

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS *(Student Copy)*

Part 1 – The Assurance of Salvation (God, Sin, Grace & Salvation)

CONTENT

1. Introduction
2. God Has a Plan for You
 - 2.1 You are Created by God
 - 2.2 Only the Creator Can Reveal the True Meaning and Purpose for Our Lives
 - 2.3 God Wants You to Know Him, His Love and His Plans for You
3. The Fall of Men
 - 3.1 What is Sin?
 - 3.2 Where did Sin Come From?
 - 3.3 What is The Result of Sin?
 - 3.4 What Happens When We Become Separated From God?
4. God's Plan for Salvation
 - 4.1 The Concept of Atonement
 - 4.2 God's Plan for Salvation
 - 4.2.1 God is Holy and Just
 - 4.2.2 Jesus, The Ransom For Our Sins
5. How Do I Know That I am Saved?
 - 5.1 Admit
 - 5.2 Believe
 - 5.3 Commit
6. Appendix

1. INTRODUCTION

Christian Foundation is a class designed to provide a quick overview of the Christian faith, beliefs and values. In this class, we aim to provide a systematic path for both new and seasoned believers to journey through starting with

- i) Assurance of Salvation (Week 1)
 - a. God & Sin (Part 1)
 - b. Grace & Salvation (Part 2)
- ii) Christian Knowing (Week 2)
 - a. Jesus (Part 3)
 - b. Holy Spirit & Water Baptism (Part 4)
- iii) Christian Growth (Week 3)
 - a. The Bible & Prayer (Part 5)
 - b. Worship (Part 6)
- iv) Christian Victory & Living (Week 4)
 - a. Renunciation & Church (Part 7)
 - b. Homes & Witnessing (Part 8)

There are a total of 8 topics and depending on the location, the classes may cover 1 to 2 topics per session. As such the classes may range from 4 to 8 weeks.

In each part there will be key points, discussion questions and also optional further studies and readings that participants can engage in. To make the most of this class, participants are highly encouraged to

- Have their own Bibles ready, take notes and draw highlights to key verses and phrases.
- Actively participate in the questions and group discussions during the allocated times.
- Delve into the Appendixes and recommended readings for furthering their own knowledge and understanding of the topics.
- Have fun, make friends and enjoy the classes 😊.

At the end of this class, we hope that participants will be able to

- Understand and find their identity, purpose and worth in God.
- Obtain a strong grasp of the plan of God working in their lives as revealed in the Bible.
- Understand and apply the key values and beliefs of the Christian faith into their own lives.
- Be confident in reading the Word of God and hungry to pray, seek and learn more about God.

2. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU

Reflections

1. Do you believe that you are created for a purpose? What makes you think so?
2. What makes you believe that there is something more to life than randomness?
3. Do you think that God has a plan for you? What do you think those plans are?

Overview

- *We are created, not the result of evolution.*
- *There is a Creator and He created us for a reason.*
- *Only the Creator can reveal the true purpose and meaning for our lives.*
- *The Creator wants you to know Him, His love and His plans for you.*

2.1 You are Created by God

You are not a _____.

You are not the result of random atoms colliding over billions of years.

Pastor Rick Warren who is also the well-known author for the book "Purpose Driven Life" puts it this way



Source: www.meaningfullife.com

"Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincident that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you!"

In fact, the bible reveals that each and every one of us were created with the greatest care, love and detail. The Bible says in the books of Psalms

*For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*

*Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.*

Psalms 139:13-14



We exist because someone created us for a reason. This explains why we as human beings inherit an innate desire to know the meaning and purpose for our lives.

This is a profound and powerful truth.

It changes the way we view the world around us. Things are no longer random and there is no longer a dreadful sense of emptiness in our lives. There is a meaning and a purpose to our lives which we all can pursue and reach out to.

