

Finding Hope



Why is life so hard?

Have you ever wondered why there is so much pain in this world? Why there seems to be injustice everywhere? Perhaps you wonder where you belong or question your purpose in life. Troubles like loneliness, illness, shame, worry, rejection, grief, or uncertainty come to all of us. Why can life be so difficult?

The answer lies at the heart of humanity's biggest problem: **sin**.



Sin introduced pain and death into God's good creation when Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God. Sin is when we fail to respond appropriately to our Creator. Sin is when we ignore God and decide for ourselves what is right, wrong, honorable, or shameful. Since Adam and Eve first sinned, all people have tried to live their own way. Sin breaks our relationship with God and others. It negatively impacts everything about life in this world. The Bible reveals we are all sinners and deserve what our sin earns: death and eternal separation from God.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, '... you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'"

GENESIS 2:16-17

"The man said, 'The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.' ... So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken."

GENESIS 3:12-13, 23

"There is no one righteous, not even one; ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

ROMANS 3:10, 23

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

ROMANS 5:12

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

ROMANS 6:23

God has made the way for us to be made right with Him through His Son.



Where can I turn?

The root of humanity's struggle is our separation from God because of sin.

But God has not abandoned His purpose for us. God is the creator. He rules with all authority over all creation—**that includes you!**



Have you ever wondered what you were made for? God made you in His image so you could worship, relate to, and delight in Him. He alone decides what is right and wrong, honorable and shameful because He is holy, perfect, and pure. God has authority over your life, and nothing is more important than how you respond to Him.

Every person is accountable to our all-powerful creator God.

He made us to worship and enjoy Him.

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

GENESIS 1:1, 27

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

EXODUS 20:3

“Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”

LUKE 4:8

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

ROMANS 1:20



What hope is there?

True hope is not found in a life free of trouble and pain.

True hope rests on God's proven love for us and His promise for the future. God loves us so deeply that He offered a remedy for our greatest struggle—separation from Him.



While we were helpless in our sin, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. Jesus suffered and died in our place to restore our relationship with God. He carried our sin so we could know what it means to be friends with God and find eternal hope and security in Him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

MATTHEW 11:28-29

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

JOHN 3:16

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

ROMANS 5:8

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

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

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

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:5

God has made the way for us to be made right with Him through His Son.



How do I respond?

Salvation is a gift that cannot be earned but is received by **grace through faith in Jesus**.

Responding to Christ is not a decision to be delayed or avoided. He wants to show you how to live with Him and for Him today. Now is the time to open your heart to Him. One day it will be too late. Today is the day God is inviting you to turn to Jesus for salvation and new life. Here is how you can respond to God's invitation and receive salvation for yourself:



1.

Believe that Jesus, the perfect Son of God, died on the cross for you.

Jesus died in your place on the cross to carry the punishment for your sin. If you will trust in Him and His perfect sacrifice on your behalf, God will forgive your sins and make you right with Him.

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

ISAIAH 53:5

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

1 PETER 2:24

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”

1 PETER 3:18

2.

Believe that Jesus rose from the dead to bring you from death to life.

Jesus broke the power of sin and death. He rose from the grave and physically went up to the Father in heaven, where He reigns today. Because Jesus overcame death, every person who trusts in Him is transformed and begins a new life as a part of God’s family.

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

ACTS 1:11

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

ROMANS 6:4

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

EPHESIANS 2:4-5



3.

Admit that you are a sinner and turn away from your sin and toward God.

Confess to God that you have disobeyed His will and have not worshipped Him alone as your Creator and Savior. Sin promises pleasure but will never give you peace. Repent (turn from your sin) and turn to God, who knows you, loves you, and has good plans for your life today and for eternity.

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

ACTS 2:38

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

ACTS 3:19

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret.”

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10

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

1 JOHN 1:9

4.

Trust Jesus to forgive you and give you eternal life.

If you truly believe Jesus died for your sin and was raised from the dead, receive Him as Savior and openly confess Him as Lord of your life. He will forgive your sin, give you everlasting life, and make you a child of God forever. That new life begins the day you first believe! If you refuse to trust in Christ, you continue to carry the debt and shame of your sin before God. One day you will face God as your righteous judge and spend eternity separated from Him.

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

JOHN 1:12

“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

JOHN 3:18

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

JOHN 3:36

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

JOHN 5:24

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

ROMANS 8:1



As you respond to God, the words of this prayer
might help you:

“Lord, you are the Creator and the only Savior.
But I have sinned. I have not obeyed your Word. I have
tried to run my own life. I have ignored you and your will
for me. I have tried to decide for myself what is right and
wrong. My sin has earned death and separation from you.
I am lost unless you save me.

Thank you for sending your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ,
to pay for my sin and guilt. Thank you for raising Him from
the dead and giving Him authority over my life. I receive
Him as my Savior and Lord. I receive your gift of eternal
life in Christ. I will turn from my sinful life to serve you.”

Continue your prayer by telling God what you are thinking
and feeling.



Where do I go from here?

Salvation in Christ brings true hope—for today and eternity.
If you have responded to God's invitation in faith, tell someone
about your decision to believe in Christ and follow Him.



God's Holy Spirit lives within those who receive Christ, changing their sinful desires and giving them the power to live differently and give God honor. Find a Bible, open it, and read God's Word. Then find a community of people (a church) who also believe in Jesus. God's people live the life of faith together.

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."

ROMANS 6:22

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

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

"Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"

GALATIANS 4:6

Whether you have put your faith in Jesus or have more questions, we would love to help!

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