God*” to describe His oneness with God the Father from eternity:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

JOHN 1:1

“I and the Father are one.”

JOHN 10:30

“I am God’s Son.”

JOHN 10:36

The apostle Thomas answered Jesus:

“My Lord and my God!”

JOHN 20:28

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”

COLOSSIANS 2:9

God witness His son and speaks of Him as God:

“But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.”

HEBREWS 1:8

“We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

1 JOHN 5:20

Worship: In the Old Testament we read that God is the only one to be worshipped: EXODUS 20:3; 34:14; PSALM 66:4; 86:9; DANIEL 3:16-18. Jesus also proclaimed this: MATTHEW 4:10

Prayer to God: Here we are encouraged to pray to God: PSALM 32:6; 86:6; ISAIAH 55:6; JEREMIAH 33:3.

Since Jesus is God, we can also worship Him: MATTHEW 14:33; 28:17; LUKE 24:52; JOHN 9:38; PHILIPPIANS 2:9-II; HEBREWS 1:6; REVELATION 5:12; 22:9.

“Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”

LUKE 24:52

We can also pray to Jesus as God: LUKE 24:52; ACTS 7:56-60; ROMANS 10:9,13.

“...With all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

Jesus shall be honoured and worshipped like God the Father is: JOHN 5:23; 1 JOHN 2:23; REVELATION 5:13.

Salvation and forgiveness: In the Old Testament God is the only one who can offer salvation and forgiveness of sin (EXODUS 34:7; PSALM 34:19). Since Jesus is God, He also has the power to save and to forgive: JOHN 3:17; 8:11; ACTS 4:12, 5:31, 15:11; GALATIANS 1:4; EPHESIANS 5:23; HEBREWS 7:25; MARK 2:7-10; LUKE 7:48.

Eternal life and resurrection: In the Old Testament God is the only one who can give eternal life and resurrect someone from the dead (JOB 19:25, PSALM 16:10; ISAIAH 26:19; DANIEL 12:2). Jesus, who is God, also offers eternal life and resurrection: MARK 10:21; JOHN 10:28, 17:2; ACTS 4:12; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-17.

The name of God: One of the names of God in the Old Testament is “*I am*” (EXODUS 3:14). Jesus uses this name about himself, indicating that He is God.

“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

JOHN 8:58

See also JOHN 6:35, 8:12:24, 11:25, 14:6, 18:5.

The Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy and “*they picked up stones to stone him*” (JOHN 8:59. See also JOHN 10:31, 11:8; LUKE 4:29–30).

Titles and functions: The title “*Lord*”, which is used about God in the Old Testament around 7000 times, is also used about Jesus in the New Testament (PSALM 110:1, ACTS 2:34–36; ROMANS 10:9; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3; PHILIPPIANS 2:11). Jesus is called the “*Lord of lords*” (1 TIMOTHY 6:15; REVELATION 17:14, 19:16). This title is also used about God in the Old Testament (DEUTERONOMY 10:17; PSALM 136:3). This is also true for a number of other titles used about God in the Old Testament, and about Jesus in the New Testament, like “*savior*,” “*bridegroom*,” “*shepherd*,” “*the first and the last*.” In the Old Testament one can read about God as a judge of all the earth. In the New Testament Jesus has that function too. (**God:** GENESIS 18:25; PSALM 94:2, 96:13, 98:9. **Jesus:** JOHN 5:22; ACTS 10:42, 17:31; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10; 2 TIMOTHY 4:1.)

Trinity: The divine Jesus is emphasized through the trinity. When we are being baptized it is “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” (MATTHEW 28:19). Here, the Son is identified with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the second person in the divine godhead. Jesus is God.

In at least 60 times throughout the New Testament these three persons are mentioned together. See for example MATTHEW 3:16–17; 2 CORINTHIANS 13:13; EPHESIANS 4:4–6; TITUS 3:4–6.

2. Jesus had to be without sin. He lived a life without sin and had nothing to be punished for. To His critics Jesus said:

“Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?”

JOHN 8:46

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

1 PETER 2:22

Most people only had good things to say about Him:

“People were overwhelmed with amazement. ‘He has done everything well,’ they said. ‘He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.’”

MARK 7:37

Judas, who betrayed Jesus, eventually acknowledged Him:

“‘I have sinned,’ he said, ‘for I have betrayed innocent blood.’”

MATTHEW 27:4

After Jesus had been questioned, Pontius Pilate declared:

“You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

JOHN 19:6

Pilate’s wife sent this message to her husband before Jesus was sentenced to death:

“While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: ‘Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man.’”

MATTHEW 27:19

One of the two thieves who were crucified together with Jesus spoke out and said:

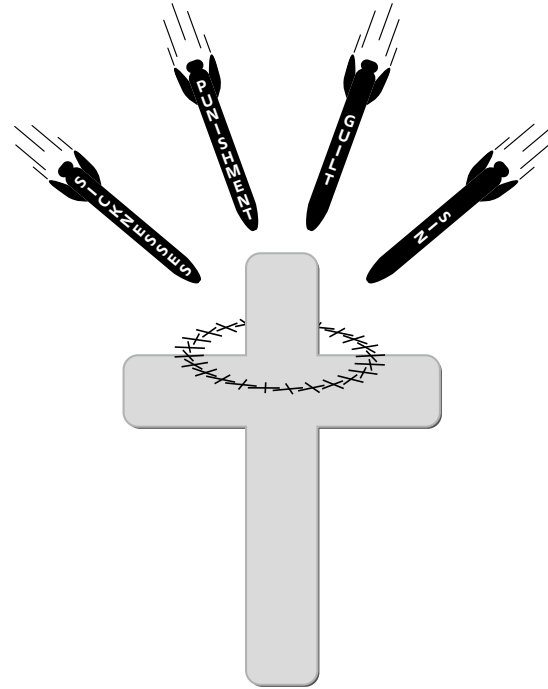
“We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

LUKE 23:41

When Jesus died on the cross, a Roman soldier that kept watch exclaimed:

“The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, ‘Surely this was a righteous man.’”

LUKE 23:47



We are free – Jesus took it all!

3. Jesus was willing to die. Jesus had to be willing to carry the sins of the world. He fulfilled this also:

“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.”

JOHN 10:18

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

He did not hide but allowed evil people to crucify Him. God had a plan that the people had not yet understood:

“But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.”

ACTS 3:18

The lightning rod: At the cross God poured out all of mankind’s sin, present, past and

future. He let His wrath fall upon the innocent Jesus. He, the Son of God, worked as a lightning rod for God’s wrath:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

ISAIAH 53:5

Jesus paid for the consequences of the fall on the cross: for sin, sicknesses and death. We can receive forgiveness (EPHESIANS 1:7), healing (ISAIAH 53:5) and in the end God will raise us up from the dead (JOHN 11:25–26; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:14; PHILIPPIANS 3:21). In doing so, Jesus fully paid the price for our fall and transgressions against God.

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son.”

ROMANS 5:10

Our debt before God, past, present and future, was paid in full. All of it got paid for and not just some of it. Before Jesus died He said:

"It is finished."

JOHN 19:30

Tetelestai. In the original language of the Bible the word means, "it is finished." A Roman judge would write the Greek word "tetelestai," across the written acknowledgment of debt that belonged to the criminal who had just been set free. This was done to show that his punishment was paid in full. The person was now free and no one could judge him for anything in his past, because the debt had been fully atoned for.

Here lies the core message of the cross. The moral repute that God demanded of us and that we could not fulfill, Jesus paid for by His suffering and death on the cross. God bombarded His only Son for six hours on the cross with the trials and punishment every man should have had. No man has ever suffered the way Jesus did. He suffered in His spirit, soul and body for all the sins of man that was put upon Him. No one can condemn us for the sins of the past. He took the blame for all of us upon himself:

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

1 PETER 2:24

The cross tells me these two things: How much God loves the sinner but also how much He hates sin. When God's judgment over sin was cast onto Jesus at the cross, He felt the hopelessness of a sinner without a God. In His suffering He cried out:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

MARK 15:34

Jesus knows what it is like to be separated from God; the Bible call is *"to be lost."* In a matter of hours He experienced the excruciating pain from hell, both on His body, in His soul and spirit. Jesus became sin on our behalf. He never became a sinner himself, because He had never sinned. It simply means that God's judgment upon our sin, the sin that we should have been

punished for, was put on the sin free Jesus. He was treaded a sinner on our behalf:

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

He carried the sins of the world as if they were His own. But because He had never committed any sins, His relationship with God was restored:

"Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

LUKE 23:46

At the cross Jesus wrote, *"paid in full"* on our judgment because He died in our place.

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14

"Having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross."

COLOSSIANS 2:14

As slaves could be paid for, releasing him from slavery, Jesus paid for our sins by His death. Therefore, we can now be saved from the judgment of sin and slavery:

"He who gave himself as a ransom for all people."

1 TIMOTHY 2:6

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

To be justified means *to be declared* or *made righteous* in the sight of God. He has forgiven us so that we can come before Him without sin. No human can do that in his own power.



Through Jesus we are treated as righteous and worthy of salvation. God sees us as through Jesus, as if we never sinned. We will then have a new standing before God:

“We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”

GALATIANS 2:16

Accept the cheque? Since someone else paid for our sins, salvation is not a result of our own efforts (good deeds, prayers, moral repute etc.). God offers salvation as a gift (*“the righteousness of God”*), but a gift is only useful if we personally accept it. Let me show you an example: If I worked at the Lottery and wanted to hand you a cheque for one million dollars that you had won, it wouldn’t be yours unless you receive it as yours.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from your self, it is the gift

of God.” (EPHESIANS 2:8) Grace, in the original language, means “undeserved mercy” – compassion and forgiveness shown towards someone who does not deserve it, by someone who has power to punish him. We all know how difficult it is for a criminal to get an acquittal through the judicial system. God, in His mercy, guarantees that for all who turn around and receive Him.

