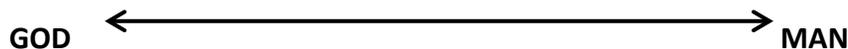


THE BASIC GOSPEL - SALVATION MESSAGE

(Dear friend, please read through this message below very slowly and carefully. This is the most important message that you will ever need to hear. It concerns the Gospel of your salvation according to the Scriptures ([1 Cor 15:3](#)). There is no other Gospel other than that which the Scriptures reveal, which was once and for all delivered to the saints).

The term "[new birth](#)" has become quite popular in recent years. What does it mean and where does it come from. The term new birth was first spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself in John 3:7 and is a genuine biblical term. Jesus bluntly told Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew'" ([John 3:5-7](#)). As Christians, we need to understand one basic principle; that when the Lord Jesus Christ speaks, we respectfully listen and try to understand what He is saying, for His words are never spoken in vain. To understand this centrally important term of the **New Birth**, we need to start from the beginning.

In the beginning God created man in His image with a purpose and a plan ([Gen 1:27](#); [Eph 2:10](#)). Among many other things, He created us primarily to have a relationship with Him. He intended to share all His plans with us and expects us to share everything of our lives with Him. This was to be done in total dependence and obedience to Him. In this way we were to glorify Him through our lives.



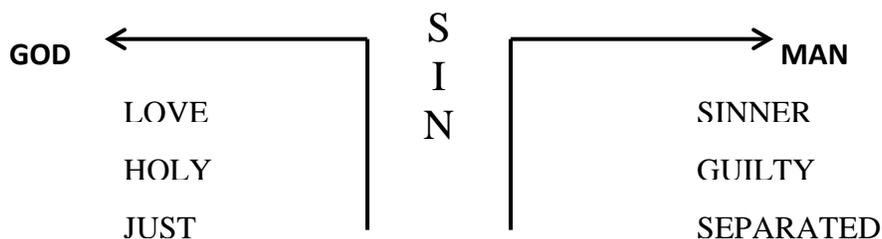
The diagram above shows that God and man enjoyed this two way relationship. We also need to know that God is love ([1 Jn 4:8](#)), God is Holy ([1 Pet 1:16](#)) and God is perfect ([Mt 5:48](#)). God took a risk when he made man and gave him freedom of choice.

Chapters 1 & 2 of Genesis state that God created the entire universe, the sun, the moon, the planets, the billions of stars, the galaxies in the skies above and all the animals, vegetation, fish in the sea and birds in the air on planet earth below. After all this was complete, He then made Man and placed him in the garden. Next, He created woman from Man's side ([Gen 2:18-22](#)) and gave her to him as a helpmate. Besides Adam & Eve, all the other forms of creation were sub-forms in the sense they were not made in God's image and hence could not relate with God.

They obeyed their creator by instinct and not by rational choice as an exercise of the will. Man & woman however, the bible tells us, were made in the image and likeness of God Himself ([Gen 1:27](#)) and were the only beings among all creation who could therefore, speak, think and communicate with God. None of the other forms of creation have this awesome capacity. Further, God gave man charge over all the earth and gave him dominion over all the rest of creation with the command to be fruitful and multiply and subdue all the earth ([Gen 1:28](#)).

Once this stage was set, God commanded Adam that he could eat of all the trees in Eden, but was prohibited from touching the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* in the center of the garden ([Gen 2:16-17](#); [2:9](#)). But the enemy of our souls (disguised as a serpent), bent on destroying God’s creation, came to tempt eve regarding the “command of God” above and got her to disobey/compromise her obedience to God

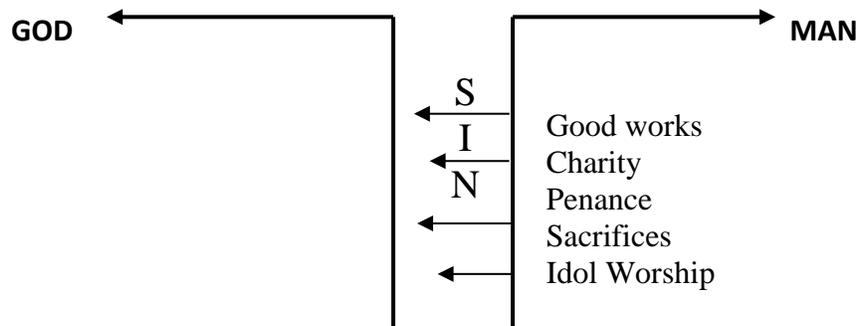
Man used his free choice to sin, which in short is disobedience to God. By eating the fruit that was forbidden, Adam & Eve disobeyed God and thus sinned against Him. This SIN became a barrier and caused the relationship between Man and God to break (*see diagram below*). Man being a sinner could do nothing to remove the sin barrier. There is a principle here which God has instituted into all of His creation. It states “*like begets like*” ([Gen 1:11-12](#)). For example: If I put a mango seed into the ground, it will grow into a tree that will give me mangoes and not coconuts. If I put a coconut seed into the ground, it will grow into a tree that will give me coconuts and not apples. The nature of the fruit is after the type of seed sown. **Like begets like!** So, if Adam & Eve became sinners through their disobedience, all of us who came forth from them also became sinners by inheritance. *Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death [separation from God] through sin, and so death [separation from God] spread to all men because all men sinned—*([Rom 5:12](#)). Therefore, it is not when we sin that we become sinners, rather, it is *because we are sinners, that we sin.*



