



FREE TICKET TO
HEAVEN

LOVE LIKE JESUS MINISTRY

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**"Unlocking the Afterlife: Exploring Heaven, Hell,
and the Path to Certainty Through Jesus Christ!"**

**By Jas Sira of
LOVE LIKE JESUS MINISTRY**

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INTRODUCTION

Opening Prayer

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I pray that everything I communicate comes from your Holy Spirit and not my carnal mind.

I ask that it comes from your Spirit of Truth and leads the Reader into Truth and your Eternal Life.

I pray that the reader realises how much you love them and yearn to seek and draw to you more than a thirsty man who seeks water in the desert.

I pray that you prepare their hearts to receive and accept you as God.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen



CHAPTER ONE

Heaven Or Hell?

Many people do not want to talk or think about the one definite 100% certainty that will happen- Death.

This is because most people are afraid of uncertainty and do not like to think about the unknown.

However, the good news that the Bible gives us is that those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will have eternal life through him.

Before beginning, I want to point out that no one has the right to judge or condemn except God. Therefore, nobody can say for certain who and who will not go to Hell.



What we do know and say is what the Bible tells us:

Matthew 7:13-14 NIV

The Narrow and Wide Gates

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Here, the Bible clearly tells us that most people will end up in Hell, and this verse also tells us that we need to FIND the narrow road that leads to life.

Jesus tells us,

"I am the way, the Truth, and life and no one comes to the Father except through me."

The Bible tells us that all those who do not accept Jesus will end up in Hell. Accepting Jesus means accepting the Holy Spirit of God, following His Commandments, and being obedient.

Romans 6:23 ESV

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

The following Bible verses indicate to us that there is a great danger of unforgiven sin:

Mark 9:43 ESV

"And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to Hell, to the unquenchable fire."

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

Here, the Bible clearly tells us that those who do not do the will of the Father- God's will, will end up in Hell.

Hebrews 10:26-31 ESV

“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ...

To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him forever by choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called "HELL."

Hell is a brutal and painful place where the sinner spends an Eternity, and no repentance or cries will be heard.

Revelation 20:14-15 ESV

“Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Romans 2:6-8 ESV

“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”

Once a person is in Hell, there is no getting out; it is the end.

Those refusing to think about life after death must remember that the body dies, but the soul lives.

Our Soul is eternal, and it has feelings and emotions.

We do not have to receive physical pain in the body to be hurt or in pain.

The pain to the soul lingers on much longer.

When a person loses a loved one or goes through a breakup, it is their soul that is grieved.

So when one ends up in Hell, the suffering of the soul is eternal.

Your soul is the real you.

So, do you want an eternity in Heaven or Hell?



CHAPTER TWO

Saying The Sinner's Prayer Is Not Enough to Be Saved

I used to think that getting someone to repeat the sinner's prayer after me meant that they were saved.

I was so wrong.

Many people say the sinners pray, but it is just lip service.

The Bible says:

Romans 10:9-10 ESV

"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth, one confesses and is saved."

In the first part of this verse, the Bible tells us to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord.

What does the Lord mean?

Lord, in its general sense, means to own and have power over, e.g. a landlord.

We are God's creation; therefore, He owns us, as He is the Sovereign King of Kings.

But how wonderful is God when Jesus promotes us from just being servants to being His friends?

John 15:15 NIV

“¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

How beautiful is it that Jesus is calling us, the very people He died for, His friends?

We need to understand that God sent Jesus on earth to die for our sins.

Such is the love of God. He sent His “sinless” beloved Son to die for His “sinful” children.

John 3:16-18 ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

We need to first repent of our sins and ungodly life to continually walk in the Spirit.



CHAPTER THREE

What Do We Need To Do To Be Saved From Hell?

Repentance

To repent means to be sorry and remorseful for our actions. However, the call to repent in the Bible means to not only be sorry and remorseful of our sins but also take action to change our sinful ways.

When we rededicate our lives to God, we have to live, love, walk, talk, and do as Christ did or would do.

It means to give up our old habits and ways.

Matthew 6:24-26 AMP

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].”

The Bible is very clear here that to truly repent, we must change our old ways.