According to the Bible, God is a righteous judge who can condemn us to a place of punishment called hell, but God’s love for us gives us a chance to escape that. Since Jesus took our punishment, God now has a reason to pardon us. He can forgive our sins and at the same time be righteous. The only thing that can stop you from receiving it is yourself. You decide whether to spend an eternity away from God in hell, or together with God in heaven. You cannot blame God if things were to go wrong some day. He gave His best for your worst and now is your chance to do something about it.

A lost person



A person without God is:

- **Sinful:**

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

ROMANS 3:23

- **Guilty:**

"He does not leave the guilty unpunished."

2 Mos 34:7

- **Under God's judgment:**

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

JOHN 3:36

- **Lost:**

"These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

2 THESSALONIANS 1:9

The bridge of good deeds will not carry you.

"...a man is not justified by observing the law..."

GALATIANS 2:16

Jesus said:

"Rather be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

MATTHEW 10:28

Perdition:

"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

REVELATION 20:15

A saved person:

- **Is forgiven**

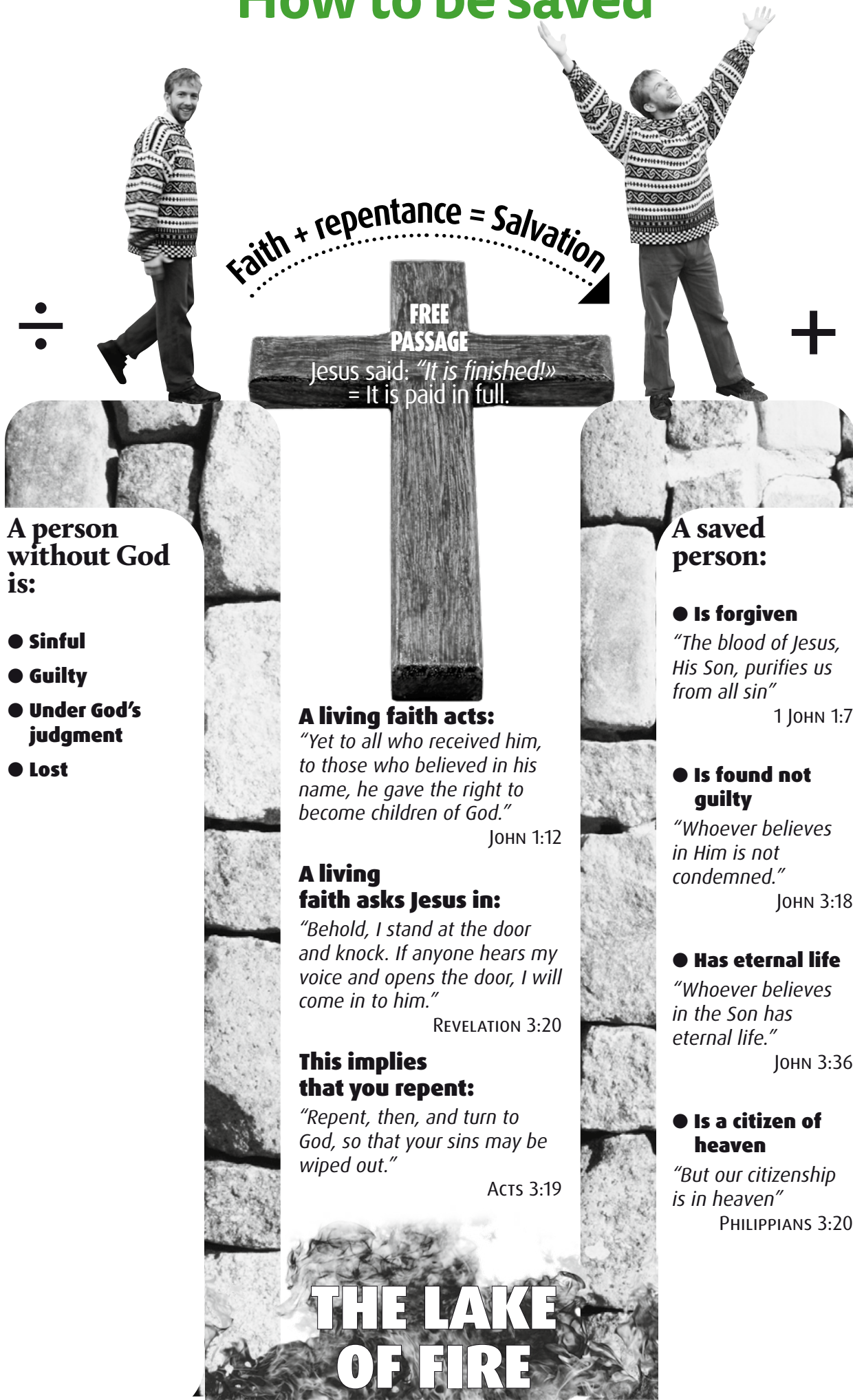
- **Is found not guilty**

- **Has eternal life**

- **Is a citizen of heaven**

THE LAKE OF FIRE

How to be saved



Faith + repentance = Salvation

FREE
PASSAGE

Jesus said: "It is finished!"
= It is paid in full.

A person without God is:

- Sinful
- Guilty
- Under God's judgment
- Lost

A saved person:

- **Is forgiven**
"The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin"
1 JOHN 1:7
- **Is found not guilty**
"Whoever believes in Him is not condemned."
JOHN 3:18
- **Has eternal life**
"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."
JOHN 3:36
- **Is a citizen of heaven**
"But our citizenship is in heaven"
PHILIPPIANS 3:20

A living faith acts:

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

JOHN 1:12

A living faith asks Jesus in:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him."

REVELATION 3:20

This implies that you repent:

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."

ACTS 3:19

THE LAKE
OF FIRE

Part 1 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 2 of 5**



**Study chapter 4 to 7 in this booklet,
*The Passport to Heaven.***

Answer the question the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, you should still try to do your best. At the end of every letter there will be a chance to write down any questions you might have for the teacher.

This course has two separate parts, each containing 5 letters. You will receive a diploma after you have finished each part.

When you have answered the questions, please send the letter back to us, so that we can assess it. Your paper will be returned with the next letter.

Letter number 2 cover chapters 4–7. Please answer the questions below from these chapters.

CHAPTER 4

1. What does it mean to be created in God's image?

.....

.....

.....

2. Name five questions that are fundamental for us human beings to find an answer to.

.....

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3. What is "The fall of man" all about?

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4. How would you describe the serpent's/devil's tactic to make Eve sin and eat from the tree of knowledge?

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5. What was the result of the fall?

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CHAPTER 5

6. How would you describe God's love for mankind? Find one Bible reference.

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7. Explain what the Greek word "agape" means in the Bible.

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8. How does it feel to be subject of such divine love?

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CHAPTER 6

9. How does the Bible define the word "sin"?

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10. Why do you think it is that God hates sin?

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11. Name three forms of death. Explain what each means, give a biblical reference.

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2.
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12. Will you be able to get to heaven if you have sinned only one time? State the reasons using one or more biblical references.

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13. What is the consequence for breaking God's law?

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CHAPTER 7

14. What is the biggest problem or dilemma for us humans?

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15. There are actually only two religions in the world today. What should we call them?

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16. What three demands were put on Jesus in order for Him to make an end to the chaos of sin?

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17. Several places in the Bible, God the Father and Jesus are seen as equal. Name five important things that support this.

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18. What are the names of the divine persons in the Trinity?

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19. Write down a Bible verse from the Old Testament proving that Jesus died for our sins and our sicknesses.

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20. Before Jesus died on the cross, He exclaimed triumphantly something, which in Greek means “tetelestai.” What did He say?

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21. What does it mean when I say that Jesus was a “lightning rod”?

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22. The cross tells us two important things – what are those?

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23. What does it mean to be justified?

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24. What does the well-known biblical word “grace” mean?

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Here you can write questions to your teacher:

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Step 3 of 5 in Part 1 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 8 to 9**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 8

YOU RECEIVE JESUS

It is not enough to know that God loves you and that you are a sinner without God and that Jesus paid for your mistakes.

Let me illustrate my point by telling you about the “cancer pill.” Imagine that your doctor one day tells you that you have cancer with only have a few months left to live. But he gives you hope because he has gotten hold of a new medicine that could take away the cancer. You put the pills in your pocket and go home with a renewed hope. You read books about the new super medicine and listen to lectures given on the subject about how fantastic these pills are to fight cancer. But, knowledge alone will not help you. If you do not swallow these pills the cancer will continue to grow and you will eventually die, with these pills in your pocket!

In comparison: You have to let Jesus into your heart, for Him to remove the threatening sickness of sin. Otherwise you will die in your sin and live an eternity away from God under continuously punishment:

“And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.”

REVELATION 14:11

To receive eternal life we need a living faith in Jesus as God’s son:

“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

JOHN 8:24

“These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

2 THESSALONIANS 1:9

“How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was

confirmed to us by those who heard him.”

HEBREWS 2:3

In the original language “to be lost” means to be completely and eternally rejected by God, losing the right to eternal life.