We have just to examine our lives for twenty-four hours in any day and we will see how easily sin flows from our inner being. If, at the end of a day, you do this exercise, it will open your eyes. Write down the following: (1) How many things did you say through the day, that you

wished you had not said. Surely you should get some points down here. (2) Write down how many things you did which you wished you had not done. Surely your points would increase. (3) How many thoughts did you think in the secret of your mind, would dismay you if they were exposed/ broadcast to people around you. Surely your points would abound here. **This only proves that we are in-born sinners due to the sin-nature we inherited from our first parents.** The Scripture says: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]”? (Jer 17:9 Amp).* The fact of the matter is that our sin nature within is like charred toast which is irreparable, irredeemable, unchangeable. It is corrupted forever and needs to be replaced totally. So man is alienated from God due to this barrier of SIN that resides within him. God being infinitely holy cannot connect with man again, for to do so would be to connect with sin itself. Holiness and sinfulness are incompatible and mutually exclusive as they have no common ground at all. Hence, the great divide that persists between sinful Man and a Holy God!

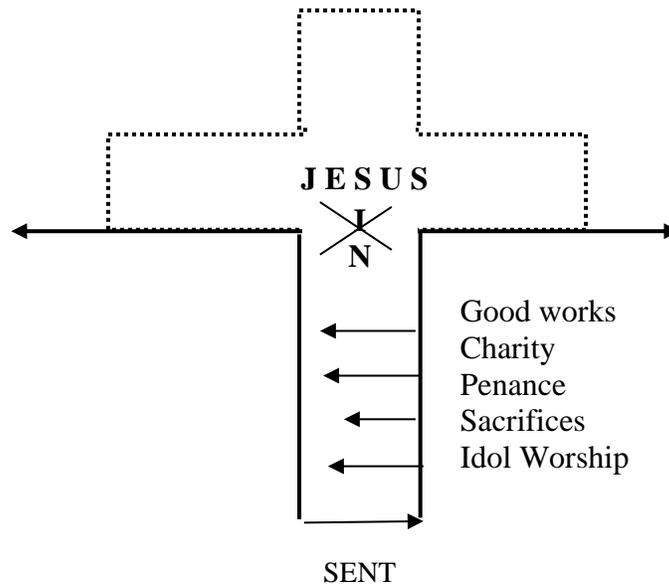
However, man is a **spiritual being** and has been created in a way that requires him to worship something. For inside the heart of man, there exists a God-shaped vacuum. If he does not have somebody or something to worship, he becomes a restless being. Augustine said – *“You have formed us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in You” (Confessions Book 1: Ch1:1).* This inner restlessness often causes man to search for meaning to his life on earth which often translates into those basic burning questions such as: Who am I? How did I get here? And what is my purpose for being here? And so, since the heart of man has been created for God to fill, until man finds the true God, he will continue his relentless searching which is manifested in his desire to worship. As a result, throughout history man has always worshipped something or somebody, whether it be a true or false god being immaterial. He may worship a stone, a tree, a snake, an image of a man, or even the sun, moon or stars. He may also indulge in empty rituals, religious devotions, etc. as a form of worship, all in his attempts to reach God. Since the above attempts do not work, the guilt of continuing sin abounds and weighs heavily upon the conscience of man. He is wont to get rid of it by any means whatsoever. So in his futility, he even tries to do many good works of charity in an attempt to appease God for the rest of his evil doings. But no efforts from a sinful source will ever appease a holy God. The Bible states that: *“For we have all become like one who is unclean [ceremonially, like a leper], and all our righteousness (our best deeds of rightness and justice) is like filthy rags or a polluted garment” (Isaiah 64:6a Amp).* Hence, in the diagram below all man’s attempts to reach God (depicted by the arrows) fall short of reaching God, because they are attempts made from a sinful source. Therefore, the Bible states: *“there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23).*