2.2 Only the Creator Can Reveal the True Meaning and Purpose for Our Lives

Ravi Zacharias, one of the world's most renowned apologist and writer summarizes humanity's most essential needs to 4 key questions

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Origin | – Where do I come from? |
| Meaning | – What is the purpose of my life? |
| Morality | – How do I discern what is right from wrong? |
| Destiny | – Where am I going? |

Some people find meaning in riches, fame, career, relationships, charity, children and etc. These things can only provide a short and momentary happiness, but none can truly give an eternal and complete meaning to life. That's why we observe on a daily basis people actively seeking for the "next" thing to fill that hole in their soul. Without such truth, life would be completely meaningless and worthless.

"The truth is, only your creator can give you the true answer to all the deepest questions of your heart."



Source: www.aaronslyfe.com



Imagine yourself having baked a cake. Your friend might be able to tell you how the cake was baked, what ingredient was used and how long it took.

However, only **you** (the cake's creator) can know the reason "**why**" you baked the cake, whom it was baked it for and what's its purpose is for. Some cakes are for sale and some as gifts but one thing's for certain, a cake's purpose is never defined by their surroundings or peers. It is only defined only and solely by the **creator**.

The same applies for life. Science can help us understand how life was formed biologically but God is the only one who can tell us **why** we are created because He is our Creator. He created us and knows more than anyone else, including the inner workings of our heart, our thoughts, secrets, fears, dreams and ambitions. The Bible says He even counts the hairs on our heads.

*O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.
3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
4 For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.*

Psalms 139:1-4

We can look for clues and hints in our surroundings to guide us to the real meaning of life, but only God our Creator alone that can give the true meaning and purpose for our lives. Only God can fulfill what our hearts truly desire and satisfy our thirst that nobody else can.

*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth,
visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.
All things were created through Him and for Him.*

Colossians 1:16

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of
peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

2.3 God Wants You to Know Him, His Love and His Plans for You

There's a difference between “*knowing about*” a person and “*knowing*” a person.

We can “know about” a person from a book, from their Facebook profile and still not have a personal relationship with them. This kind of knowing is purely **head knowledge** and is formed from an emotional distance.

There is another kind of knowing which we experience when we say we “know” our parents, spouse, siblings and friends. We know them because we have experienced and established a personal relationship with them. It's a knowing that is filled with depth, emotion and intimacy which is developed through experience and fellowship.

God wants us to _____.

More than that, God wants to us to experience an intimate **relationship** with Him. Not from a distance and just from your head knowledge, but closely and intimately. In fact, God wants us to know and love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30).



source: www.slate.com

The bible puts this very clearly

²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Acts 17:26-28

There are two main reasons why God wants us to know Him.

I. *“For in Him we move and have our being”*

Acts 17:28

God is eternal. When He created us, He set eternity in the hearts of every men so that we would eventually discover that He alone will satisfy the deepest longings and needs of our hearts.

“¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

That is why nothing in this world including family, wealth, fame and success will truly ever satisfy because they are all temporal. We can search and find all other substitutes to fill that emptiness in our lives but nothing will ever truly satisfy until we find it in Him.

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 6:35

That is why to know God is to know eternal life.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:3

II. “For we are also His offspring”

Acts 17:28

God wants us to know and love Him simply because

- He is our Father
- He is love
- He created us
- He loved us
- And we belong to Him

God’s love for us has nothing to do with our race, background and even our deeds. In fact, He has loved us and known us before we were born (Psalms 139)! Nothing we ever did and could do would earn His love for us.

God loved us simply because He is love and we belong to Him



And we can clearly see evidences of God’s fatherly trait passed down to humanity when we witness families bearing their own children and loving them simply because they are made of love and the children belong to them.

To know Him is to experience the true eternal love that we are created for. A love greater than any family, spouse or friend. A love only God can give and a love that eternally satisfies.

Know that the Lord, He is God;

*It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

Psalms 100:3

Summary

- You are fearfully and wonderfully made by God for a purpose.
- Only the Creator Himself can give us the true meaning and purpose to our lives.
- God loves you because He is love, He is our Father and we belong to Him.
- God desires for us to know Him, His love and His plans for us.

