

WHAT JESUS
DID FOR YOU
AT CALVARY

by Randy Gilbert

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And straightway in the morning the chief priest held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.

And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them.

And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye

call the King of the Jews? And they cried out again, Crucify him.

Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, and began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.

And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. And it was

the third hour, and they crucified him. And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors....

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

—MARK 15:1-28, 33-38

INTRODUCTION

The greatest story that has ever been told is the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as recorded for us in the Bible. This is not the story of a good man who was wrongfully put to a shameful death. It is the story of the Son of God who came to this earth as a baby, lived among us, was crucified on a cross, buried, and rose again as part of God's master plan to redeem the human race.

Many today readily agree that Jesus was sacrificed to pay for the sins of all mankind, yet they do not seem to understand or accept the rest of the package—and there is more... so much more!

Jesus Christ died on the cross for you, not only to bring you forgiveness from sin but also to make you a suitable dwelling place for His Holy Spirit, to bring you healing, to save

you from the curse of poverty, and to deliver you from the devil's power.

As you read this book, I pray that God will help you see and understand the magnitude of Jesus's sacrifice and instill within you a desire to accept into your life all that He died to provide for you.

1

JESUS PAID THE PRICE FOR YOUR SIN

The Bible explains in the book of Hebrews that many of the things the Jewish people did under the Old Covenant were actually shadows and types of the things Jesus accomplished at His death. For example, once each year the Jewish high priest was commissioned with finding a young goat to bear the sins of the nation. They called it the "scapegoat." The high priest would lay hands on the head of that goat and symbolically transfer the sins of the nation of Israel onto it. Then the goat would be led out and turned loose into the wilderness. It was understood that as the goat went out into the

wilderness, or into a “separated place,” it was the sins it bore that killed it.

The scapegoat was actually a symbol of Jesus, who was led out to Calvary—a place outside the city walls—to die as payment for the sins of the people.

It is important to understand that judgment had to come upon Jesus in order for you to be delivered from judgment. What is judgment? It is separation from God, followed by punishment. The Bible shows very clearly that Jesus was judged on your behalf. He died for your sins so that you would not have to die. If He had not been punished, you would still have to be punished for your sins. But Jesus took your place and became the substitutionary sacrifice not only for your sins, but also for the sins of the entire world. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, *For he hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

SIN AND JUDGMENT

Jesus paid the price of your sin. Romans 3:23,24 says: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.* All have sinned. Every person who has lived on this earth—except Jesus—has sinned. The word *sin* is the Greek word *harmonchia*, which means “to shoot at a target and miss it.” Everyone who shoots at the target of God’s glory—trying to attain it in his or her own human power—fails to hit the mark.

Because we have sinned, we are under the judgment of death, and we need to be redeemed. Ezekiel 18:4 says, *...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.* There is no such thing as a righteous person outside of Jesus. There may be nice people, well-mannered people, and well-meaning people, but there is no such thing as a truly good person outside of Jesus. But God offers us redemption through Jesus’ death. *Redemption* means “to buy back.” Because of sin, we are separated from

God and condemned to die. But Jesus took our judgment of death upon himself and paid the price for our redemption.

Jesus redeemed you from the devil's pawnshop. He came and paid the price to get you back because you can't redeem yourself. You can't work for it—you can't earn it. Religion won't get it for you. Going to a particular church or being baptized in water won't get it for you.

You may say, "Well, I joined the church and was baptized when I was seven years old."

That may be, but unless you have asked God to forgive you of your sins in Jesus' name, you're just a wet sinner. There is no church, club, or group that can save you. Redemption can only be found in Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross. Acts 4:12 says, *Neither is there salvation in any other [than Jesus]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

JESUS—THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION

There is no other person in the world who can pay the price for your sins. Hebrews 9:22 says, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.* Without the shedding of innocent blood, there is no remission or washing away of sin. Innocent, righteous blood is the only thing that God considers just payment for sin, and Jesus paid that price for you.

Even if you had died for your sins, your death would not have paid the price for your redemption because you have sinned. The reason Jesus came to earth and died for you is because there wasn't anyone else who could have shed innocent blood.