2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

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

Colossians 3:10 NIV

“and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

This means we have to stop and remove sin from our lives.

From the verse, you cannot serve 2 masters, you cannot have one foot in the world and one foot with God,

When I gave my life to Christ, I removed myself from all WhatsApp Groups where porn videos and crude jokes were sent.

I had to stop the things that were causing me to sin, be it drinking, drugs, or certain groups of friends.

I had to ask myself the question of what was more important, God or my sinful habits and possessions that were against God.

When we live a Godly life, we have to give up many things that we once loved.

But when giving them up, we need to ask ourselves why God wants us to give them up.

Is it good for us to continue doing these things?

For example, I had to give up much of my music collection and stop listening to secular music.

Secular music is often songs promoting violence and gang warfare, taking the Tupac and Notorious BIG rivalry.

Songs like Tupac's Hit Em Up, and LL Cool J's I'm Going To Knock You Out and Mamma Said Knock You Out would get me in a violent mood.

Also, there are many songs full of lustful lyrics.

When you are out clubbing or in a bar, these songs get you in a lustful mood.

We have to be careful with what we watch as we start to act like our favourite actors.

We have to be very careful what our eyes see and ears hear, as they have a great influence over our lives.

These pop and cinema celebrities quite often become our idols.

We become obsessed with them, spending every spare moment watching, listening to or adulating these celebrities with whom we fall in love.

When we turn to God, we need to decide whether we are going to feed the lust of our outer man (i.e. physical body) or the need of our inner man (i.e. our Soul and Spirit).

The Bible tells us:

Galatians 5:17 New American Standard Bible

“¹⁷ For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, to keep you from doing whatever you want.”

For example, Our Spirit will tell us to get up and pray early in the morning, but our flesh will encourage us to stay asleep.

Our Spirit will say go to Church and worship with the Body Of Christ together on Sunday. Whereas the flesh will remind you that the Liverpool vs Manchester United game is on, and you cannot miss that for Church. It will tell you that you support Liverpool, and one day of missing Church is not going to hurt.

It may not hurt you, but it will hurt God, who has been waiting for you all week.

Therefore, choosing God is to choose what is truly good and holy.

The things of sin only give you temporary joy.

Drinking ruins your bank account and liver and makes you do things you normally would not.

Drugs get you hooked and addicted, then ruin your life.

Sexual immorality, such as cheating on your husband or wife, causes much pain and breaks homes and lives.

Sins always catch up with us at some point, and we have to pay a heavy price for sin, which normally means eternity in Hell unless we repent and turn to Jesus.

Giving our life to Christ, even though He died for our sins, past, present and future, does not give us the license to sin.



CHAPTER FOUR

Once Saved, Always Saved Message

We must be very careful when banking on God's grace to get us into Heaven.

I believe that there are a few remnants that are God's chosen ones who will make it to Heaven as God has created them for His purpose and glory. Examples of such the chosen ones are Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Peter, and Paul, to name a few of the great heroes of the Bible.

All these men sinned but repented and had a heart for God, so they are in Heaven.

Grace does not give us the license to sin, and those who continue to sin without regret or remorse or the need to repent need to ask themselves whether or not they are actually saved in the first place.

"Once saved, always saved" advocates will recite Bible verses such as:

John 15:16 NIV

“¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Anyone who believes in the “once saved, always saved” message should be walking in the Spirit at the very least, and God should be No 1 in their lives.

We need to realise that our fight with Sin will continue till the day we die.

Being Born Again does not mean that you will stop sinning.

You may have certain strongholds and addictions which will only break with prayer, fasting, and time.

Therefore, it is important to walk and be led by the Holy Spirit of God and not by the unholy spirits of the Devil.

It is imperative for us to be connected with the Lord and recognise that without the Holy Spirit of God guiding us to Heaven, the Devil will misguide us to Hell. Furthermore, without the Holy Spirit leading us to Heaven, the Devil will mislead us to Hell.

I have gone into greater detail about how we should be leading our Christian lives in my other book, “Not Every Christian That Calls Themselves a Christian Will Go to Heaven, Most Will Go to Hell... So What Must I Do To Maintain My Salvation?”