However, God is love ([1 John 4:8](#)). He loves man whom He has created even though man is still a sinner. He sees man's futile attempts to reach Him and also yearns to have a relationship back again with man whom He has created. But the 'sin barrier' had to be removed first. Somebody had to pay the price of shedding their blood (forfeiting their life), in order to have sin removed. Why? Because the *power of life is in the blood* and in God's eyes shed-blood alone was acceptable as atonement ([Lev 17:11](#)). Shedding one's blood meant giving up one's life as a sacrifice. God's method of forgiving sin was only through the shedding of blood. The bible states that "*without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sin*" ([Heb 9:22](#)). Once a year the high priest would take the blood of an unblemished lamb, kill it and sprinkle the blood of the lamb over the mercy seat in the [Holy of Holies](#). The Heavenly Father seeing the blood which was sacrificed would forgive the sin of Israel for one year. It was a temporary sacrifice which had to be repeated every year. Besides the blood of lambs and bulls and goats did not really appease God's wrath kindled by sin. One would think that a man's blood would have been more acceptable before God. Definitely! But there was just one problem. In order to satisfy the perfect Holiness of God, it would need to be sinless blood. But as we have seen already, all of mankind were sinners, "*there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" ([Rom 3:23](#)). "*There were none righteous, no not one*" ([Rom 3:10](#)). A sinner shedding his own blood would only perhaps pay for his own crime, but it would in no way appease God's Holiness and in no way would it pay for someone else's sin either. **Only sinless blood could do this.**

Therefore, God planned before the foundation of the world ([Rev 13:8 NKJV](#)), that He would slay His own Lamb without blemish (without sin), and shed His sinless blood as that perfect, once-for-all-sacrifice. So in the [fullness of time](#), the bible says, God sent His only Son, born of a woman ([Gal 4:4](#)), to die on a cross and thus pay the price required which was the shedding of His own sinless blood (*as without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sin* [Heb 9:22](#)), so that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life ([Jn 3:16](#)).

God in his love did not want us to remain separated by sin, but his perfect holiness and perfect justice demanded that sin be punished with death. *“The wages of sin is death”* ([Rom 6:23](#)). It is abundantly clear therefore, that the only way to escape God’s wrath against sin, to satisfy the demands of His perfect justice, to appease His perfect holiness and to justify His perfect love was through the death of **His sinless Son Jesus**.



Therefore, God sent His Son to die on the cross in our place for our sins, so that whosoever believeth on Him may not perish but have eternal life ([Jn 3:16](#)). Secondly, *“to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God”* ([Jn 1:12](#)). Thirdly, by dying on the cross, he opened the way for us to come back to God ([Heb 10:19-20](#)). Fourthly, He could say, *“I am The **Way**, The **Truth** and The **Life**. No one comes to the Father but by me”* ([John 14:6](#)). Fifthly, since He (the crucified Christ) was the way God made for man’s atonement, it is said *“there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* ([Acts 4:12](#)). This is, in sum, God’s solution for sin and the answer to man’s alienation from God accomplished through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. (See diagram above).

The Finished Work: The Cross was God’s master plan which accomplished several things in one blow. These are briefly listed out below:

1. Jesus paid the price for our sin by shedding His sinless blood that whosoever might believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life ([John 3:16](#)). By believing in Him and trusting Him with all our hearts we enter into a personal relationship with Him.

2. The blood of Jesus has power to cleanse away every sin ever committed for all time, provided we repent and confess them ([1 John 1:7-9](#)).
3. Not only does His powerful blood cleanse us from sins committed, but we the sinner (the sin- factory that produces sin) are crucified with Him on the Cross ([Rom 6:6](#)). So sin has no more dominion over our lives ([Rom 6:14](#)), its power being broken and nullified. *“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin”* ([Rom 6:5-7](#)).
4. Jesus destroyed the power of the devil over our lives. *“He made a public show of the devil and his cohorts by dying on the cross”* ([Col 2:15 NIRV](#)). The devil can no longer have access to you to harass you *“for you have died and your life is hid with Christ in God”* ([Col 3:3](#)).
5. Not only did Jesus die and was buried according to the scriptures, but He also **rose again** and is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven in triumph and glory, far above all powers and principalities, all thrones and dominions. Further, *“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”* ([Eph 2:6](#)). Hallelujah!