Isaiah 53:5,6 says, *But he [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have*

turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

You must understand that it is faith in the blood of Jesus that satisfies God. You have to put your faith in His blood in order for your sins to be washed away. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* When the blood of Jesus is applied to your life, all the wrong you have ever done is eliminated. As far as God is concerned, there is no sin on your record.

Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (John 14:6). There is no other name, no other blood, no other sacrifice that can get you to God. You cannot come up with your own self-help program. Salvation can only be found in the blood and name of Jesus.

John 3:36 says, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God*

abideth on him. If you have the Son, you have eternal life; if you don't, you're lost. There is no other way to God—the only way is through Jesus Christ. Someday, when you stand before God in that last great judgment, the only thing you will be judged on is whether or not you accepted God's means of righteousness for yourself. The determining factor will be whether or not you believed in the blood of Jesus and accepted His death as payment for your sins. There are no two ways about it—you're either listed in the Book of Life or you're not. You either have the Son or you don't.

If you don't have the Son in your life, I invite you to accept Him. Just pray this simple prayer right now:

Lord Jesus, I believe that You died for my sins, were raised from the dead, and that You are Lord of all. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins and cleanse me of all unrighteousness. Thank You, Jesus, for loving me enough to die for my sins. I declare with my mouth that I am

washed in Your blood and made righteous by the sacrifice that You made for me at Calvary. Right now, in Your name, I lay down my old life and take up my new life in You, and I ask that You help me to live this new life in a way that is pleasing to You. Amen.

2

JESUS MADE YOU A SUITABLE HABITATION FOR THE HOLY GHOST

The Old Testament tells us that God made a covenant with the nation of Israel, and part of that covenant was the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 44:3 says, *For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.* The Israelites believed that one day God would do as He had promised and pour out His Spirit upon His people. They knew that they had a covenant with God, but there was no life in

it. Something was missing, and that “something” was God’s Spirit.

You may feel the same way as the Israelites. Perhaps you have accepted Jesus, but you sense that something is missing. What you need is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. God’s promise to pour out His Spirit also includes you.

THE PROMISE OF POWER

In Acts 1:5,8, Jesus says, For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

When Jesus’ followers heard the word *power*, they knew what He was talking about because power characterized Jesus’ ministry. They had been following Him for three-and-a-half years and had seen His power in

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action. They saw Him raise the dead, heal all manner of sickness and disease, calm storms, and cast out demons. Jesus said they would receive that same power and that it would make them witnesses of Him.

Is your life a witness to Jesus? That's how you can tell if someone has the power of the Spirit. If you are filled with the Holy Ghost, your life will be a testimony to God. You can't keep quiet if you're filled with the Spirit.

God promised to send His Spirit, and Acts 2:1-4 tells how it happened:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

When Jesus' followers were filled with the Spirit, they began to speak in other tongues. People from other countries heard them and were amazed to hear their own languages being spoken.

Acts 2:14 tells us that Peter stood up and preached, and 3,000 people came into the kingdom of God that day (v. 41). It was the first Holy Ghost-anointed sermon preached by a born-again man. Acts 2:38,39 says, *...Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

The promise of the Spirit belongs to every person who belongs to Jesus Christ and is saved. It belongs to anyone who accepts the call of God. That promise is available to you.

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A SEPARATE EXPERIENCE

Someone may say, “Well, sure, I got the baptism of the Holy Spirit when I got saved.”

I challenge you to check the New Testament and see if you can find even one place where it says you automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost when you get saved. You can look hard, but you won’t find it because it isn’t there.

In Acts 8:12-17, we read the account of Philip going down to Samaria to preach Christ. The people believed Philip’s preaching about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus, and they were baptized with water as a demonstration of their faith. That’s what happens when people receive the Word of God—they get saved. It’s a seed that’s planted.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. Why? Verses 15 and 16 tell us: *Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might*

receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

The Samaritans were saved, but they didn't have the Holy Ghost yet because He hadn't fallen on any of them. There are six different examples of people receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the book of Acts. Out of those six, only one does not clearly specify that speaking in tongues is a part of the process. In that example, something happened that caused the people watching to know a supernatural event had occurred. Salvation is something you can't see, but the baptism of the Holy Ghost by Bible definition is something you can see.