Like getting married: Let me show you an example from a wedding. Before I got married to my wife I spoke to her on several occasions. After observing her during different situations I understood that she was a wonderful and loving person that I could trust. Nonetheless I still wasn't married to her, I was free to marry anyone else for that matter, even if I believed intellectually in her and often spoke with her.

In the western world most people say that they believe in God. Based on their childhood faith they have a theoretical knowledge about God. They might even speak to God occasionally in prayer but they are not “married” to God. They are still running their own race. They have knowledge about God but they do not want to enter into a committed relationship with Him.

After a year I got engaged to my wife, which meant that we had plans about getting married. We came a step closer to each other, but I would still be free to marry someone else.

In comparison: there are many nice people who do as best they can. They do pretty well in keeping His commandments and obeying His word. They often go to church and even give to humanitarian and Christian causes. All of this is praiseworthy, but they are only “engaged” to God.

They have not completely surrendered themselves to God, admitted their sin and repented,

giving Him the right to their life. They have yet to be “married” to God.

Then one day my wife and I decided to get married. The pastor asked if we in good days and in bad days would be faithful to each other until death separates us. We said “I do.” At that moment I gave myself to her and she gave herself to me. She was mine and I was hers and in seconds we were rightfully declared “husband and wife.” I was no longer “free” to marry someone else, but I was committed to her. We both wanted this because we loved each other dearly. I remember I looked at my wife and I knew that something special had happened. She meant even more to me now, being my wife and not only my fiancée. I was her husband and we were bound to each other on a deeper level than before. We did not want to leave each other, but stay faithful in good times as in bad times. This is what happens when we say yes to Jesus and become saved. We enter into a deep and intimate fellowship when He comes in, and He promises to stay in good times and in bad times, whatever days we might face.

There is only one step to be “married” to God: give your life to Jesus completely!

At the cross He said yes to you and He gave His life for you. No one will be married if only one says “I do” before the pastor. Jesus has already said “I do” to you and now He is waiting for you to say “I do” to Him. When that happens God will sign the “certificate”, and then He declares you as saved.

“He did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

ROMANS 3:26

Let your “I do” be “I do” and not a “maybe,” because it signals that you are uncertain of what you want to choose. It is like an on-site resting point of view where nothing is going to happen. Unfortunately there are many people who year after year do nothing more than just that. I would say that is a risky place to be. Prisoner Paul boldly preached the road of salvation to the Jewish King, Agrippa, who almost

became a Christian. I hope that you will be able to make a concise decision:

"Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

ACTS 26:28

Zacchaeus, the tax collector, made a better choice when Jesus challenged him about salvation:

"So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly."

LUKE 19:6

It is not enough to have knowledge about God and the Bible and pray to Him, believe in Him, live a morally good life, go to church and so on. It must be a complete surrender! Who other than Jesus would you rather spend the eternity with?

When we talk about faith we can distinguish mainly between two types: "faith by knowledge" and "surrendering faith." The "faith by knowledge" is briefly described above, yet alone it is ineffective and dead. To have knowledge about something does not help unless it leads to action. But if our knowledge leads to action, "a surrendering faith," then a miracle takes place inside us, which is called salvation.

- Our sins are forgiven and He blots out our transgressions. God will never remember our sin again (Micah 7:19; Hebrews 8:12).

- God looks at us (through the atonement at the cross) as if we have never sinned. (Justification, Romans 5:6–10; Galatians 2:16; Colossians 1:21–22).
- Jesus moves into our hearts and becomes our Savior and Lord (Revelation 3:20; Romans 10:9).
- We receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a deposit and seal for our salvation (Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 1:13–14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22).
- We become children of God and are rightfully heirs to the blessings of God (Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:7; 1 John 3:1–2).
- Your name is written in The Book of Life in heaven (Luke 10:20; Hebrews 12:23).
- Since Jesus took our punishment, we shall never be condemned by God (John 3:18; 5:24).
- Neither the devil nor any man can no longer judge us (Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 4:3–4).
- We can daily surrender our sins and be purified (1 John 1:7–9).

Receiving Jesus Christ personally into our hearts is what saves us:



"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

JOHN 1:12

But, how do we receive Him? Jesus said:

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

REVELATION 3:20

This happens through a simple prayer:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

ROMANS 10:13

What Jesus is saying here is that it is as simple as you invite a friend into your home when he knocks on your door. You would welcome him in and it only takes a few seconds to enter into the doorstep. Jesus says that being saved happens in a matter of a moment. God has no favourites, big and small sinners can be saved. The Bible says that whosoever calls upon His name shall be saved.

To be saved there are four main truths to consider:

1. You are loved by God (chapter 5).
2. Your sin has created a chasm (chapter 6).
3. Your sin was atoned for (chapter 7).
4. You receive Jesus (chapter 8).



CHAPTER 9

WHAT IT INVOLVES

Since Jesus already paid for our sin, salvation is free to receive. But still God sets conditions for us to receive eternal life.

1. Shift of power

Jesus wants to be chief and Lord. We have to willingly step down from the chief position in our lives and let Jesus take the lead instead. We abdicate as kings of our own lives when we step down. We capitulate and surrender the weapons and stop fighting against God's calling. From now on Jesus should be sitting on the throne in our lives. Listen to what He says:

"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

MATTHEW 16:25

Here "saving your life" means that you run your own race, but "loosing your life" is letting Jesus take control of it. It means to unconditionally surrender the throne to Him.

2. Change of ownership

A change of ownership takes place when we repent. It means that someone else is taking charge over our property. When we give ourselves to God, He gives us His Spirit. On the cross Jesus paid the price for God to take you back as His property:

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

3. Change of direction

To turn around means to change direction. It means to turn around 180 degrees and go the opposite direction of what you used to. It means that you turn away from "something", to "something else." "My will be done" is replaced with "your will be done"!

The Greek word for repentance means to change your opinion and change your mind. It involves a deep, inner recognition that you are on the wrong path and are willing to turn around completely.

Among the first things Jesus taught was this:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

MATTHEW 4:17

No repentance – no salvation;

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 18:3

"Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon."

ISAIAH 55:7

There are two sides to repentance, one where we turn away from the devil and sin and one where we turn to Jesus and accept Him into our lives.

"To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

ACTS 26:18

There will be a break with the devil and his evil works and a yes to Jesus and His purity. We must be willing to break with the things in our lives that cannot withstand the light of day and goes against Gods will. Here is something to consider helping you discern whether something is a sin:

- What would Jesus do?
- Can I do this in the name of Jesus?
- Will it be destructive to my relationship with God?
- Does it make me more concerned with the things of this world at the expense of my relationship with God?
- Will it hurt other human beings or make them fall?
- Does it glorify God or is it dishonouring Him?

Sin is:

- Doing what God does not want us to do (violation of the law).

"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."

1 JOHN 3:4

- Not being what God wants us to be (saved).

"He who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

1 TIMOTHY 2:4

- Not believing the way God wants us to believe (in Jesus).

"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me."

JOHN 16:8-9

Even if we live morally good lives the greatest sin is that we do not have a living faith in the Son of God. If we discard the one God sent to give us the right to eternal life, this is the greatest sin of it all. God is the one who gives us the desire and power to change. He seeks us before we seek Him.

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."

JOHN 6:44

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

LUKE 19:10

Let Jesus take the control: Let us compare salvation with driving a car. Up until this point in your life you have driven the car your self. This is what you have always wanted and you do not want God of the heavens to meddle in. But the problem is that you don't have a compass and a map to show you the way safely through life. You have tried one road after another, but it did not satisfy you. Besides, you have driven off the road quite a few times, too. You have been frustrated, but you hope that one day you will hit a road leading to a place where you can be satisfied and be at peace in your heart.

Along the road you meet a hitchhiker, Jesus. You pull over and let Him on and He tells you that *He* has what you are missing, the compass and the map. He knows the best way to navigate through an evil world and would love to drive your car or your life. When the time comes He offers to take you safely to heaven. You think to yourself that this sounds very nice and you believe what He is saying, so when He asks kindly to take the place in the front seat you give Him a chance, "Please Lord, from now on you are the driver and I am the passenger."

4. Membership in God's family

The biggest family in the world, which is the church, have many names in the Bible. Here are some:

- “Members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19)
- “The temple of the living God” (2, Corinthians 6:16)
- “A spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5)
- “The house of God” (1 Timothy 3:15)
- “The church of God” (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- “The church” (Acts 2:47).

In the original language the word congregation/church* means “to be called out from.” The word congregation is an important theme throughout the New Testament because it is mentioned over 110 times. The congregation consists of people that God has called out from the sinful world to be *His* property and in disposition for *His* work.

The Bible talks about the *local church* as well as the *universal church*. The local congregation consist of all the believers in a geographical area. They share a common belief that Jesus is the only way to salvation, but there might be different churches based on different theological views. Where you live there could be several churches where Jesus is preached and worshipped. All who become saved should be a part of a local church. The New Testament talks about “the church in Antioch,” “the church of God in Corinth,” “the churches in Galatia” etc. About the church in Jerusalem it says:

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

ACTS 2:47

The universal church consists of all the believers around the world who accept Jesus as Lord and saviour, no matter what church denomination:

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

EPHESIANS 5:25

“And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets...”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:28

The church is not a property of any church or denomination. It belongs to Jesus:

“...I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.”

