



# The Journey of Salvation

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H<sub>2</sub>O  
A Heart of Wisdom

'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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.' Romans 10:9-10

This series we will be studying the journey of salvation. Oftentimes we see salvation as a one-off experience based on certain confessions we have made to accept this gift from Jesus. But there is a journey that goes beyond that initial experience.

Our prayer is that the Lord will grant us all wisdom, revelation and understanding through this series and equip us as we journey with Him.

Stay connected.



## Day 1

### The Original Plan

'Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.' Genesis 1:26-27 (AMP)

To understand the journey of salvation let's start from the original intent of God – what did He have in mind when He created man? We see from the verse above that God created man to be like Him in character and capacity, meaning everything God could do, man would be able to do as well. This is why God was able to give man the instruction to walk in dominion as He was meant to be the reflection of God on earth.

'The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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 2:8,15-17

God gave Adam everything he needed and ensured everything in nature responded to him, so Adam was already equipped to effectively represent God on earth. He had daily fellowship with God and full access to everything. However God gave Adam a clear instruction regarding eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. To paraphrase God said – Don't do it otherwise you will die. When God said this, He wasn't speaking of a natural death, He meant that Adam would die spiritually because this act of disobedience would open the door to sin and separate Adam from God. And anything that distances us from God will ultimately lead to death.

**Reflect:** When God made man, He made him totally in His image and likeness from the start.

## Day 2

### The Deception

'Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"' Genesis 3:1

The most popular tool in the devil's arsenal is deceit and what makes deceit effective is that it is always laced with some fact so it's easier for the person being deceived to accept the information. God never said Adam shall not eat of every tree of the garden, He was very clear and specific that the only no-go area was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But the devil needed an open door to engage Eve and tease a desire out of her and Adam.

'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 2:17

'Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die.' Genesis 3:4

Having engaged, the second thing the serpent did was to outrightly contradict what God said. Essentially what the serpent was doing was trying to re-direct Eve's focus from what God said to what she saw and felt. The greatest deception however was not in the serpent contradicting God, it was in this statement: 'and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil' (Genesis 3:5). Let's go back to the original plan – we know from Genesis 1 26-28 that God made Adam in His image and likeness, so Adam and Eve were already like God. In addition they were given dominion over all of creation. The serpent was offering them something they already had!

But what was the reason for the devil engaging in all this? Just to get 2 people to bite into a fruit? The devil's plan was a lot more strategic and far reaching than this. When God talked about dying, He did not mean that Adam would physically die, but that He would be separated from God because of his disobedience and the devil understood the implications of this which we'll go into more detail on tomorrow.

**Reflect:** It's important that we know for ourselves what God says concerning a matter as we will have many situations in our lives where the devil will put a question in our hearts/minds – "Did God really say?"

## Day 3

### Loss of Dominion

'The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.' Genesis 3:6

Adam and Eve's disobedience to God opened the door to sin and the first thing sin does is to cause a separation between us and God. But beyond this, the act of disobedience also gave the devil what he was really looking for – Adam's right to dominion over the earth. By being separated from God, Adam lost the legal right to dominion and consequently so did all of mankind. The nature of sin entered man and the devil had a legal right to exercise authority over the earth and its inhabitants.

'For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners....' Romans 5:19

'For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.' Psalms 51:5

We all inherited the nature of sin from Adam which is why the psalmist noted that we are born with the sinful nature already in us. So the devil achieved his aim of separating man from God and taking over dominion of the earth which explains why Jesus referred to him as the ruler of this world in John 12:31. This is why the world is in the state of decay we see today– the nature of sin always leads to death.

Someone may ask – but why was God being so harsh when they were deceived? Actually Adam was not deceived, remember he was the one God gave the instructions to directly. So even if Eve was deceived, Adam knew he was being disobedient.