The book of Acts says when the people were baptized with the Holy Ghost, they spoke with other tongues and magnified God. If you have a hard time praising God, get filled with the Holy Ghost—then praise will just roll out of you. Jesus said, *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of*

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his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...) (John 7:38,39). When you get filled with the Holy Ghost, you won't be able to contain the flood.

Acts 10 is another example of people being saved first and baptized with the Holy Spirit later. God sent Peter a vision and told him to go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel. About that time, Peter received an invitation from a Gentile named Cornelius, who asked Peter to come to his house. The Bible tells us that Cornelius was a good man who had been praying and seeking God. Cornelius sent his men to find Peter and bring him to his house.

When Peter arrived at Cornelius's house, he and his family and friends were gathered to hear what Peter had to say. Peter told them about Jesus and the wonderful things He had done. And the Bible tells us that while he was still speaking, the Holy Ghost fell on all those who heard the word. The

Jews who were with Peter were astonished to *see* God pour out His baptism of the Holy Ghost on Gentiles.

How do you suppose they knew that the Holy Ghost had fallen on those Gentiles? Verse 46 says, *For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.* That's how they knew—they heard Cornelius and his group speaking in tongues.

You say, "Well, maybe speaking in tongues is just for some people. Surely God doesn't expect all Christians to be baptized in the Holy Ghost."

Yes, He does. Romans 8:9 says, *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.* This verse says when you get saved you're born of the Spirit of Christ. You have the nature of Christ, and you become a new creature in Him.

It doesn't say that you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost just because you're saved.

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The Holy Ghost is not even mentioned in this verse. It's the "Spirit of God" and the "Spirit of Christ" that Paul, the writer of the book of Romans, is talking about here. Paul uses those terms interchangeably because he's talking about the same person. Jesus said, *I and my Father are one* (John 10:30). So if you know Jesus, you know the Father.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is a separate, individual experience. Sometimes people receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost at the same time they receive salvation, like Cornelius and his group did. Sometimes it happens on two different occasions. Either way, receiving salvation and receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost are two separate and distinct experiences.

THE EVIDENCE

How can you tell if you've been baptized in the Holy Ghost? First, you're going to speak in tongues and magnify God. Second, your

life will be filled with power that makes you a witness. If you're not witnessing for Jesus, then you need more power. You need the baptism in the Holy Ghost...and it's yours. Jesus died on Calvary to save you and make you a suitable habitation for the Holy Ghost.

The day I was baptized in the Holy Ghost, the power of God came all over me, and I spoke with other tongues. Then I didn't speak in tongues again for several months—until I attended a meeting one night and prayed in tongues along with the other people. Then a year went by, and I didn't pray in tongues. I didn't know that I was supposed to. Finally, one day I was listening to a cassette tape, and the brother on the tape was talking about praying in other tongues. I thought, *Why don't I do that?* I decided that I was supposed to be praying in tongues regularly. I had a 45-minute drive ahead of me, and I decided that I was going to pray in tongues for that entire 45 minutes.

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First Corinthians 14:4 says, *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself....* I hooked onto that scripture and started pulling with my faith. I decided that I was going to get edified.

When I started speaking in tongues, I sounded like a fool. My prayer language sounded like Morse Code, just little one-syllable words. But I prayed in tongues for 45 minutes, and I started feeling lighter in the seat of my car. I started getting more syllables in my prayer language. When I got out of my car, I felt light-headed, and I kind of swooned a little bit. I got edified. I was going for a job interview, and I walked into that establishment and asked the manager for a job. He hired me on the spot, and it was the best job I had ever had!

When you begin praying in other tongues, you are prophesying the perfect will of God for your future. You're building yourself up in your most holy faith (see Jude 1:20). Being edified is like charging a battery.

You get charged up spiritually, and you become a witness for Jesus.

If you want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, I invite you to pray this simple prayer:

Lord Jesus, I believe that You are raised from the dead and that You are Lord of all. Thank You for forgiving me of my sin and for cleansing me of all unrighteousness. Lord Jesus, right now I receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and I will speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives me utterance. In the name of Jesus, I believe, I receive, and I will speak in Jesus' name. Amen.