Additional Studies and References

1. How to know God and what has He revealed about Himself to us. (Appendix 1)
2. What are God's plans for me? (Appendix 2)

3. THE FALL OF MEN

Reflections

1. Why do you think there is so much pain and evil in this world?
2. What do you think sin is and where did it come from?
3. What effects do you think sin has on us?

Overview

- Sin is rebelling and rejecting God and everything that He is.
- Sin is more than just a mere disobedience or accident; it is the nature in us that rejects God.
- God has given us free will to make choices, but we can't choose our consequences
- The result of sin is death, both physically and spiritually.
- Sin is a disease and is passed down to the offspring and generations.

At this point, some of us would've wondered

"If God created us and loved us so much, why are there so much evil and pain around us?"

The answer is because of _____ in our lives and in this world.

3.1 What is Sin?

Sin is described as the transgression and violation against the law of God.

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

1 John 3:4

It is the act of _____ against God Himself.

7 Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.

Deuteronomy 9:7



Most people recognize sin as a simple lie or a mistake that we commit due to different circumstance and often excuse our sins by saying “no one is perfect”. This philosophy and thinking assumes that there is nothing wrong with the human race and that we’re all good by nature.

The Bible however teaches sin differently. Sin is described in the Bible as more than just a mistake or an occasional disobedience. Sin is described as a ***nature***, a dominating tendency, an attitude and disposition that we inherit since we were born (Ephesians 4:22, Romans 6:6). What this means is that it’s not just that we did something wrong, there is something wrong with us.

... it’s not just that we did something wrong, there is something wrong with us.



Source: www.catholichor.org

If a person accidentally offends you once, it could be an accident. But if a person continually, habitually and intentionally does so against your will and warning, you know something is wrong with the person. The person’s offenses and attitude is likely coming from a place of hostility.

In the same manner, the Bible teaches that sin is more than just a mistake. It goes deeper into our nature, attitude and disposition that **intentionally rejects and rebels against** God, His person, His truth, His love and His commandments. Everything about God, sin naturally rejects and rebels against.

3.2 Where Did Sin Come From?

Sin had its beginning with Lucifer, probably the most beautiful and powerful of all the angels. Not content with his position, he desired to be higher than God, and that was his downfall, the beginning of sin (Isaiah 14:12-15).

Renamed Satan, he brought sin to the human race in the Garden of Eden, where he tempted Adam and Eve with the same temptation, “you shall be like God.” Genesis 3 describes Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God and against His command by partaking of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which God had forbidden. Since that time, sin has been passed down through all the generations of mankind and we, Adam’s descendants, have inherited sin from him as the bible indicated in Romans 5:12.

3.3 What is The Result of Sin?

God has given us the free will to make all the choices we want for our lives but we cannot choose our consequences. God makes it clear that there is a consequence to every decision that we make.

God has given us the free will to make all the choices we want for our lives but we cannot choose our consequences.

In the garden of Eden, both Adam and Eve had the free will to decide to either obey or disobey God. God had warned them of the consequences of disobedience (sin) which is death.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 2:16-18

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

When Adam sinned he did not just pass on sin to all his offspring (which includes all of humanity) he also passed the **penalty** of sin which is death unto all of us.

“12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—“

Romans 5:12

3.4 What Happens When We Become Separated From God?

We know that when Adam sinned, he wasn’t physically dead immediately. In fact the bible recorded that he went on to live for a few hundreds of years.

All of us are aware that there is a physical death that we are all subjected to where our bodies slowly age and die, but most of us are unaware of another type of death which is called the spiritual death.

In the bible, death always mean _____.

- In a physical death
 - The human spirit is separated from the _____
- In a spiritual death
 - The human spirit is separated from _____

To be spiritually dead is to be cut off, separated and divorced from God completely. We see first-hand the effects of Adam's spiritual death when he realized he was naked, and when both him and Eve hid themselves from God in the garden.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8



Let's use the rose as an illustration. The rose displayed at the florist appears beautiful, lush and lively. However, despite how beautiful and fresh the rose may appear, the fact is when it is cut off at the stem from the tree it is dead. We can observe this as time goes by when the rose will eventually wilt and die because they are cut off from their source.