MATTHEW 16:18

In the church of God we receive education and training in the word of God, equipment for works of service, encouragement and help in difficult situations and even correction sometimes (ACTS 18:23; ROMANS 12:1; 1 CORINTHIANS 14:3; 4:12; 19:26; EPHESIANS 4:1). Here are leaders that God has appointed and equipped for this work: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (EPHESIANS 4:11–12). We depend on each other and we should come together worshipping Jesus and inspiring one another (HEBREWS 10:25; ROMANS 14:9; MATTHEW 28:17). In the church of God you can find peace and protection from the threatening dangers of the kingdom you previously belonged to, the kingdom of darkness where Satan is the ruler (ACTS 2:42–47). It is important to remember that no church is “perfect,” they all have strengths and weaknesses. That is because it is made up of people, like you and me, and sometimes we fail. Our goal is that we should be more like Jesus (COLOSSIANS 3:10).

To be a member of a local church means more than just a membership in some club. A church is more than just an organisation. The Bible compares the church to a living organism where Jesus is the head and the believers are the limbs that make up the body.

“...Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.”

EPHESIANS 5:23

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

The church of God is a living organism and should be a place where we show love and concern for each member of the body of Christ:

“... so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:25

In this living organism every Christian is a limb serving God and his neighbour, using their “spiritual talent” or gift (1 CORINTHIANS 12 and 14; 1 PETER 4:10). In the church of God, no matter what denomination, there is a spiritual and invisible bond of fellowship between brothers and sisters serving Jesus as Lord and saviour. Race, colour of skin, nationality or gender doesn’t matter (GALATIANS 3:28; 1 PETER 2:17). Every limb on the body has equal value and are just as important as the other (1 CORINTHIANS 12:1–20). Just as our body is operated from the head, so is the body of Christ with Him being the head.

Here are four requirements you should consider when you want to become a member at a local church:

- The gospel of Jesus is preached and His name is honoured and worshipped alongside with God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; Phillipians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 2:2; Matthew 28:9; John 5:23).
- The love of God is present among the members (John 13:35; 2 Thessalonians 1:3).
- The Bible is considered to be the flawless, inspired word of God and it has full authority in all parts of our lives (John 13:35; 2 Timothy 3:16).
- Evangelism and mission are a priority (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8).
- Water baptism is also very important. That means that you believe in the Gospel

of Jesus Christ and are leaving the sinful world, dedicating your life to Jesus (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 4:5; Kol 2:12).

“Free as a bird?” As a Christian it is not normal to “sit on the fence” all by yourself. God has called us to have fellowship with other believers. A single spark, if separated from a fire, would soon lose its power. Some might say that they are “as free as a bird” but a bird needs a nest somewhere and a branch to sit on. You are born again into God’s family and fellowship; your family needs you as much as you need them.

When you become a child of God and have made Jesus your Lord and Saviour, you turn away and change direction from a sinful life and become a member in the universal family of God. Your name is written in the book of life and you have received citizenship in heaven.

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

PHILLIPIANS 3:20

Just as you cannot have “a little bit of a citizenship” in a country, you cannot be “a little bit Christian.” Either you are a citizen or you are not! The Bible doesn’t speak of a neutral standing:

“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”

MATTHEW 12:30

Summary: To be saved involves this: a shift of power, a change of ownership, a change of direction and a change of membership.

Titles

The believers have several titles in the New Testament. Here are two examples:

A Christian: The word “Christian” is mentioned three places in the New Testament: Acts 11:26; 26:28 and in 1 Peter 4:16. The word means “one who belongs to Christ”, and is one



who follows Christ and is loyal to Him. So Christians are people who believe in Christ and have a personal relationship with Him.

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

JOHN 17:3

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

ACTS 11:26

A disciple: In the New Testament Christians are often referred to as disciples. In Acts and in the gospels the word is mentioned 269 times. It is a term used for all the believers, not only the twelve disciples of Jesus. The word means a student or apprentice, who follow Jesus and wants to learn from His example no matter the cost. The word of God and His will is always going to be the first priority. Jesus said:

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”

JOHN 8:31

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

LUKE 16:27

A disciple must put Jesus and His will before considering family and relatives:

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple.”

LUKE 14:26

Here the word “hate” simply means that you “love more” and not the meaning we would normally put into it. I have met many people who would like to be saved but they are afraid of what their friends would say or if their spouse would like it. They might even have some personal issues when it comes to Jesus being on the throne in their lives. According to Jesus they cannot be His disciples because He wants to be the number one priority as Lord and saviour.

Jesus wants people to be saved but also make them disciples (MATTHEW 28:18–20). A new believer needs love and guidance to become a mature Christian who has learned to make it a priority to put God first instead of running their own race. They must learn to be disciples and to win other people for Christ and make new disciples. This is one of the most neglected areas in our churches today. (Read more: MATTHEW 8:19–20; 10:24–25; 16:24; LUKE 9:23; 14:33; JOHN 15:8; ACTS 9:19; 2. TIMOTHY 2:2.)

Get to know the King. I have read a lot about The King of Norway, King Harald, and I think I would be able to give quite a good presentation about him. Despite this, I don't know him at all. I have never met him personally and never had close conversations with him. But if I were

to obtain an audience with The King at the Royal Palace, I would be able to say afterwards that I know him.

Similarly many people know a lot about Jesus, but very few have met Him personally. We need to let Jesus into our lives to get to know Him the same way King Harald would let me into his Royal Palace. Through salvation we achieve a personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus said that it is not enough to know *about* Him, but we need to *know* Him. This is what the eternal life is about.

If Jesus didn't die for our sins, all of mankind would have met a closed heaven. All doors have at least two hinges and so does the door to heaven; it is called the cross and the resurrection.

Part 1 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 3 of 5**



**Study chapter 8 to 9 in this booklet,
*The Passport to Heaven.***

Answer the question the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, you should still try to do your best. At the end of every letter there will be a chance to write down any questions you might have for the teacher.

This course has two separate parts, each containing 5 letters. You will receive a diploma after you have finished each part.

When you have answered the questions, please send the letter back to us, so that we can assess it. Your paper will be returned with the next letter.

Letter number 3 covers chapters 8–9. Please answer the questions below from these chapters.

CHAPTER 8

1. In this chapter you have read the example about Jesus and the cancer pill. What does it illustrate?

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2. Will a lost person be destroyed in hell, or is hell eternal?

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3. What does it mean “to be lost”?

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4. In the chapters I compare salvation to marriage. What is the difference between being “engaged” to God and being “married” to God?

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5. The Bible says that some are very close to receiving salvation. Who was this?

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6. What is the difference between “faith by knowledge” and “surrendering faith?”

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7. What nine important events take place when we are saved?

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8. How do we receive salvation? Write down two biblical references that support your statement.

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9. Four truths to be saved:

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CHAPTER 9

10. Explain what salvation means. Name four important points.

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11. What does it mean to “capitulate” to God?

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12. In regards of salvation explain what I mean with “ownership.”

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13. What does the Greek word for “conversion” means? Give three biblical references that teach about conversion.

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14. What helps determine if something is a *sin* or not?

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15. Explain the word *sin* and give three biblical references to support it.

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2.
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16. The Bible describes two different kinds of congregations/churches, what are they called?

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17. Why is it important to be a part of a local church?

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18. What does the word “Christian” mean?

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19. What does the word “disciple” mean?

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20. Using scripture, name three important things a disciple must follow.

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21. What is one of the most neglected areas in God’s church today? What should be done to improve that?

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Here you can write questions to your teacher:

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Step 4 of 5 in Part 1 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 10 to 12**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 10

YOU RECEIVE GRACE FROM A LIVING JESUS

We were not created to run life on our own. We were created for fellowship with God where Jesus is the shepherd and leader. Jesus was resurrected physically after three days (MATTHEW 16:21; LUKE 24:46; ACTS 10:40–41; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:4–7).

After the resurrection Jesus appeared before the disciples and other believers eleven times. They spoke to Jesus and could touch Him (LUKE 24:39–40; JOHN 20:20, 27–29). Three times He ate with them (LUKE 24:30–31; 41–43; JOHN 21:10–13; ACTS 10:41). Once He appeared simultaneously before five hundred people, so they could not have been hallucinating (1 CORINTHIANS 15:6). Several times Jesus demonstrated that He had physically been raised from the dead:

“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared

to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”

ACTS 1:3

Jesus appeared before Thomas, who doubted Jesus' resurrection:

“Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

JOHN 20:27

Later, the disciples were willing to die for the truth that Jesus had risen physically from the dead. This is also what they proclaimed and

taught when they preached to the people (ACTS 3:15; 4:2; 4:33; 17:18). Jesus specifically asked His disciples to testify His physical resurrection:

"You are witnesses of these things."

LUKE 24:48

See also JOHN 15:27; ACTS 1:8.

Christianity is alone, among all the other religions, to have historical facts to prove that its founder physically was raised from the dead. Read the gospels and be convinced by the facts. Several well-known historians confirm the truths of the gospels and on Jesus' resurrection. Anyone can be crucified but the resurrection is proof that Jesus is who He claimed to be, the Son of God and Saviour of the world:

The resurrection is proof that Jesus is the Son of God and that all our sins were atoned and paid for at the cross.

Otherwise Jesus would never have been raised from the dead. Sin would not have been paid for and salvation would be false:

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:17

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 PETER 1:3

"... and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power[a] by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

ROMANS 1:4

At the empty tomb an angel appeared proclaiming to the women:

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

MATTHEW 28:6

The women then told the disciples (MATTHEW 28:8) and Peter and John ran to the garden tomb and saw the place where He had laid and found his shroud nicely folded to the side. He was not there, for He had risen. It most certainly was not a robbery of the body.

"Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed."

JOHN 20:8

"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

LUKE 24:39

President Nixon got it wrong: On July 21ST 1969 man put his feet on the moon for the first time in history. President Nixon excitedly proclaimed this to be the greatest event to take place in the history of humankind. The evangelist Billy Graham then gave a quick reply reminding Nixon that the greatest miracle to ever take place in the history of humankind was when Jesus was raised from the dead after being dead for three days and three nights – and that He would never again die.

The resurrection is not built on legends and myths but on historical facts, which make Christianity the most trustworthy of all religions. That is why you safely can give your life to Jesus and let Him lead you.

You have now heard the gospel and what you need to do to be saved. You also know now what it takes. The decision is yours to make.

CHAPTER 11

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

A lot of people say, “I have to think about it.” Of course you need the time to make a decision that will turn most of your belief system, faith and values around. The word conversion in the original language implies “to change the way we think about something when we take a closer look.”

Consider this, what will you lose? If you won't accept Jesus into your life, what chances do you take? But, if you accept Jesus into your life and become born again you will get rid of all the “junk” (sin, blame, bad conscious, judgement and eternal damnation). Salvation is a change worth it; it is “good business” because Jesus takes all your rubbish while you receive His pureness and eternal life. So what are you waiting for? Or should I say: do you dare to wait?



God's word for the rich fool who put his money and earthly belongings higher than salvation was this:

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

LUKE 12:20

“I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.”

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

ISAIAH 55:6

The devil wants you to wait

The devil wants you to postpone making a decision about salvation. He will make you doubt that this is the right decision for you to make today and make you think that you better wait until tomorrow. But, “another time” can soon turn into a “never” – if we make it a habit of postponing. God always says “today”:

“Now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). You don't know if there is going to be a tomorrow and you should act on the invitation today, because there is no chance for salvation once you are dead:

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”

HEBREWS 9:27

Tightrope-walk across Niagara Falls. Some years ago a man decided to walk across Niagara Falls in Canada on a tightrope. The tightrope was stretched across the river by a boat. The man made announcements to the newspapers what he was about to do. Some thought he was a fool, but it drew quite the crowd as people wanted to take part in the spectacular and historical event.

Carefully he made it across and then he went the same way back. When he came back he asked if people thought he could walk across pushing a wheel barrow full of sand. No one believed he could do that but the brave man proved them all wrong. Carefully he pushed the wheel barrow across and returned to an excited and cheering crowd.

Then the man emptied the wheel barrow and asked, "Does anyone here believe that I can make it across with a person inside the wheel barrel?" The crowd enthusiastically cheered, everyone believed he could do that. He pointed at one of the most enthusiastic of them all standing nearby and asked him to come forward, "I will take you!" He blushed and his enthusiasm quickly disappeared as he came up with all these excuses to get out of the embarrassing situation. All of a sudden he was not so sure anymore, besides the line dancer could have taken someone else and not him.

This story is good example of the differences between *a living faith* and *a dead faith*. In the western world many people believe in God. They have *an intellectual faith* in God and the biblical facts. This is nice but not nearly good enough. Only a small percentage of all these people have given their life to Jesus completely. A living faith *acts* on what it believes to be true. Faith leads to action, conversion, surrendering and salvation. An active faith is an "instrument" that leads Jesus to our hearts.

Today you can pray the prayer of salvation from your heart. To put it this way, using the picture from the Niagara Falls, you can sit down in the wheel barrow of salvation and let Jesus safely lead you to the other side across the chasm of sin. Let Him take you from "minus to plus" – over to God's side.

Will it last?

If I gave you a check of hundred thousand dollars, would you have problems accepting it? Probably not! God offers you a free ticket to heaven so why not accept it? Some people might be afraid that it would not last, because what if you fall and sin? Is everything over then?

Listen friends, when Jesus died on the cross He atoned and paid for the sins you have done and the ones you will do in the future. He guarantees that salvation is an eternal contract, an eternal life that is not made up of good morals and deeds, but built on His sacrifice at the cross.

If my children disobeyed or sinned against me I would not disown them, saying they were not welcome anymore. That would make me a bad father! No, I want to be good father mildly correcting my children's behavior simply because they are my children.

Is God a lesser father to His children than we are? No, He is just so much better at it. Why don't you put your little hand in His big hands and trust that He will lead you, guide you and watch over your life.

"My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

JOHN 10:29

Come as you are!

Some people think that their sins are too big for God and it keeps them from coming to Him. They believe that they have to improve their lives before they can accept salvation. They feel like hypocrites by surrendering without showing some improvement. It is only human to think like that, but God doesn't demand you take an exam in good moral to receive forgiveness. What good would that do? Salvation is free for everyone to receive. Your sin has already been paid for by Jesus' blood on the cross. The cross is the bridge across the chasm of sin that separates you from God.

The cross is the bridge that God prepared to reconcile you to himself and it is finished by Jesus death and resurrection. What is the point then trying to build a bridge of your own across the chasm? The material we offer to build with is too weak; our sin creates breaches in the bridge. The bridge is not stronger than the weakest part. The material is rotten and eventually it will break and not carry you when trying to make it across.

Rush to the doctor

If you are really sick, you better get to the doctor quickly. There is no point in waiting until you are better. Jesus came to save those who are "not prepared", prisoners of sin and people who have messed up their lives.

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

MATTHEW 9:13



The railroad crossing. One day your car breaks down at the railway crossing. The crossing is hidden by a slight turn. You do your best trying to get the car started but the engine is dead. Do you think it is a good idea to sit inside the car waiting for everything to eventually work out? Or, is it a better idea to get out of the car sooner than later? You know that the train can come around that slope at any time and hit your car. Waiting has no purpose, in fact if you wait you will go down as well in the crash so you should get out of there as fast as possible.

If we were to die without accepting Jesus into our hearts, the greatest crisis in your life will occur. On the Day of Judgment God will not make a distinction between people.

"Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."

REVELATION 20:15

God's response to the unsaved at the gates of heaven will be this:

"I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!"

LUKE 13:27

There are no more chances to get saved then. Now is your chance to seek God and say yes to Jesus who offers you salvation and eternal life. That way you can lie down in peace tonight not having to worry if you are going to die because your destination will be heaven. Jesus told a story about a tax collector that was saved by praying a short prayer:

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

LUKE 18:13

Jesus then told them that this man had been saved:

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God."

LUKE 18:14

The two criminals that were crucified together with Jesus disagreed whether He was the Son of God. One of them rebuked Jesus but the other one knew that He was the Son of God. Humbled and regretful he turned to Jesus with a simple prayer:

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

LUKE 23:42

We might consider that a lousy prayer, but Jesus took that very seriously and answered the man's prayer right away:

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

LUKE 23:43

He who asked for remembrance, was given heaven in return! The other criminal did not grasp the opportunity to ask for salvation, but instead he hardened his heart.

One of the criminals died *from* his sin while the other died *in* his sin.

You probably understand there is a big difference. You can get saved right now by praying the salvation prayer. You can read out loud or quietly if you wish.

The Prayer of Salvation

“Lord Jesus,

I want to be saved and to know you personally.

Thank you for dying for my sins, and that you rose from the dead and are alive today. I cannot save myself. Therefore, I open my heart in this moment, and receive you as my personal Saviour and Lord. I want to turn away from my sin. Take control over my life and forgive me all my sins. I give myself to you, and by your help I will live the rest of my life for you.

Amen.”

CHAPTER 12

YOU CAN BE SURE

If you sincerely prayed this prayer, you have become a child of God. Jesus has come into your life. Remember what He promised:

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

REVELATION 3:20

Did you open your heart and asked Him to come in? If so, where do you think He is now? According to Jesus' own words He has come into your life the very moment you asked Him in. God does not lie and you can therefore be sure that you are saved because His word says so:

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

JOHN 1:12

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."

JOHN 3:36

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

JOHN 6:37

When you prayed the prayer of salvation, you received Jesus. According to the word of Jesus' you now have the right to call yourself a child of God. A policeman has the right to stop the perpetrator because He represents a higher authority. Now you have the authority to testify your salvation and arrest any thoughts of doubt about saying, ***"I am a child of God according to His word."*** God is the highest authority and author of His word and He can't lie (NUMBERS 23:19). We have to believe that our

name is written in the book of life, we have to trust the word of God. Keep your eyes fixed on the word of God and not on inconstant and fleeting emotions.

You can't put the carriage in front of the horse! Let your faith be based on the Bible and not on your emotions.

The Bible tells us to confess with our mouths that we are saved. It confirms the choice you have made and will strengthen your faith. Declare out loud for yourself and other people:

"Jesus has come into my heart. I believe that He died for my sins and was raised from the dead. He is my saviour and Lord."

Let both God and the devil be assured of your conviction. It is pleasing to the heart of God but gives the devil a bad day.

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

ROMANS 10:9

Have a look at the title deed. Imagine one day someone came to claim my house, saying that I had stolen it. It would make me feel bad and I would maybe wonder if something wrong had happened the when we bought it. Was it a valid deal?

Now, what would I do to convince the person outside claiming my house? I would have to find the title deed and show him. This would prove the false accuser wrong. Quietly the accusers would turn away dejected, ashamed and without words. Learn to use the word of God against doubt, disbelief and the devil. It was given to

you as a weapon (a sword) you can use against all the enemies that want to steal your faith.