3

JESUS DELIVERED YOU FROM THE POWER OF SICKNESS AND DISEASE

Many Christians will agree that Jesus died to pay the price of our sins. They will even agree that His death on the cross makes it possible for us to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. However, when you tell them that Jesus' death also paid for our healing, they just don't believe it. Somehow we've gotten it in our heads that God is not in the healing business anymore. Friend, that simply isn't true.

Hundreds of years before Jesus lived, the writers of the Old Testament recorded

scriptures that looked *forward* in time to Jesus' life and death. They wrote about the suffering and rejection He would one day face. They wrote about the things He would have to go through for you and me.

Isaiah 53:1-5 is one of those prophetic passages:

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of

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*our peace was upon him; and with his stripes
we are healed.*

The Bible says that Jesus took on the form of a servant when He came to earth. He didn't have a noble birth. People thought He was only a carpenter's son, not a person destined for greatness. The Jewish leaders didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah because He didn't appear to be anyone important. During Jesus' earthly ministry, the common people accepted Him, but the leaders never did. Finally they turned the people against Jesus and had Him crucified.

Verse 4 says, *Surely he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him
stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.* When Jesus was hanging on the cross, the people concluded that He was being punished by God because He claimed to be the Son of God. They believed His claims to be so blasphemous that He was "smitten of God."

The truth is, Jesus was being judged for what we have done. He was sinless, perfect, but He gave himself to be judged and punished for our sins. He was literally punished for the sins of the world.

But that's not all. He also paid the price for our healing. Matthew 8:16,17 says, *When the even was come, they brought unto him [Jesus] many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias [Isaiah] the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*

This passage in Matthew is talking about the same thing as the passage in Isaiah. Instead of using the words *griefs* and *sorrows*, the writer translates them *infirmities* and *sicknesses*. You see, sickness and disease are part of the punishment for sin. They were never a part of God's original creation, but after Adam sinned, sickness, disease, and death came upon man. In Genesis 3:19, God told

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Adam, "Out of the dust you came, and to the dust you will return." It was then that sickness began its reign over mankind.

JESUS PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR HEALING

Sickness reigned from Adam until Jesus, virtually unopposed, but when Jesus died, He paid the price for our healing.

Isaiah says that Jesus was wounded for our transgressions or sins, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. Stripes? What is Isaiah talking about? Mark 15:15 tells us that before He died, Jesus was scourged or whipped. History records that the Roman scourge was a whip made of long, thin strips of leather with little pieces of bone, metal, and even rock tied to the ends. When a person was whipped, those leather strips wrapped around his back and the little jagged pieces of bone or metal dug into the flesh. Then, when the soldier pulled the whip

away, those pieces of bone or metal tore off chunks of flesh.

In Jesus' day the Romans gave prisoners no more thirty-nine stripes with a scourge because they believed that forty stripes was a death sentence. They believed that no human being could take forty stripes without dying. So when the Romans scourged Jesus, they scourged Him and brought Him right to the edge of death before they ever took Him to the cross. That's the reason the soldiers had to get Simon the Cyrenian to carry Jesus' cross. Jesus had already been scourged by that time and was too weak to carry it himself.

Those stripes that were placed on Jesus' back were the punishment necessary to deliver you from the authority of sickness and disease. Because of what Jesus did for you at Calvary, you have been set free. It's a package deal. The shedding of Jesus' blood delivered you from sin, and the stripes on His back delivered you from sickness and disease.

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First Peter 2:24 says of Jesus, *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* These are the same words Isaiah used, but notice something. In Isaiah it says “ye are healed.” Here it says “ye were healed.” Why the difference? Because when Isaiah wrote this verse he was looking *forward* in time to the cross, and when Peter wrote this verse he was looking *back* in time to the cross.

Where did you get healed? At the cross—because that’s where the sacrifice was paid. Jesus hung on the cross as a substitute for us. You and I actually should have been hanging there, but Jesus went to the cross for us. He took the punishment necessary to deliver us from sickness and disease, and now it’s a done deal! We are free!

SAVED AND HEALED

I discovered the reality of God’s healing when I was twenty-two years old. Even

though I had been raised in church all of my life, I had never actually *heard* the gospel. Although I had been in services where the Word was preached, the message had never penetrated my heart. But when I was twenty-two, I contracted a terminal liver disease, and suddenly the message started getting through. My doctors told me that my liver could fail at any time, and I would die. I also had a very serious blood pressure problem. They told me, "If you live to be thirty with a blood pressure problem like that, we'll be surprised."