The same applies to all of humanity. We may look and feel perfectly fine at the present time, but the truth of the matter is that we are all cut off and separated from our reator and our source of life. Inside, we are actually spiritually dead, and wilting because we are disconnected from our true source of life.



The other result of this spiritual death is that sin does not just remain with the host but is actually passed down to all of Adam and Eve's offspring (which includes all of us). As a result, it's not just Adam and Eve but all of us that became spiritually dead and separated from God since birth.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 2:1-3

Because sin is present in all of us, the spiritual death has caused all of humanity to become ignorant and rebellious towards God in a manner where no one on earth desires to seek after God, His Word, His love and His goodness.

10 As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

12 They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:10

If all of us are left to our current state of sin and spiritual deadness, there would be no hope for us. The only certainty is the consequence of sin, which is both the physical and spiritual death, an eternal separation from God.

Summary

- The root of all the sufferings and misery in this world is because of sin.
- Sin is the nature and act of rebellion against God, His word and His person.
- The result of sin is separation from God and death.
- Sin is also passed down to all of humanity, resulting in a world that no longer seeks and desires after God.

4 GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Reflections

1. Do you think if there's anything we can do to compensate for the sins we've committed against God?
2. Do you believe that God wants to help and save us?
3. How do you think He could do that?

Overview

- Atonements must be made for sins to be forgiven.
- Good works will never be enough to satisfy the requirement for the atonement of our sins. We are helpless to atone for our sins and to save ourselves.
- God loves us and has a plan to save us even while we are sinners.
- The person who atoned and paid for our sin is Jesus Christ, the one and only begotten Son of God.
- The blood and the work of Jesus on the cross is complete and is able to completely atone and save all those who believe in Him.

4.1 The Concept of Atonement

In life, when we commit a mistake or an offense against someone, we typically feel bad or “guilty” and we go about trying to correct what was wrong. For example if we broke a TV set or a phone belonging to someone, we would probably feel guilty and decides to go buy a replacement as compensation.



Source: <https://colinbeavan.com/>

This is the concept of atonement. It means to “reconcile” or “make amends” for something that was done wrong.

When we sin against God, we try to atone for it by doing good works that will ease our conscience or atone for our mistakes. However, the Bible says that no amount of good works will ever atone for the sins that we committed. Whether it's a “small” or “big” sin, God's law requires that the penalty of sin be paid by death and blood.



Source: <https://www.histruthbetold.org/Pages/Salvation.html>

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:8 – 9

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,

Titus 3: 3 - 5

16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Galatians 2:16

In the old testament, we learn that the Israelites practiced the same concept of atonement through the offering of animal sacrifices for their sins. The idea is to let the sinner lay his hand on the animal, representing the transfer (imputing) of his sins onto the animal. The animal is then sacrificed and offered as an atonement for the sins committed. As a result the sinner would then be forgiven as the animal had taken the penalty of sin in place of the sinner. This is called the sin offering and is described in Exodus 29:10-14, Leviticus 4 and Numbers 15.

However, this practise of sin offering and animal sacrifice would never be sufficient to cleanse the sins of humanity.



Source: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/understanding-biblical-sacrifice-korbanot/>

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Hebrews 10:4

8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law)

Hebrews 10:8

Instead, the practise of animal offerings was meant to be a preview of God’s greater plan of atonement for His people that they may be saved and have an eternal hope in Him.

4.2 God’s Plan for Salvation.

The Story of A Young Man & The Judge

A young man was speeding down a highway and was apprehended by a traffic policeman. The policeman impounded the young man’s car and took him straight to court to face the judge. The good news for the boy is that the district judge of the court that he was brought to happens to be his very own father. He thought to himself that he would easily be let off without any consequences very soon.