Like being married. I have the right to say that I am married to my wife. It happened July 17th in 1971. I know that I am because I did what the law required of me to get married. We both promised in front of the pastor and the congregation that we would love each other for better or for worse until death do us part. At that moment we were married. If only a handful of people attended our wedding or we had thousand guests it would not make any difference, I would still be married. If the wedding was boring and without good feelings or grand and emotional, I would still be married.

And if I, many years later, were to doubt whether we were married that day I should have a look at the marriage certificate. There would be no doubt! If you at some point doubt your salvation then have a look at the “certificate,” God’s word to you. There is no better contract than what God put down in His written word.

Imagine if a person asked me if I am married and my answer was “I hope so.” I should remember if I am married or not, so that would be a strange thing to say. Sometimes I ask people if they are saved and ever so often I get the answer “I hope so.” It might imply that they are not saved, but it can also indicate that they are having problems with doubt even if they are saved. If this is how you feel at the moment, God’s word is still true. If you have done what it required to be saved then the word of God says you are, no matter what you feel at the moment.

A quiet transition. Some people have grown up in a Christian home and have always wanted to be saved. Yet, at some point you must have made a decision to follow Jesus. You might not remember the day when that happened; it could have been a quiet transition. Ruth Graham, Billy Graham’s wife, once told that it was like that for her. If this is your situation, you are in good company with a lot of fellow believers. Do not consider this a problem; instead be thankful to God that you didn’t have to live a life away from Him that might have caused you a lot of pain and grief to look back upon. Are you having problems believing you are saved because you lack the good feelings? Consider this:

Even if the mirroring moon in the ocean is abrupt by waves, the moon is still the same. God’s promises to you are the same whether waves of doubt ruin the good feelings.

What you felt when you got saved doesn’t change the fact that you are. We are grateful for God who created emotions and it is a good gift. But, our emotions might take us on a rollercoaster because it is so easy for them to be influenced by our surroundings. We have to educate our emotions and manners to what God has to say. Most importantly, you gave your life to Jesus and got saved which means that you said:

- “Yes” to His death and resurrection of Jesus (1 THESSALONIANS 4:14).
- “Yes” to Him to take your sins away (JOHN 3:18).
- “Yes” to Him to have ownership of you (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19).
- No to sin and to follow the devil (ACTS 26:18).

If you have done this you are now “married” to Jesus and will enjoy a spiritual relationship with Him. From now on you have a faith that is alive. As we read in John 1:12: A living faith accepts Him, is active and gives itself completely to God.

Part 1 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 4 of 5**



Study chapter 10 to 12 in this booklet, *The Passport to Heaven*.

Answer the question the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, you should still try to do your best. At the end of every letter there will be a chance to write down any questions you might have for the teacher.

This course has two separate parts, each containing 5 letters. You will receive a diploma after you have finished each part.

When you have answered the questions, please send the letter back to us, so that we can assess it. Your paper will be returned with the next letter.

Letter number 4 covers chapters 10 to 12. Please answer the questions below from these chapters.

CHAPTER 10

1. Was Jesus physically raised from the dead, or was He only raised in His spirit? Give two biblical reasons for your answer.

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2. Could it be that the disciples were hallucinating and only imagined that they had seen Jesus?

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3. What were the most essential things the disciples preached about? Give three biblical references.

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- 2.
- 3.

4. Why is the resurrection proof of Jesus being the Son of God?

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CHAPTER 11

5. What does the word “conversion” imply?

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6. Is it right to tell the unsaved person that they might as well just postpone salvation? Give reasons for your answer.

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7. Can it sometimes be right to wait praying with someone for salvation?

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8. Can you be saved after you are dead? Give a biblical reference as part of your answer.

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9. Why do you think it is that the devil wants people to postpone the decision of salvation?

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10. What is the difference between an intellectual faith and a living faith?

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11. What does it mean to receive eternal life?

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12. The bridge to get across the chasm of sin that separates God from us is the cross. Explain in your own words the illustration of the gospel as you would have explained it to an unsaved person.

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13. What would you tell a person that felt they had to change morally before they could accept Jesus?

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14. Read Revelation 20:15. What is your opinion on this verse?

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15. What does it mean when we say that one of the criminals crucified along with Jesus died from his sin, but the other one died in his sin?

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CHAPTER 12

16. How can you be sure of your salvation? Give two biblical references for your answer.

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17. What is the correct order when it comes to your feelings, the Bible and faith in your Christian life?

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18. What do you think might happen if you do not follow the right order of these components as presented in the Bible?

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19. Why do you think it is important to confess your salvation out loud?

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20. What important message does the illustration of salvation and the wedding give?

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21. Does salvation have to be a dramatic experience or is it fine having a quiet transition? Give your answer based on the verses in John 6:37 and 47.

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Here you can write questions to your teacher:

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Step 5 of 5 in Part 1 of 2

The entire course has been developed by evangelist Svein-Magne Pedersen.

**This is the
course literature for
Chapters 13 to 19**

*“He has also set eternity
in the hearts of men.”*
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



CHAPTER 13

THE INNER TESTIMONY

Previously we looked into how we can be sure of our salvation based on God’s word alone. In addition to the word of God there are two other “testimonies” that witness about our salvation.

The testimony of your heart

We received the Holy Spirit when we got saved (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19). He moved into our spirit and speaks to us in many different ways. He is called the “spokesman”, or “advocate”, “helper” and “comforter.” The Holy Spirit was sent from the Father above. (JOHN 14:16,26). He is the one Jesus said would replace Him on earth to be our helper. The Holy Spirit’s task is to make Jesus known to the believers. He will teach us and remind us of everything that Jesus told us (JOHN 14:26). He will testify in our hearts about Jesus (JOHN 15:26) and help us in our prayer life (ROMANS 8:26–27). Among all the things the Holy Spirit will teach us, He reminds us that we are children of God:

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

ROMANS 8:16

“Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony.”

1 JOHN 5:10

“And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”

1 JOHN 3:24

The word “testify” in the original language is written in present tense, which indicates continuity or something that will happen all the time. It is not an occurrence or something that happens once in a while. The Holy Spirit wants to make known or express His presence in our lives and let you know that you are a child of God. If this is something we have never heard, maybe it is time to start listening to His voice. Or, has His comforting voice slowly faded due to disbelief, doubt and sin in your life? (EPHESIANS 4:30)

His spirit inspires us to enthusiastically call upon God as our father (“Abba”=father) as a response to the close relationship with Him:

“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father!”

ROMANS 8:15

Jesus speaks in a way that we can recognize His voice. He knows who we are and He knows our name.

“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”

JOHN 10:3

Paul says in Romans 8:15–16 that God wants to speak to the hearts of His children. His spirit testifies to our inner spirit that we are His sons and daughters. The Lord speaks to our hearts quietly and sometimes unexpectedly, but He speaks specifically because He wants us to know exactly what He is saying. His voice stands out among “the voices” all around us. He is not a judgemental tyrant threatening us or cursing us if we are to fail at any point, because it says in His word that He did not give us a spirit of fear. His spirit speaks of conviction, peace and salvation in our lives. His voice will be consistent to His word, so whatever He speaks matches the Bible.

What characterizes the voice of God is that it is often spoken in a calm and peaceful way. It has a certain depth and knowledge about it, and you know what was spoken is true. There is never a “maybe” in His vocabulary.

The art of listening

Sometimes God speaks so quietly that we might not even recognize it, thinking that it was our own thoughts. God once spoke to Elijah like a “gentle whisper.” He did not speak through the fire or the earthquake (1 KINGS 19:12).

God called on Samuel, the young boy living with Eli, in the temple. Samuel thought it was Eli who spoke to him (1 SAMUEL 3). He had not yet learned the difference of God’s voice compared to the human voice. If we do not learn to distinguish between God’s voice, our own voice, or even the devil’s for that matter, we might make mistakes. The devil only speaks lies and half-truths. He is misleading, full of criticism and judgment and “*the accuser of our brothers*” (REVELATION 12:10). He wants us to believe that it is God speaking to us when in fact it is not. Of course he would never say, “Hey, it is me, the devil, who is speaking to you.”

It is only by practice that we can learn to listen and discern whether it is God speaking (HEBREWS 5:14). We also learn from making mistakes (believing that God spoke when He didn’t). Besides, we learn from ignoring His messages, realizing we should have acted upon the sudden thought or impulse. It is not our thoughts but the Spirit of God who speaks to you (MATTHEW 10:19–20). Be sure to implement a regular strategy to purposefully listen to Him so that you can develop an intimate relationship with the one who created you.

As a father daily communicates with his children, God wants to do the same. Do we take time listening to the Lord every day? He wants to tell His children how much He loves them, “Jane, I love you and appreciate you, and I will never leave you.” We are not slaves under the law but we have received “sonship” by His Spirit (ROMANS 8:15) and we thereby receive His love and mercy.

Summary: *First* of all God speaks to us through His word that we are His children. His word is the truth because God cannot lie, and His words will never pass away (MATTHEW 24:35). *Secondly*, He communicates this truth to our hearts, by His Spirit. Sometimes when we need direct assistance He would speak into our situation. Yet, His words never contradict the written word.

CHAPTER 14

THE OUTWARD TESTIMONY

If these two testimonies are not enough, there is another testimony the Bible speaks of, which is the outward testimony that testifies the fruits in ones life.