God does not force His solution (of salvation through Jesus Christ) upon man, but offers it as a free gift to anyone who will accept it. Man has been given the freedom of choice which God will not hinder. The gift is made available, but we have to exercise our choice to either **‘accept’** or **‘reject’** it. Look now at the three most crucial verses in the Bible (John 3: 16, 17, 18 Amplified Version) in the order of succession as they appear, on this subject of salvation:

- ([John 3:16](#)) says – *“For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, **be lost**) but have eternal (everlasting) life”* (Amplified version). This free gift is available to any man, irrespective of caste, colour, or religious background. (See also [John 1:12 Amp](#)). This is the one and only ONE way of salvation that God has prepared for us through His Son Jesus Christ. There is NO other way! Jesus Himself said: *“I **am** the way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except by (through) me”* ([John 14:6 Amp](#)).
- ([John 3:17](#)) further says - *“For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation*

and be made safe and sound through Him” (Amplified version). God desires that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance ([2 Pet 3:9](#) & [1 Tim 2:4](#)). God desires and yearns that all should come to salvation in Christ and He in His infinite wisdom has provided the only way possible – through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. But very often, man in his pride rejects God’s way and seeks his salvation through his own futile efforts.

- **(John 3:18)** finally states: *“He who believes in Him [who clings to, trusts in, relies on Him] is not judged [he who trusts in Him never comes up for judgment; for him there is no rejection, no condemnation—he incurs no damnation]; but he who does not believe (cleave to, rely on, trust in Him) **is judged already** [he has already been convicted and has already received his sentence] because he has not believed in and trusted in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [He is condemned for refusing to let his trust rest in Christ’s name.] (Amplified version).*

Further, the epistle of John states: *“He who possesses the Son has that life; he who does not possess the Son of God does not have that life” ([1 John 5:12](#) Amp); “And he who believes in (has faith in, clings to, relies on) the Son has (now possesses) eternal life. But whoever disobeys (is unbelieving toward, refuses to trust in, disregards, is not subject to) the Son will never see (experience) life, but [instead] the wrath of God abides on him. [God’s displeasure remains on him; His indignation hangs over him continually.] ([John 3:36](#) Amp)*

Many people arguing from a humanistic point of view often ask – how can a loving God send man to Hell? The answer is simple. God does not want to send anyone to hell and in fact has provided a way of escape from Hell through the atonement of Christ. But as the verses above state, those who refuse to accept this method that God has provided, condemn themselves, because they have, by their own admission, refused the mercy and love of God extended to them through Christ.

This Salvation provided for us by God is a **free gift** and cannot be earned or merited. It is based solely on His grace and the finished work of Christ on the cross ([Eph 2-8-9](#); [Col 1:20](#)). We are given a choice to accept or reject. In order to accept/ receive this free gift of salvation, we must:

- 1) **"REPENT"** – What is required is *"repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ"* ([Acts 20:21](#)). Repentance means to turn around, to change one's mind. God, the Creator of the universe, asks you to turn from your way and choose His way. And He has personally paid your penalty on the Cross so that you are legally free to make the right choice.

2) "**BELIEVE**" - *"Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* When you repent and turn to God as your Father, there is no longer any question about trusting God the Son as your Savior. Hence, you can now freely say to Him, "Lord Jesus, I thank you from my heart for dying for my sins, and I now receive You as my own Savior."

When we repent and believe, Christ comes to live in us through His [Holy Spirit](#). We are filled by the Holy Spirit and begin to experience new changes taking place as the Holy Spirit begins His work of regeneration in our lives ([Titus 3:5-6 Amp](#)).

*"**Regeneration** is the impartation of life, spiritual life, to those who are dead, spiritually dead, through their trespasses and sins ([Eph. 2:1, Rsv](#)). It is the Holy Spirit who imparts this life. This is what it means to be *born anew* or *born again* of the Spirit, as stated in ([John 3:5-7](#)); (See also [1 Pet 1:3](#) & [23 Amp](#)). This is what Jesus meant in ([John 3:5-7](#)); that unless we were born again of the Spirit (by repenting and believing in Christ), cleansed by His Blood (accepting His atonement on our behalf) and made new (by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit), we cannot enter the Kingdom of God. **This is God's sovereign method of salvation provided once and for all for all men and stands alone, irrespective of any human viewpoint and irrespective of anyone's spiritual background.***

As an outcome of the above-working by the power of the Holy Spirit, at the moment of your conversion, you also become a **New Creation** ([2 Cor 5:17](#)). You now have a new outlook on life, new priorities; priorities which put Christ first, others second and yourself last. The old habits and sin-patterns have passed away and begin to drop by the wayside as you grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and His Word, and a fresh new set of desires for Christ, the Heavenly Father and the things of the Spirit take their place. Slowly but surely we are set free from all bondages that bind us for *"if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed"* ([John 8:36](#)).

All this is the glorious good news of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, just for you! Even if you were the only person on this planet, Jesus would still have come and died for you and performed all the above just for you! Today is the day of your salvation, do not harden your heart, but open it up and receive Him freely!

[If you have questions on the above, please feel free to write to The-Beacon at the100beacon@gmail.com and we will explain/ answer your queries]