Why then were Adam and Eve driven out of the garden of Eden? It was actually for the benefit of mankind so that God could put in place a redemption plan to bring us back to our original state of fellowship and dominion. If they had eaten of the tree of life (remember they already had access to this tree) then they would have remained in the state of sin forever and redemption would not have been possible. We've laid the foundation for why redemption was necessary and will go into God's plan tomorrow.

**Reflect:** The devil thought he had won, but God already had a redemption plan in place.



## Day 4

### Paid in Full

'Christ Jesus is the One who died [to pay our penalty] ...' Romans 8:34

The fall of Adam led to three major things. First is the nature of sin began reigning in man, second the separation of man from constant fellowship with God and third the loss of spiritual authority. In preparing His redemption plan, God tackled all these through Jesus Christ.

'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Listen carefully, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will call his name Immanuel (God with us).' Isaiah 7:14

'Then the angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a cloud]; for that reason the holy (pure, sinless) Child shall be called the Son of God.' Luke 1:35 AMP

The conception of Christ was the first step in dealing with nature of sin. Because everyone conceived by natural means automatically inherited the sinful nature, Jesus had to be conceived supernaturally. This way he was born without inheriting the nature of sin. Why is this important? Because of God's nature as a just God, sin has to be punished and the punishment for sin is death. Being born without sinful nature qualified Jesus to pay the price for sin on our behalf. No one else could have done so as the sinful nature would have automatically disqualified them.

'But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Galatians 3:13

'For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer.'" Hebrews 10:4-5

When Jesus died on the cross He took our place by paying the ultimate price for whatever sin we may commit. He made full and final payment on our behalf. But this is just part of what He achieved.

**Reflect:** When we plead the blood of Jesus, what we're saying to God is don't look at me, look at the price Jesus paid for me.



## Day 5

### Reconciliation

'You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.' Colossians 2:13-14

When Jesus paid the price for our sins, He also opened the door for us to be reconciled to God by wiping away all the charges against us. God's original plan to have direct fellowship with man was now restored. We no longer need an intermediary to access God, we can come to Him directly.

'At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom...' Matthew 27:51

'But all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ [making us acceptable to Him] and gave us the ministry of reconciliation [so that by our example we might bring others to Him], that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people's sins against them [but canceling them]. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation [that is, restoration to favor with God].' 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

The price Jesus paid gave us the opportunity to access our Father in heaven. Our reconciliation enables us to take on our roles as sons. This is critical because it helps us understand our spiritual position. Reconciliation to God gives us access to all He is and all He has – we are His children.

'So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.' Hebrews 2:11

One of the critical things the price Jesus paid for us gave us is access. When Adam fell, we lost that direct access, but Jesus re-opened that door. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and saviour makes us members of His family and gives us access to everything Jesus is and has. As Jesus is, so we are (1 John 4:17), so we can represent Him accurately on earth. But the question someone may ask is how come I am not experiencing this reality yet? We will tackle that in the next devotional.

**Reflect:** The price Jesus paid for us opened the door for us to become His family and joint heirs with Him. We are joint heirs with Him and have direct access to Him.



## Day 6

### Restored Authority

'For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.' Ephesians 2:6

In reconciling us to God, Jesus also repositioned us spiritually. By being joint heirs with Him, we are seated with Jesus far above everything that once had authority over us. We are no longer slaves to sin or under the dominion of demonic powers, rather we are far above them. But if we don't know where we are seated, we will continue to act as though Jesus hasn't already paid the price for our re-positioning.

'far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church' Ephesians 1:21-22

'We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.' Romans 6:6-7

This isn't something Jesus is going to do, it's what He has already accomplished for and in us. Someone may say, if that's the case, why am I not living in this reality? Why am I still being oppressed? It's important to understand that the devil and his cronies are very sneaky and do not fight fair. They know exactly what Jesus has done for us. And they also know when we don't yet comprehend the extent of the authority that a believer has. When we come against a situation in the name of Jesus with the understanding of what that name is and what the blood of Jesus has done for us, the spiritual forces have no choice but to respond to the authority that we **Know** we carry.