Jesus put it this way, "For a tree is recognized by its fruit." (Matthew 12:33) Do our lives resemble the life of Christ? Are we friendly and forgiving to those who do wrong by us? Do we admit our wrongdoings and live in daily confession before God? Are we interested in reading the Bible and in prayer? Do we regularly attend meetings at our church? No one is perfect when it comes to these things, but they should all be part of something we prioritize. Our life speaks of the choices we make. These things are connected to what we call the outward testimony. The opposite could be the case too, the fruits in our life could speak that we have nothing to do with God. Here are some biblical references that confirm these truths.

Negative:

"Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person."

1 JOHN 2:4

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister,

whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

1 JOHN 4:20

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

MATTHEW 7:19

Positive:

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death."

1 JOHN 3:14

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence."

1 JOHN 3:18-19

The difference between a believer and a non-believer isn't that the believer never sin, it is not that simple. Both sin, but the crucial point is what they do with it? A non-believer might explain away or minimize the mistakes, eventually doing nothing about it. The believer admits and confesses his sin and brings it to Christ.

The girl and the sin: An evangelist came to town to host some meetings. In one of the meetings a girl got saved. A couple days later he went to her house to hear how she was doing. Her mother opened the door and let the preacher in. He told the lady why he was there, but then the mother made a stern look at him saying: "Did you say saved? This morning we argued and you should have heard

the things she said and seen her behaviour. I would not call that to be saved!" He asked her if her daughter would behave like this before she got saved, upon where the mother admittedly replied that she had always been like that. "What did she normally do when you were having a fight?" asked the evangelist. "Normally she would be stubborn and not admit her mistakes," she replied. The evangelist got curious

and asked the mother, "And what did she do this time?" The woman thought for a couple of seconds, then she replied with a calm voice: "She said she was sorry and apologized to me, then she ran to her room crying." The evangelist sent greetings to the girl, said goodbye and smiled to himself, saying, "She got saved after all!"

CHAPTER 15

YOU HAVE BECOME AN HEIR

A Bible translator once had problem translating the word *"faith"* to the native tongue of a tribe because there was no equivalent for that. His translation said this "to throw oneself into the arms of God with all you weight."

Let us say that your weight is 80 kilo. If you were to be saved today you would have to give Him everything, it would not be enough giving Him only 55 kilo! It involves giving Him your heart, your will and everything that you have. We have to give all of us, not just some parts of our lives. It has to be a complete surrender! If you give Him your all, you will receive fellowship with Jesus and you have become an heir:

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ."

ROMANS 8:17

See also GALATIANS 3:29; 4:7.

The right to become an heir. The New Testament established a new covenant that gives us as children of God the right to an heir. The Bible talks about our promised inheritance like forgiveness and salvation, eternal life, healing and a lot of other blessings (MATTHEW 8:17; TIT 3:7; HEBREWS 1:14; 6:12; 17; JAMES 2:5; 1 PETER 3:7–9). We are going to inherit the heaven (REVELATION 21:7). We should not be impertinent or rude, yet not be unassuming either

because we have received an inheritance. Christians are often unassuming when holding on to God's promises on forgiveness and peace with God, His mercy, the power of the Spirit or the spiritual gifts, renewal and freedom, prayer and pursuit of life in abundance and healing etc. This poor man's thinking is not of God. Start right away looking into what the New Testament says about your inheritance according to the will of God. There are riches just waiting for you:

"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

COLOSSIANS 1:27

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

God's unlimited riches in Christ Jesus are readily available, it is ours but we have to believe and receive it, otherwise we will continue to be poor even if we are rich.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in

the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

EPHESIANS 1:3

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

MARK 11:24

Note that the verse doesn't say that we will receive, or can, but that we have received. Faith sees further than our physical eyes, we have to learn to align with the word and expect God to give us what is rightfully ours according to the Bible.

What jar do you choose? In Jesus Christ we find the secrets to all of the blessings. A young preacher visited an elderly well-known preacher one day. The young man told him that he wanted to receive more of the gifting of the Spirit. The older man then found two jars that he wrote on – one saying, “the gifts of the Spirit” and the other one saying, “Jesus.” Then he asked the young man, “Which of these would you choose?” The young preacher immediately understood his point, pointing to the jar that said, “Jesus.” Do you get the point? If we seek the giver of the gifts we get everything. All the blessings are centered on Jesus Christ.

The poor peasant who was rich. A story tells of a poor peasant living in America. He had attended the livestock and his land on the prairies for many years, when one day an oil company paid the man a visit. They wanted to search for oil on his land. Then one day the

unimaginable happened, all of a sudden oil started coming up from the ground. Suddenly, the poor peasant was not poor anymore but he was rich. In fact, he had been rich all the time, but because he didn't know about the riches that were at his disposal he lived from “hand to mouth” or of the little he had.

This is true for many Christians also as they do not know about the riches God have in store for them as co-heirs of Christ. Maybe it is time to start to dig deeper into His word to find out more about our inheritance. What we find will not disappoint us but instead be a blessing in our lives and equip us. Instead of moaning about your circumstances you will end up praising Him through everything!

The “blank cheque”

An evangelist told in a meeting that he was about to travel the world bringing the gospel to people. He asked for an offering as the travel was considered to be quite expensive. After the meeting a man came over and handed the evangelist a blank cheque, to which he replied that the man must fill out the amount he would give. The man, who was very rich, said, “I don't know how much you need for the journey, that is why you have to fill in what you need. You see I can pay you whatever it is that you need for the journey.”

This is the case for all the riches that we have in Christ. To pray in His name means that we pray after His will, in His authority and deposit from the riches He has in store for us. It means



that we have the same authority as if Jesus himself was praying. Jesus says:

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

JOHN 14:13-14

When we live according to His word there is nothing stopping us from receiving answer to our prayers.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

JOHN 15:7

Unfortunately, many Christians are living spiritually poor lives despite the riches that God has in store for them. We have a brother who is a King. Just think about it! The Bible contains approximately 7200 promises that we have access to through Jesus. God gives according to His promises and not ours.

A new and exciting world is waiting to be discovered. If you have received Jesus as Lord and saviour in your heart, you have had a good start!

CHAPTER 16

A NEW CREATION

Before you were saved you were spiritually dead because you didn't have a personal relationship with God. Your inner being, or spirit, had no life in God.

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins."

EPHESIANS 2:1

When a person is born into this world, it happens as a physical birth. To receive life in God we have to be "born again."

"Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'"

JOHN 3:3

See also 1 PETER 1:23.

The concept of being born again means, according to the original language, "born from above" or "heaven born." Normally, we are born into a family through physical birth. God brings you into His family, the church, through spiritual birth. God gives you a new start by coming into your life, making you a child of

God (ROMANS 8:14, 1 JOHN 3:1). You have been given a fresh new start in life.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

We have been given a new goal in life, a new master to serve, a new life, new motifs, new interests, a new driving force and a new spirit inside.

Spiritual maths: It has been said that those who are born once, die twice. Those who are born twice, die once! This simply means that we are all born physically one time, but if we are not born again we will both die a natural death but also an eternal death. Those who are born twice, are born both physically and spiritually, and will only die a natural death. They

will not end up in the lake of fire, or hell, which is the second death.

"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death."

REVELATION 20:14

Like a newborn baby needs food, love, nourishing and education so do you as a born again Christian. You cannot make it on your own; you need a good Christian fellowship where you are nourished, loved and can receive advice for life's journey. Here are some advices for you.

CHAPTER 17

AN ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP

You are now a child of God and you have found a reliable friend. A friend in good days as well as in bad days, a friend you can have daily conversations with and who understands you because He was a human himself. You have found a friend who is happy to forgive, over and over again, a friend who will never leave you nor forsake you even when others walk away. You have found a friend who shares His thoughts and plans with you.

Jesus told His disciples:

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

JOHN 15:15

God's love for us has everything to do with Him and has nothing to do with human achievements. It is an eternal friendship and His love for us is unchangeable and unconditional whereas humanly love is limited. We only tend to love those who love us back, we are conditional in the way we love other people.

God's love is the exact opposite, built on the inner quality of God that has an ability to love beyond mistakes and wrongdoings:

"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an ever-

lasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

JEREMIAH 31:3

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

1 JOHN 4:10

You have become a new creation and have received God as your personal friend. The ultimate problem – sin and its consequences, have found a solution. Yet your problems wouldn't disappear through thin air. There are forces pulling you in other directions, as we will learn more about.

CHAPTER 18

THE HUMAN NATURE

The New Testament talks about two very different natures. Inside each of us there are two opposing forces at war, the good and the evil. A non-believer is a carrier of “the old self” (ROMANS 6:6; COLOSSIANS 3:9; EPHESIANS 4:22) while a Christian has received through salvation “the new self” (COLOSSIANS 3:10; EPHESIANS 4:24). “The old self” is also referred to as “the old Adam.”

When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, it created a chasm between God and humankind. When their fellowship was broken, Adam and Eve experienced the destructive forces inside that opposes against God. Paul even states that the “protesting force” cannot be changed or converted:

“The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”

ROMANS 8:7

“The old self”, or the “flesh,” does not want to have anything to do with God. Salvation, sanctification, worshipping of Christ, following the word of God, prayer and worship are things that the “flesh” will obtain from. Yet, we sometimes do these things in the “flesh” as part of a religious act. It is on a humanistic level that does not have God’s Spirit or the love for God as a driving force.

The “Adam-like” nature does not like to humble itself and confess its weaknesses. It despises everything that has to do with a personal relationship with God. It cannot fathom the meaning of the cross and the need for salvation. “Spirit” and “flesh” are diametrically opposites, for “the mind governed by the “flesh” is hostile to God.” In the “flesh” the devil has a “partner in crime” in doing evil. It is the totally opposite with God.