CHAPTER FIVE

Maintain Your Salvation

To summarise, you must do the following things to maintain your salvation and walk with the Spirit now that you have dedicated your life to Christ.

Get baptised as commanded by Christ; be baptised by Water and Spirit.

We have all been called to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations.

This requires us to know the Gospels and the Word of God, to know and understand the ways of God, and what upsets and pleases him.

Spend time with God each day in prayer and worship, and seek Him through His Word- the Bible.

Just develop the daily habit of praying to Him and reading His Word.

Ask the Holy Spirit of God to increase your faith and understanding of the Bible.

Seek fellowship with other followers of Jesus as the Bible tells us:

Proverbs 27:17 NIV

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”

James 5:16 ESV

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

Galatians 6:2 ESV

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

1 Corinthians 7:5 ESV

“Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so

that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”



CHAPTER SIX

We all have different gifts and purposes.

Just as the eyes are to see, the ears to hear, our tongue to speak, our legs to walk, and so forth, in the same way, our different gifts are like different parts of the body, and when we come together, we make up the body of Christ.

We are the body of Christ, and we are the Church and not the physical buildings we call the Church.

Therefore, we must come together with fellow Believers to function as the body of Christ.

Can you see the importance of the gathering of the Saints?

When we are on our own, the Devil has a field day with us and will devour and eat us up alive.

Just as the predator lion awaits, lying in the grass for the sheep to wander from the flock or for its prey to move away from the herd, it pounces, attacks, and devours.

In the same way, the Devil is looking to break up the Church- the Body of Christ.

Carefully choose whom you will fellowship with, for those who belong to God and Christ will be known by their fruits.

Paul writes in the book of Galatians 5 NIV

Life by the Spirit

“¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^[b] ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They conflict with each other so that you are not to do whatever^[c] you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and

witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.”

Make sure the people you fellowship help you grow in the Spirit and grow closer to God, not away from God.

These people will love you and be there for you unconditionally with no expectations, as they consider loving and caring for you their duty.

Find a local church that looks to make disciples out of nations and not just Church members to put bums on seats to collect tithes and offerings to fill the pockets of the leaders.

The Church should be disciplining you, have Bible Studies, fellowship meetings etc.



CHAPTER SEVEN

Final Prayer

Jesus Christ told us, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

We serve a God who has given us free will. He would never force himself on anyone.

If we come to Him, He wants us to come out of love.

You may not know Jesus, but He knows you.

He is waiting for you to open the doors of your heart so that you can be saved from eternal death and Hell.

Revelation 3:20 ESV

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

SINNER'S PRAYER

Sinner's Prayer? That is not for me - I'm Not a Sinner!

"Sinner" is a word that gets a bad rap these days, and well, it should.

Unfortunately, the bad rap it is getting is for the wrong reasons.

Confronted with our shortcomings, we are quick to defend ourselves with words like, "I'm not a sinner! I do not go around sinning! I've never murdered anyone or anything like that!" The problem is we do not really know what the word *sin* means.

We think it only applies to some despicable act that repulses "church people" who want to hang big scarlet letters around our necks.

Nevertheless, sin simply means to miss the mark or fall short of the goal.

The fact is, we are all sinners, for there is no one, except Christ, who has lived a life that did not in some way fall short of the perfection God requires.

We all deserve to pay the penalty for that sin, which is to spend eternity in Hell.

Sinner's Prayer - What the Bible Says About Sin

According to the Bible, sin is any action that violates the law given by God in the Ten Commandments.

God gave the law to show us what it means to live a life deserving of God's love.

It was also given to show us that none of us can live that kind of life.

God knew that in advance, and that is why He sent His Son Jesus to be that perfect life for us.

Jesus, God in human flesh, voluntarily laid aside His Godhood to connect with us and show us He understands us and to give us a way to be reconciled to the Father since none of us can keep the law to its letter.

"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Some say that sin is two letters, "s" and "n", with "l" in the middle.

We elevate ourselves, and we live in a time when that thinking is being promoted.

Sin may be something we cannot be free of, but the good news is we can be free of its penalty.

"For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23)

Sinner's Prayer - Become A Sinner Saved By Grace!