Source:

<https://robertdebry.com/need-go-court/>



But as he entered the courtroom, he starts to remember that his father was a judge who exercised justice and had always upheld the law regardless of class, wealth and connection. The boy starts to get worried. Will his dad let him his own son go or will his dad exercise justice and sentence his very own son to a just punishment.

Will love or justice win?

After deliberation, the judge looks at his own son, and pronounced the son guilty as charged and passed him a sentence of either a \$1,000 fine or a month in jail. He then bangs down the hammer.



The son was stunned and when he was asked if he had the money to bail himself out, he had none. As the officers drew near to take the son away to jail, the judge quickly stopped them. He took off his robe, came down to his son's place and took out his wallet to pay the \$1,000 to the court. The debt of the young man was settled.

4.2.1 God is Holy and Just.

The story of the young man and the judge is a great illustration of how God provides salvation to humanity. Our God is a holy and just God. He seeks to protect that which is good, holy and upholds the justice for all. As such when sin is committed He upholds His righteousness and justice, and punishes sin where it's at.

In the story, the judge acted consistently and justly by punishing even His own son when he was found guilty. The judge represents God, who is the supreme judge of all things and all men.

*He loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.*

Psalms 33:5

We are all like the young man. We have all sinned, disobeyed and rebelled against God and His laws. In the presence of a just and holy God, we have all been found guilty and received the due punishment for our sins which is death. There are no good works that we can do nor sacrifices that we can perform that will ever satisfy the penalty of our sins. We are all helpless to save ourselves just like the young man.

4.2.2 Jesus, The Ransom For Our Sins.

In the story, the law of justice demands that the sin be punished and the debt to be repaid. The father passed the judgement as a righteous and just judge would, even to his own son but he couldn't bear to see his own son go to prison. So he did what a loving and compassionate dad would do. He decided to pay by himself the penalty for his son who couldn't afford to.

In the same manner our heavenly Father did the same for us. He foresaw our inability to save ourselves and provided a _____ for our sins and debts. The debt however was not to be settled by money but rather by life, for the penalty of sin is death. To satisfy the penalty, God the Father paid our ransom with the life and blood of His one and only begotten son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ willingly came to earth with a mission, to live a sinless life, to die on cross for our sins and settled all the penalties that is due on us, once and for all.



Source: <https://robertdebry.com/need-go-court/>

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:16

When Jesus died on the cross, there was an _____ that took place. If you recall the earlier practise of animal sacrifices where the sinner transferred their sins unto the animal by the laying of hands, the exact exchange happens when we believe in Jesus. Our sins and sufferings are transferred to Jesus, and He became our substitute and sacrifice for our sins.

*Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:4-5

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

1 Peter 2:24



When the exchange of sins and debt was completed, all our sins and debts are completely repaid and cancelled. We who were once sinners have now become free because of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirement (debts) that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Colossians 2:14

Please refer to **Appendix 3** for more illustrations on God's plan for atonement and salvation.

Summary

- No good works, charity and sacrifices can ever be enough to atone for the sins that we have committed.
- God is both holy and just to every works of righteousness and sin. Therefore sin must be dealt with and punished by God. The wages of sin is death.
- To satisfy both the requirements of justice and His love for us, God sent His one and only begotten Son to become the ransom for the sins of men, so that the debts of sin are paid once and for all, and that men might be spared from eternal death.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He took our place and paid for all the sins that we ever committed. He did it because of His great love for the world, that you and I might find a way again back to God and inherit eternal life.
- Nothing is precious more to us than the blood of Jesus that wipes away all our sins!

Discussions

1. Have you ever experienced an undeserved grace and mercy from someone before? Share your experience and how it changed you.

5. HOW DO I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?

Overview

- In order to receive God's gift of salvation we need to respond.
- We can respond through 3 simple steps of admitting, believing and committing our lives to Him.