When I came to Jesus, I didn't really know what to expect. I just wanted to turn my life over to Him. I didn't know anything about healing. Nobody had ever explained it to me. But when I accepted Jesus as my Savior, all the disease instantly left my body. I was instantly healed. I couldn't say that I had faith for my healing—it just happened.

After I had been saved and healed for a while, my old symptoms started coming back on me. My doctors had told me that I would

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have a number of problems because of my illness—things like kidney, bladder, and stomach problems. Sure enough, these things started to happen to me even though my liver disease had been healed. So I began to feel kind of desperate about this situation.

Then in 1976 I heard some preaching about sickness and disease and what the Word of God says about healing. Even though I had been healed before that, I didn't know what to believe and stand on. I was attending a church where they said healing doesn't happen anymore. But when I heard this preaching, I decided that if I had been healed 2,000 years ago, then I must be healed now.

I got down on my knees by my bed and told the devil, "My body is not available to you any more. I am never going to be sick again!" I took authority over the devil and ran him away from my body. And my symptoms left.

You must understand that the same sacrifice Jesus made for your sins also paid for

your healing. When you got saved, you also got healed—you just didn't know it. You didn't receive it even though it belonged to you. Healing is yours, but maybe you've never taken advantage of it. You might say, "Well, I know Jesus forgave my sin, but I don't know if He will heal me or not."

If Jesus were standing in front of you right now and you asked Him to forgive you of your sins, do you think there is any possibility that He wouldn't do that for you? Of course, He would. First John 5:14,15 says, *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

There is no such thing as a person asking Jesus for salvation and not receiving it. He turns no one away. So if you ask Jesus for salvation—to wash you in His blood and to forgive your sins—there is no question about whether or not He will do it. The same thing

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is true for healing. Right next to the sacrifice Jesus made for your salvation is the one He made for your healing. When you put your faith in what Jesus did for you at Calvary, you are going to receive your healing. There is no question about it. There is no such thing as Jesus saying, "No." Why? Because if you put your faith in God's promise, there is no way you will not receive.

You may say, "Well, you just don't know what I've done."

It doesn't matter. Receiving healing is no harder than receiving salvation or the baptism in the Holy Ghost. It's not hard. All you have to do is say "yes" to God. Forget about your body, the manifestations, feelings, and getting healed. The fact is *you are already healed*. All you have to do is accept by faith what has already been done for you and then walk in it.

After I did this, I turned my tongue against the devil. I started quoting the Word to him. Every time the devil tried to come

against me with something, I said, "No, Devil. By Jesus' stripes I was healed, so take your hands off my body."

STOP DOUBTING...
AND START RECEIVING

You have to stop doubting and start receiving. You see, doubt is actually an alternative gospel. It's believing something other than what the Bible says. As soon as we start talking about healing, the doubts in your mind start to manifest. The devil starts trying to talk you out of your healing, but faith is not based on feelings or thoughts. Faith is based on what the Word of God says. Romans 10:17 says, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* You need to go back and feed your spirit on what the Word of God has to say about healing.

You may say, "The church I go to doesn't believe in healing."

JESUS DELIVERED YOU FROM THE
POWER OF SICKNESS AND DISEASE

Friend, do not listen to doubt and unbelief. It doesn't make any difference what theologians or religious groups or denominations say. If the Word says it, it's true. Don't let anyone talk you out of what Jesus died to give to you. Healing is not a matter of opinion—it is the truth. It's not a denominational doctrine—it's the Word of God. Take that Word at face value. Healing is yours.

If you want to be healed, I invite you to pray this simple prayer:

Lord Jesus, I thank You for salvation and the Holy Ghost, and today I want to receive the healing that You bought for me at Calvary. I thank You for paying that price—taking the stripes on Your back—and by faith I now accept Your healing in my life. In the name of Jesus, I believe...and I receive. Amen.

4

JESUS REDEEMED YOU FROM THE CURSE OF POVERTY

Most of the time when people think about Jesus, they think of Him as a poor carpenter, but the Bible says that Jesus was also rich. One of the things He did for you at Calvary was to redeem you from the curse of poverty.