What is the key to the Sinner's Prayer? As long as we are content to live in sin, the Bible says we are separated from God.

That condition may seem fine for a while, but it ultimately leads to misery and then to eternal separation from God.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 16:25).

The good news is that God Himself has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him, and He has done this through His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:6-15).

What about you? Are you content to live for yourself, get the most toys, and die anyway?

Or do you want a life of purpose and hope? God, the One who created you, has a purpose for your life and wants to give you a new beginning.

If you are ready to admit your need for a clean slate in life, the God of second chances is waiting to give it to you.

All you have to do is start with the Sinner's Prayer.

Sinner's Prayer - Recognising the Need

The "Sinner's Prayer" is a term that describes the words spoken by a person when he or she has recognised their sin and their need for a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Now, say the following prayer:

"Father, I know that I have broken your laws, and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, just as I forgive those who have sinned against and hurt me. I hold no grudge or enmity with anyone, please help me to avoid sinning again. I believe that your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign

in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You and to do Your will for the rest of my life.

Lord, I pray that you take away my old heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh that follows your commands all the days of my life as written in Ezekiel 36.26.

I pray the same as the psalmist in Psalm 143:10. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good Spirit lead me on a level path.

Lord, I pray that you teach and empower me to trust you with all my heart and not to lean on my understanding and acknowledge you in everything I do.

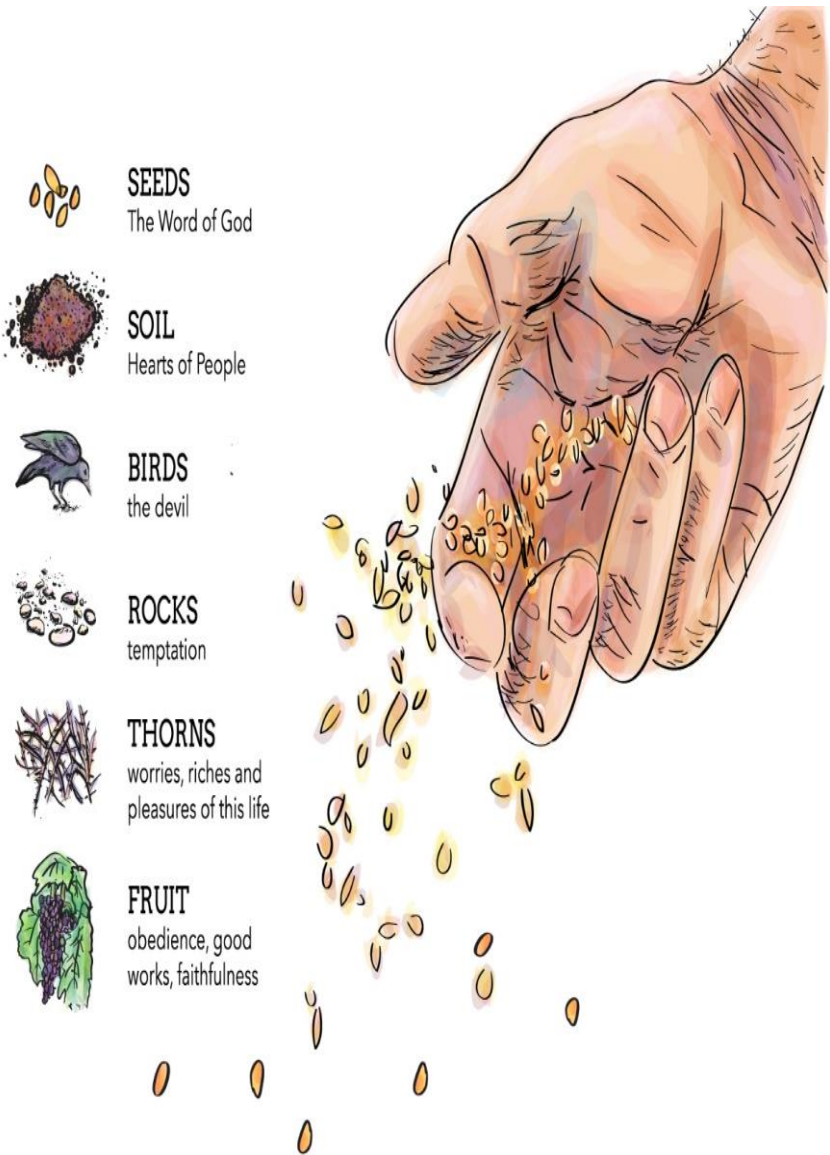
Lord, make me righteous and holy before you.