The work that Jesus has done on cross was completed more than 2,000 years ago and is now freely available to those who believe. Although the gift of salvation is free, it's not an automatic entitlement to everyone. Rather the Bible makes it clear that the gospel demands a response from the hearer in order for them to receive it.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

John 3:16-17

So how should one respond to receive this gift of salvation?

We have broken this down to 3 simple steps.

a) Admit – Confess & Repent

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Firstly, we must humble ourselves, come before God and _____ to Him. To confess simply means to acknowledge our wrong doings openly before Him regardless how embarrassing and shameful we might feel.

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Romans 10: 9-11

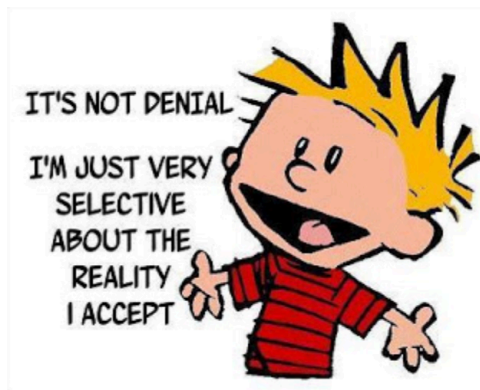
By confessing, we are basically acknowledging to God these 2 things.

1. Our sins

"God I've sinned and fallen short of the live you wanted me to live"

2. Our need for Him in our lives

*"God I have nowhere else to go to and I don't know how to save myself.
I need you God"*



Confession is a necessary first step. A doctor is unable to treat a patient if the patient is constantly in denial, insists there is nothing wrong with himself and doesn't need any treatment. In the same manner, God will not force a sinner to receive His gift of salvation unless the person acknowledges his sin and his need for a saviour.

Next we must _____.
When a person repents, it's not just

merely just feeling sorry about his/her sins but the word repent actually means "to change one's mind" and attitude from the sin that he/she used to indulge in.

An example would will previously choose to lie and curse, but once a person experiences a genuine repentance in his life, he no longer loves the lying and cursing. In fact he finds it disgusting to behave such way and turns away from it. That is the mark of a real repentance.

Another example of repentance in the bible in the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. This man had been very unpopular due to his cheating and obtaining of riches through unsavoury ways from the people. But after he had encountered Jesus personally into His life, he turned away from his previous practices and even refunded those whom he had cheated.

As we learn from the above, real repentance produces a new way of thinking and real lifestyle changes in a person. Repentance is a beautiful thing and one of the most important phase of our lives that allows us to see God and His mercy in full glory.

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

b) Believe

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Acts 16:31

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31

As we hear the amazing love and gift that God has poured for us, we must exercise _____ to put our trust in the person and works of Jesus Christ. Our belief is not an empty faith, but rather it is grounded on the following truths;

- a. Jesus is the Son of God
- b. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
- c. He suffered and was crucified on the cross for our sins.
- d. He was buried and rose again on the 3rd day
- e. He ascended up to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.
- f. He will return again to judge the living and the dead.

It is important to remember that we must exercise faith when we seek after God as the Bible puts it..

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

c) Commit

Next, we commit our lives unto Him by

i. Inviting Jesus in to our lives

The Bible says in Revelations 3:20

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Revelations 3:20



Jesus is knocking at the door and calling out to us. He desires is for us to open the doors of our hearts and to invite Him into our lives. Some of us may be ashamed because our lives may be broken, dirty and shameful but Jesus is not concerned or worried about that. In fact, He spent His ministry years being surrounded by sinners because His mission is to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He wants to enter into every room of our lives including our past, dreams, secrets, hopes and regrets and fill it with His love, forgiveness and hope. All we need to do is to open the door and invite Him in. We have been assured in His Words that He promised that when we do, He will enter and have fellowship with us.