Second Corinthians 8:9 says, *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

Jesus is God. John 1:1 tells us that He has been God from the foundation of the world. Yet He was willing to give up His throne and

His position and wealth in heaven to come to earth and die for you. Philippians 2:5-11 says:

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus literally stepped down from His kingly position in heaven into the body of a baby. He was rich...and became a poor carpenter. And when He died on the cross, He became even poorer. The soldiers took his

JESUS REDEEMED YOU FROM THE
CURSE OF POVERTY

clothing and divided it among themselves. He died with nothing. Jesus was made poor, the Bible says. Why? For your sake, that through His poverty you might become rich.

Someone may say, "I know that I'll be rich when I get to heaven."

Do you mean to say that Jesus died just so we could be rich in heaven? What about now? Everyone knows that we're not going to need riches in heaven. Don't you need God's blessings here? Well, you can have it! Jesus died to bring you His blessings *now!*

THE CURSE ORIGINATED
IN THE GARDEN

Galatians 3:13,14 says, *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Jesus took the curse of sin, sickness, and poverty upon himself for you. He died to redeem you from that curse. He died so that the blessing of Abraham could be yours. Where did the curse come from? It started when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:17-19 says:

And unto Adam he [God] said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat of the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground....

God told Adam, "Adam, everything you put your hand to is going to revolt against you. Nothing will cooperate with you—everything will be against you, Adam."

JESUS REDEEMED YOU FROM THE
CURSE OF POVERTY

That was the beginning of poverty. Sin separated man from God. And now this creation—created by God and belonging to Him—is in revolt against man. When a non-regenerated man filled with sin tries to use the earth, it revolts against him. That's the curse. Romans 8:22 says, *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.* The creation is alive unto God. He is in everything. He owns it, and creation worships Him. But for sinful man, the earth is cursed. The curse is not there because of the ground but because of Adam's sin.

Jesus came and died to end that curse. He took the curse upon himself and broke the authority of sin. Through His sacrifice, you are restored back into fellowship with God. And because you are now in right relationship with God, you are no longer at odds with the creation. You are free from the curse, and there is no more restriction on your increase.

In the beginning God gave Adam free reign. He said, "Adam, you can have dominion over creation. Go out and subdue it. Bring it under subjection." But when Adam sinned, God said, "Sorry, Adam, but everything is different now. You're going to scrape and scratch in this world. It's going to be tough going. The earth is not going to yield to you like before."

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

But, praise God, He didn't leave things like that. He found a way to remedy the situation. He made a covenant with a man named Abraham so that He could move Abraham out from under the curse. Through the sacrifice of bulls and goats, Abraham's sins could be set aside, even though the blood of Jesus had not yet been shed. Galatians 3:6 says Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him as righteousness. The curse was removed, and man's relationship to the earth returned to what it had been in the Garden of Eden.

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Why do you suppose God made a covenant with Abraham? Because He had a plan for Abraham's offspring. He wanted a covenant people. He wanted to foster the growth and development of His people so that one day Jesus Christ could come to the world through them.

Are you Christ's? Do you belong to Him? Then you are an offspring of Abraham. Look at Galatians 3:29: *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* This verse means that you are an offspring of Abraham, and because of God's covenant with Him, you can, by faith, begin to receive what's yours through that covenant.

You see, when you get saved, the curse is already eliminated for you. It happened at Calvary. Jesus took the curse upon himself to give you the blessing. You've been blessed all this time. You've been made rich. Now all you need to do is get your mind renewed about what has happened for you. Grasp the

real meaning of what Jesus has done for you so that, by faith, you can receive it.

The world has put a limit on what you can do—I call it a limit screen. Have you ever hit that level? Did you ever try to make straight A's when you were a kid in school...but you just couldn't do it? That's because you hit a limit. Have you ever tried to get a job you couldn't get? Or been set back financially? The curse is a "limiter," but as a born-again Christian, the limit screen has been taken off your life. You can climb into unexplored territory financially.