The non-believer lacks an important dimension of the Holy Spirit in His life. They are

in the “flesh” and have not received the new nature every believer receives when they get saved.

“Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.”

ROMANS 8:8

“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14

How to be successful in this area?

Many ask what has gone wrong with mankind because of all the evil in the world like crime, war, poverty, jealousy and so on. The Bible gives us an answer to that: It all originates from the fall in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She ate; Adam ate, which resulted in the fall:

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”

ROMANS 5:12

Disobedience against God’s will is the root to evil and it spread like an unstoppable virus to all mankind, until Jesus came to bring an end to it and give us a fresh new start. Jesus, who is considered “the last Adam,” came to end “the

first man Adam” (1 CORINTHIANS 15:45). When Jesus died on the cross, He did not only die for our sins but our sinful nature also. We have to believe it and receive it and live in daily surrendering to the fact that our flesh was crucified with Him.

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

ROMANS 6:6

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

ROMANS 6:11

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.”

1 CORINTHIANS 5:14

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

GALATIANS 5:24

Jesus died on the cross for our sins and our sinful nature; our *“flesh”* was crucified once and for all.

If you put a piece of paper in a book and send it away, the paper ends up with the receiver as well as the book. Two thousand years ago we were united with Him and our old self was crucified with Jesus on the cross (ROMANS 6:5–6). God raised us up and seated us with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realms to rule over all (EPHESIANS 1:19–22; 2:6). Since God count us *“in Christ”*, we shall also count our sin and our sinful nature as dead and buried with Christ. We are resurrected with Christ and given a new life in Him (ROMANS 6:3–4). Jesus was our representative in death and through Him we receive new life.

Our spiritual journey begins at the cross. When we receive salvation, the *“old self”* loses its power and we are no longer slaves to sin. Our sins are forgiven, the Spirit of God moves into our spirit and awakens us from a spiritual

death. In the end we will be raised physically from the dead and transformed into His likeness (PHILIPPIANS 3:21).

These historical facts have to be our personal experience if they are to be useful to us. When we repent and believe, get baptised and let Jesus reign in us, then we have applied it to our lives. The past becomes the present:

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

ROMANS 6:4

This is a fact we have to believe and be thankful for. We must learn to think and act like God to victoriously conquer the evil nature in our inner being.

A daily surrender

Through the spiritual birth the believer is renewed and have put on the new self, and become a part of the divine (COLOSSIANS 3:10). Through faith we count the flesh as dead with Christ, but we have to be aware that we can fall into sin if we let *“the old self”* influence us. We still have not reached perfection, as we will when we get to heaven, so our fleshly desires might lead us to stumble and fall. Paul describes the war going on in our flesh between good and evil.

“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”

GALATIANS 5:17

See also ROMANS 7:18; 8:3–13.

Through faith the Christian overcomes the evil, because Jesus is on the throne in his life. If our faith is weak it could cause us to live *“in the flesh”* again and eventually fall into sin. This doesn’t necessarily mean that you have fallen away from God, but your fleshly desires took over your inner being. If it were to completely

take over your heart, you would first have to fall away from the relationship with Jesus.

“Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.”

ROMANS 6:13

If our fleshly desires were to take over in a weak moment, it would not be enough to get our acts together and try to manage in our own strength. According to Paul this is useless, for the flesh is not obedient to God. *“It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so”* (ROMANS 8:7). The “old Adam” died on the cross with Christ; it is considered powerless and totally destroyed. Then through His Spirit we receive the power to live victoriously, so that we will never fall away from the faith:

“For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”

ROMANS 8:13

It is a historical fact that Jesus triumphed over Satan, sin and the flesh at the cross. We have been crucified with Christ, but it is a daily struggle and the Bible advises us to take up the cross and follow Him. This is something we consciously have to do every day to fight against the powers of the flesh. Paul claims that a believer through salvation have *“taken off the old self with its practises and have put on the new self”* (COLOSSIANS 3:9–10). On the other hand he states that it is a life long process. In Christ we have become a new creation (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17), but we still need to grow in holiness through the power of Holy Spirit.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new

self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

EPHESIANS 4:22–24

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”

COLOSSIANS 3:5



A pig is and will always be a pig

I once heard a story about a man who bought a pig to keep as a house animal. He washed the pig thoroughly, sprayed it with perfume and tied a red ribbon on it before taking it inside. For a couple hours it seemed to go well, until the door was open and the pig ran outside. When it rolled around in dirt and mud the man understood that the pig would never become houseclean. He accepted the fact that pigs were meant to be outside.

“He is still there”

A woman told an elderly preacher that she had gotten rid of the “old Adam” once and for all. She went on saying that she didn’t have to fight any sin in her life. The preacher gazed at her with a sense of doubt when he got an idea. He reached for the glass of water on the table in front of him and threw the water in her face. She gave him a fearful look, and then her face turned red. Angrily she shouted words of profanity against the man. “I guess he is still there,” the preacher said ironically.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

JER 17:9

Man is not first and foremost a sinner because he sins. He is a sinner because his nature is sinful (PSALM 51:5; ROMANS 5:12; 7:7-21; EPHESIANS 2:3).

In the New Testament it is the non-believers who are called "sinners" (MATTHEW 9:13; LUKE 15:7, 10). A believer repents his sins, receives grace and forgiveness, and they are called "sanctified," "righteous" (ROMANS 1:17; MATTHEW 9:13; HEBREWS 12:23) and "holy" (ROMANS 1:7; I CORINTHIANS 1:2).

CHAPTER 19

IF YOU WERE TO SIN

When you received salvation, you also received a new and stronger nature when the living Jesus came into your heart.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

GALATIANS 2:20

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

1 JOHN 4:4

"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

2 PETER 1:4

Despite having received a new nature we still have weak moments. We might say or do things we thought we had overcome after we got saved. We can sin against God and people. Like I mentioned before, the difference between a saved and an unsaved person is not that the unsaved person sins and the saved lives a perfect life. It is not that simple. The real difference is

the inner being. An unsaved person may not take it very seriously and hide or talk sin away. Many will say; "we are all sinners" and shrug their shoulders. Some might be concerned and regret their sin, but they never get around doing something about it to get right with God. But, then you have not come any further. Paul calls this the "worldly sorrow." It can also be called a negative conviction as opposed to a positive conviction about sin that will lead to salvation and eternal life:

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10

A saved person sees sin as a foreign object, like sand in the machinery. Our consciousness, the new spirit within us, speaks to us when we sin. We then confess our sins because we love God, and He shows mercy and forgiveness towards us.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 JOHN 1:9

This is too easy you might say. Thanks to Jesus it is easy to receive salvation and forgiveness. It can be a painful and hard process to acknowledge ones sin but it is the only way to go about for healing our soul. Paul wrote in Romans that we should consider ourselves dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Jesus, and not let sin control the way you live, and not to give in to the sinful desires (ROMANS 6:II-12), that of the “flesh” or the old nature or the “old Adam”, as I mentioned before. The Spirit within you that you have received, is your conscious that speaks to you.

To confess means to “admit” or “declare”, which means we agree with God that we have sinned. In the Bible it says that the Lord will change our hearts so that we will love Him. God gave us new heart, a tender heart that responds to the Spirit. When we sin, we hurt God. That is why we often feel so bad inside when we sin, and want to get right with God again. It is a good sign that we are saved. The devil wants you believing the opposite, which is not true. We have a new attitude towards sin than we had before. We do not let sin control our lives and we turn away from it daily, for when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Part 1 of 2

The Questions

for **Step 5 of 5**



Study chapter 13 to 19 in this booklet, *The Passport to Heaven*.

Answer the question the best you can. Should you have any problems answering any question, you should still try to do your best. At the end of every letter there will be a chance to write down any questions you might have for the teacher.

This course has two separate parts, each containing 5 letters. You will receive a diploma after you have finished each part.

When you have answered the questions, please send the letter back to us, so that we can assess it. Your paper will be returned with the next letter.

Letter number 5 covers chapters 13–19. Please answer the questions below from these chapters.

CHAPTER 13

1. In what way does the Holy Spirit help assuring our salvation?

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2. How does the Holy Spirit speak to us?

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3. What is the difference when the Holy Spirit speaks to us compared to when the devil does?

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CHAPTER 14

4. What is the third alternative that can testify of a person's salvation?

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5. Both believers and non-believers sin, but what is the difference between these two categories?

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CHAPTER 15

6. In the New Testament you can read about your inheritance. What does it mean when we say that we have a right to receive an inheritance from God, after the death and resurrection of Jesus?

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7. Name four things that we as children of God have a rightful inheritance to. Give a Bible references to every promise.

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4.

8. What might hinder receiving an answer to your prayer, even though you have a right to it according to Jesus? Explain your answer using Jesus' own words.

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CHAPTER 16

9. What does it mean to be born again?

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CHAPTER 17

10. What does it mean to be a friend of God?

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11. How would you describe God's love for us?

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CHAPTER 18

12. Men are born with two sets of nature, what are these called in the New Testament?

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13. How would you characterize each of these?

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14. What effect does Jesus' death have on our sinful nature?

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15. What is a believer's daily duty dealing with the sinful nature?

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CHAPTER 19

16. What is the major difference between a non-believer and a believer when it comes to sin?

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17. What does the word "confess" mean in the original language? What does that indicate?

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Here you can write questions to your teacher:

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