We can simply do this invitation by opening our hearts and telling Jesus

“Jesus, I invite you into my heart and my life right now, to be my Lord and my Saviour!”

ii. Asking to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Next, we open up our hearts and ask Jesus to fill us up with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. We can do so by praying

“Jesus, come and fill me now with Your Holy Spirit”

The Christian conversion is not merely a natural experience, but also a supernatural experience. This supernatural experience and power is performed by the Holy Spirit and we are emboldened to ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit simply because Jesus taught and promised us that the Spirit will be sent by the Father to live in us. And when the Spirit dwells in us He will fill us with the strength, faith, hope, love, wisdom and presence of God to live victoriously.

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:14-18

iii. Trusting and Following Him

And lastly, we commit ourselves by declaring our whole hearted trust in Him and to follow Him. We do so by praying

“Lord, help me and give me strength to trust in You, to love you and to follow You, all the days of my life.

³⁴ When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mark 8:34

To trust means we put our hope, our lives and our dependency on Jesus. It means to accept His Words as true and to believe that He will never leave us nor forsake us.



Source whatdoesitmeantoservegod.com/following-jesus/

When we say we choose to follow Him, it means that we are no longer the master of our own lives. Rather, we acknowledge that as of now Jesus Christ is our new Master, Lord and Saviour that reigns in our hearts and is the new priority in our lives. Our desire now is to follow His voice and His call rather than our own.

Yes, there will be times when we might fall and fail, but God promised to always be with us, to guide and to pick us up. God is committed to be with us till the end, to help us grow to be more and more like His son, Jesus Christ. We know this because He has promised in His word

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 1:6

Here in Acts we have prepared a very simple prayer that can help you or anyone invite Jesus into their lives and receive His salvation. The prayer is as per below

Lord Jesus,
Thank you for paying the ultimate price for my sins
By dying on the cross for me
I receive Your love and forgiveness
And eternal life by faith
Come into my heart and life
And be my Lord and my Saviour
Fill me with Your Holy Spirit
In Jesus name, Amen

Summary

- Salvation requires a response from the individual. The response can be as simple as admit, believe and commit.
- Admitting means to confess and repent of our sins before God. Believing includes having faith in the person of Jesus and what He has done for you. To commit means to invite Jesus into our heart lives, trusting in Him and committing our lives to following Him whole heartedly.

Appendix 1

If God loves us and wants us to know Him, how do we go about knowing Him more?

There are 2 ways we can know God

- a. The first is through speculation
 - a. Speculation is the human initiative of forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence.
 - b. It is the activity of guessing possible answers to a question without having enough information to be certain.
 - c. We use what we know, what we sense and what we understand to form a possible body of knowledge about God.
- b. The second is through revelation
 - a. Revelation in Greek means “Apokalupsis” – an uncovering and an unveiling. It means to make know something that is hidden or secret.
 - b. It is the God initiative of revealing Himself to us what we can never know about Him.
 - c. It is the act of God revealing Himself to us through various means to the truth of Himself.

And the truth is, God indeed has revealed Himself and His truth to humanity. He has revealed it through creation, through His Word and the prophets, and most importantly He has revealed it through His Son, Jesus Christ.

There are so many things that God desires for you to know about Him, His miracles, His power, His law and His works. But the most important knowledge that He desires for you to know about Him is that He loves you and desires for you to trust and have faith in Him completely.

God has revealed Himself through

1. Creation
2. Conscience
3. Miracles & Prophecies
4. Bible (The Scripture)

But most importantly God has revealed Himself through the person of Jesus Christ who is the beloved Son of God, the image of God and God Himself.

In Part 2 of this study we will learn more about the miracles, prophecies and also the person of Jesus. In Part 3, we will explore the Bible, how to read it and how to derive the most from it for our lives.

Appendix 2

There are many things that God desires for you to know about Him including His miracles, His power, His law and His works. But the most important knowledge that He desires for you to know are

1. To Know and Be Found in Him
2. To Love and Be Loved by Him
3. To Trust and Grow in Him
4. To Walk with and Be Like Him

Here are some examples of verses about God's will and plans for you.

- Jeremiah 29:11,
- 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Proverbs 3:5 -6

Appendix 3

An Illustration of God's Plan of Salvation for Man.