THE BLESSING BELONGS TO YOU

The reality is that God's blessing is yours, and it's time for you to rise up and receive it. Deuteronomy 28:1-6 lists the blessings of Abraham:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his

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commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

This is a faith covenant. God says, "Believe the promise, and you will receive it." If you work in the country or in the city, God will bless you. Everything you own is to increase, including your checking account, your savings account, and your retirement fund. Everywhere you go, you will be blessed. He says these blessings will come on you and overtake you if you will believe Him.

Verse 8 says, *The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.* This is just the opposite of what God told Adam. Why? Because the curse had been reversed. Now everything you do will increase instead of decrease. Creation is working *for* you. Everything you set your hand to prospers, increases, and gets better. God is going to bless everything you do.

POOR NO MORE

Are you ready to believe for God's blessings? Jesus took your poverty upon himself at Calvary. He became poor so that you might be rich. He became a curse so that you could have the blessing. Because you are Christ's, the blessing of Abraham is yours. Jesus died to save you. The Greek word for *save* means more than just eternal redemption. It means "physical healing, deliverance, being made in a sound condition, and preserved unto eter-

JESUS REDEEMED YOU FROM THE
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nity." You were saved at Calvary—and you were healed and made rich there too.

Are you having a financial problem today? If you're a child of God, you can have His blessings. You're a child of Abraham, so remind God of the covenant you have with Him. You don't have to beg God to bless you. You don't have to cry and twist His arm to make Him do something He doesn't want to do. No, you have a covenant with Him. He promised to bless you, and He bound himself to His promise. That's the basis of your faith. It eliminates all doubt. Just use your faith to receive what's already yours—what Jesus died to give you.

I invite you to pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am a member of Your body, bone of Your bone and flesh of Your flesh, according to Ezekiel 37. If I am in Christ, then I am Abraham's seed and an heir to the promise You made to Him. Right now, in the name of Jesus, I receive what is mine through faith Jesus. I break the power of the devil over my finances and my life.

Devil, I command you to get out of my life—get out of my finances, and get away from me in the name of Jesus. I am bought with a price.

Thank You, Jesus, for delivering me. Father, I state by faith that whatever I put my hands on will prosper and increase. The blessing is mine. I do not place a limit on my prosperity. I give You the glory and thank You for blessing me in Christ Jesus. I am redeemed from the curse, in Jesus' name. Amen.

5

JESUS DEFEATED THE DEVIL FOR YOU

The Bible tells us that Jesus was made to be sin for us. When He died on the cross, the sin that He bore separated Him from God. So when Jesus died, He went where sinners go—to hell. Ephesians 4:8-10 says, *Wherefore he saith, When he [Jesus] ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

The Bible says very clearly that Jesus went to hell. Some people struggle with that. They

have a hard time believing it, so they try to work their way around it by inventing some other explanation. Let me say it very plainly—Jesus went to hell so you wouldn't have to go.

JESUS CONQUERED HELL

Jesus went to hell as part of God's plan. It wasn't the devil's idea. First Corinthians 2:7,8 says, *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

If the devil had known what was going to happen, he wouldn't have let Jesus be crucified—but he didn't know. That was a real dumb mistake. You see, the devil is not as smart as he tells you he is. He isn't omniscient or omnipresent. He doesn't know everything, and he's not everywhere at the same time. If the devil is so smart, he never would have

taken the Lord of glory into his stronghold. But he did. Jesus went to hell because he died a sinner. He did not sin, but He was made to be sin for you and me.

Something happened down in hell. In some mysterious way, Jesus got to hell before His body began to corrupt in the tomb. Acts 2:27 says, *Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.* Before too much time had passed, God declared Jesus to be righteous because He had not actually sinned. God declared Jesus to be righteous right in the pit of hell.

I'm sure the devil thought he really had things sewed up when he got Jesus down in hell. The devil's crowd was having a great time. Then, right there in the middle of the pit of hell, Jesus was declared righteous and raised up in His righteousness. It was like turning on a light in a darkened room. All of a sudden everything changed.

You need to remember that the devil did not create hell. God created hell. Why?

Before Jesus' death, the righteousness that was afforded to the people under the old covenant was a limited righteousness. The Bible says it was based upon the blood of bulls and goats, and the blood of animals could never wash away a person's sin (see Hebrews 9:12). People like Abraham were never made righteous like you and me—by the blood of Jesus. They had a limited righteousness. So when they died, they could not go directly into the presence of God. Instead, they went to hell, which is described as a waiting place for departed souls.