'You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.' I John 4:4

'Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.' James 4:7

**Reflect:** Jesus paid the price so you can carry His authority. Are you walking in it?





## Day 7

### Journey to Sonship

'See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.' 1 John 3:1

We are God's children and our salvation affirms our identity in Christ. We are Christ's brothers and he calls us brethren. Jesus paid the price to open the door to sonship for us. As we walk through that door and take on the role of sons, we also take on the nature that comes with sonship.

'For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.' Galatians 3:26

'But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.' John 1:12

'Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.' Galatians 4:7

What Jesus did for us was a gift, we can never do anything to earn it. As joint heirs with Him, we now have the opportunity to access all He has and be transformed to His image. Walking in the fruit of the Holy Spirit is now a possibility for us because we have a helper who takes us on the journey of sonship, constantly moulding and shaping our character and mindset.

'Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think...' Romans 12:2

This transformation is progressive and does not happen overnight. Receiving the gift of salvation brings an immediate transformation to our spirit, but our minds and characters will be transformed progressively as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit. This is why when we receive the gift of the salvation, some bad habits don't immediately disappear. However, as we journey closely and consistently with the Holy Spirit it becomes easier to let go of certain things as He transforms our minds, tastes and habits.

**Reflect:** Are we cooperating with the Holy Spirit to transform our nature to reflect that of our heavenly Father?



## Day 8

### Discipleship

'Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' Matthew 11:29

When we receive the gift of salvation, we begin the journey of discipleship – following Jesus in His ways and allowing Him to be Lord over our lives. As we yield daily to His teaching, refinement and transformation, we begin to look more like Jesus while we're here on earth. It's a lifelong journey we have embarked upon.

'He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross...' Malachi 3:3

'So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.' Galatians 5:16

The process of transformation may not always be pleasant and there may be times we will resist what the Holy Spirit is asking us to do. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is prompting you to forgive someone you're justified in being angry with. Or He's asking you to let go of friends, opportunities, environments you'd prefer to hold on to. When we're faced with these struggles, it may help us to keep in mind the ultimate goal – to look like Christ! The door of access is open, but the process of transformation requires our cooperation.

The extent to which the Holy Spirit can move in us is dependent on how much room we give Him. If we consistently resist Him, He will be there, but we won't allow Him full expression in our lives. Ultimately this may lead to us living lives that aren't reflecting the fullness of all Jesus has made available to us.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus I thank you for all you have purchased for me through your death and resurrection. I acknowledge that there are still parts of my life that I haven't totally surrendered to your lordship. I ask for grace to yield these areas to you, so my life can be fully conformed in your image and I can walk in the fullness of all you have made available to me.



## Day 9

### Responsibility

'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.' Romans 8:19

As children grow, parents begin to place responsibilities on them. From simple to more complex tasks based on the capacity and maturity of the child in question. This is the same with our heavenly Father. As we walk with Him, He gives us responsibilities that we have to demonstrate our faithfulness in executing. It's important we understand that God rewards faithfulness not visibility. The fact that God may ask you to do something that no one may ever see or know doesn't make that assignment/instruction any less important than the one that others may know about.

'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' Matthew 28:19 AMP

'For we are God's fellow workers...' I Corinthians 3:9

When Jesus laid down His life, He did it so that everyone would have access to eternal life and be saved from eternal damnation. He has done His part. As His fellow workers, we each have a part to play in spreading the news about what Jesus has done and he has equipped us accordingly. Our roles and platforms may be as diverse as we are, but the goal is the same.

'In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.' Romans 12:6-8 NLT

**Reflect:** Everyone of us has an ability we can use to spread the news of what Jesus has done for all. Why not ask the Lord to show you what role you can play and how to use what He's given you to advance His kingdom?



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