A WAITING PLACE IN HELL

Jesus talks about hell in Luke 16:19-26:

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's

bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Hell is a waiting place for departed souls. It is a place of torment and a place of comfort. Those who died righteous under the old covenant went to Abraham's bosom, which was in hell but was a place of comfort. Those who died outside of the covenant went to a place of torment. This rich man could see Abraham and Lazarus, but he couldn't get to them. This is the place where Jesus went.

JESUS HOLDS THE KEYS
TO DEATH AND HELL

Can you see the Son of righteousness—God himself—standing in the middle of hell? The first born-again man—the prototype of the new creation—standing in the middle of all the garbage of hell. And what did Jesus do? Colossians 2:15 says, *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he [Jesus] made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* Spoiling an enemy means you take away their goods. You disarm them.

This verse says that Jesus defeated the devil and made a mockery of him. All the devil's generals were sitting there watching. Jesus defeated the devil right in front of all his armies. He made a mockery of the devil right in front of all of them. What do you think Jesus lorded over the devil? The keys to hell and death. In Revelation 1:17,18 Jesus says, *... I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

You can rejoice, my friend, because the devil is completely defeated. He doesn't even have the keys to his own stronghold anymore. His authority has been taken away from him. That's the reason the Bible says the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church (see Matthew 16:18). Jesus marched right in there and plundered the place. He went into Abraham's bosom and took the righteous who were there and led them to heaven. He led captivity captive.

Matthew 27:52,53 tells us that after Jesus died, *...the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

For thousands of years the devil had had the power of the fear of death and had held dominion over man. But that day he lost it. He doesn't have anything to hold over your head anymore. You don't have to be afraid of death or hell. You don't have to be afraid of sin. The power of sin, hell, and death is broken. The devil doesn't have power anymore.

You may say, "Well, if the devil doesn't have any power, then why am I still bound?"

DON'T LET THE DEVIL DECEIVE YOU

MOVE ON OUT

In reality, you're not bound, because the devil doesn't have any authority over you anymore. You think you're bound because the devil is deceiving you into thinking that he still has authority. Through deception, the devil is tripping you up. He's deceiving you and tempting you to do things that he uses against you. The devil doesn't have authority anymore, so he tries to trick you out of your authority.

Let me say it again: He's defeated! He's defeated! He's defeated! What you have to do is learn how to exercise authority over him. That's the reason Jesus made a public display of defeating the devil. He wanted it to be a lesson to you. He wants you to exercise dominion over the devil because it is a right He bought for you with His blood.

It's like sitting in a jail cell with the door

open. The price has been paid. The judge has let you off the hook. You've been acquitted. The guards are standing out in the hallway trying to figure out why you're still sitting in that cell. Friend, it's time to get delivered. It's time to get up and walk out of that jail cell. That's called accepting your salvation. Jesus died to give it to you. It's yours!

Is the devil still exercising dominion over you? Drugs, alcohol, pornography, adultery—all of these are the devil's deceptions. But the good news is: *The power of sin is broken in your life if you belong to Jesus Christ.* He died to free you from the dominion of sin, and it can't hold you captive anymore.

I invite you to pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I thank You that You died for me at Calvary. You paid the price for my sins, and You suffered for me in hell. Now You're raised from the dead. Lord Jesus, You defeated the devil for me. Right now I honor You with my faith.

Devil, I break your power over my life right now in the name of Jesus. I command you in Jesus' name to get out of my life. Get out of my way

because I'm going forward with God. I don't owe you anything. I've been delivered. I am free from your power. Now get out of my life.

Lord Jesus, I thank You for freeing me from the devil's hold on my life. Amen.

In John 10:10, Jesus said, *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* Now that you have a clear picture of all that Jesus provided for you at Calvary, move forward from victory to victory, living the abundant life...and sharing the good news with others.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear Heavenly Father, I humbly come before You now. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He was crucified for my sins, and that He was raised from the grave. I ask You, Jesus, to come into my heart and wash me clean in Your Blood. I am now a new creature in Christ—old things have passed away, and I have been made new. I thank You for Your sacrifice, Jesus, and I will serve You all the days of my life. In the mighty name of Jesus I pray, Amen.