Never leave nor forsake me. Let me dwell in your house forever, and let your goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life.

Lord, crucify my former self and give me a new birth as your Child.

Lord, use me mightily for your glory.

I pray and ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.”



WARNING: In The Parable Of The Sower – DO NOT LET THE DEVIL TAKE YOUR SEED AWAY

Saying the Sinner's Prayer is not enough, Jesus warns us this is the parable of the Sower in

Mark 4 13:20

¹³Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

When Jesus was explaining the meaning of this parable to His Disciples, He quite clearly pointed out that when we evangelizeevangelize and share the Word of God with people, it will have the following effects;

It will fall on deaf ears for many, i.e. the Devil has such a grip on them that it will go in one ear and out of the other.

Some will like what they hear, even agree with what the Word says, but because they do not Repent of their sins and make any real attempt to change and accept God's Word. This tends to be people who are in some form of bondage to sin. It could be through addiction or some form of abuse that they had because they have not fully given their problem over to God, and the Devil lures them back into his dark world.

This also includes people from other religions or cultures. As soon as people from their past criticise or persecute them for thinking of following Jesus, they quickly go back to their old way of living.

Then there is a category of believers that hear the Word, but are weak in the faith because they think coming to Church on a Sunday is enough. This is the category of believers for whom I was inspired to write this book. This category of people only have a relationship with God on a

Sunday for 2 or 3 Hours whilst in Church, then walk back into the worldly ways as soon as they leave Church.

What they hear in Church sounds good only when in Church, the worries of the world drag them away from God, and their excuses are,

“I have bills to pay and a family to support. Does God not get that?” Then “I need a bit of time to myself” and a long list of other excuses.

We have 24 hours in a day, of which we spend 8 hours at work, leaving 16 hours. From those 16 hours, we can not spare any time for the Lord. Even if it was 30 minutes of reading our Bibles, 15 minutes of worshipping God, and 15 minutes of praying, it equates to 1 hour.

We can not even find 1 hour for God.

Hence, this category, which is most Christians, fails to bear fruits, if any at all.

Then, some are obedient to the Lord and His Word and are able to bear good fruit and multiply and share with others. These people put God first and recognise that they are nothing without God, and God provides for these kinds of people.

Many of us have gone lukewarm towards God and gotten too caught up in worldly affairs. As said earlier, I believe most of us are the 3rd type of seed that grows with the weed, and the Bible verses for us are:

Revelation 3:15-16 ESV

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

Jesus tells us that lukewarm Christians will be thrown into the lake of fire, i.e. Hell.

Most of us need to really take a look at ourselves and question our salvation.

These days, people worship the Church leaders and think that only the Leaders have access to God. We ALL have access to God because of Jesus's sacrifice.

Ephesians 2:18 ESV

“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

God desires a relationship with us directly. This is proven in:

Revelation 3:20 ESV

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

God is waiting, knocking on the door of our hearts, hoping that we will let Him in.

God loves us so much that He knows that sin separates us from Him, so He sent His sinless Son- Jesus, to die for us, His sinful children.

John 3:16-17 ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Romans 5:8 ESV

“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Such is His love for us, and we struggle to give Him time, which “He” has given to us and “He” can take away. Such is our ignorance and wickedness that we continue to ignore Him in pursuit of worldly possessions that we will not be able to take.

Many people think that going to Church and following the Leaders of the Church is enough.

But the Prophet Hosea warned us in,

Hosea 4 6 – NIV

“my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

I often have tried to reason with myself on how God can allow people to go to Hell if they have been misled by false teachers or prophets.

It is wrong for me to judge and bring people into condemnation and say that these types will go to Hell, but I think these types of people are playing a risky game of Russian Roulette.

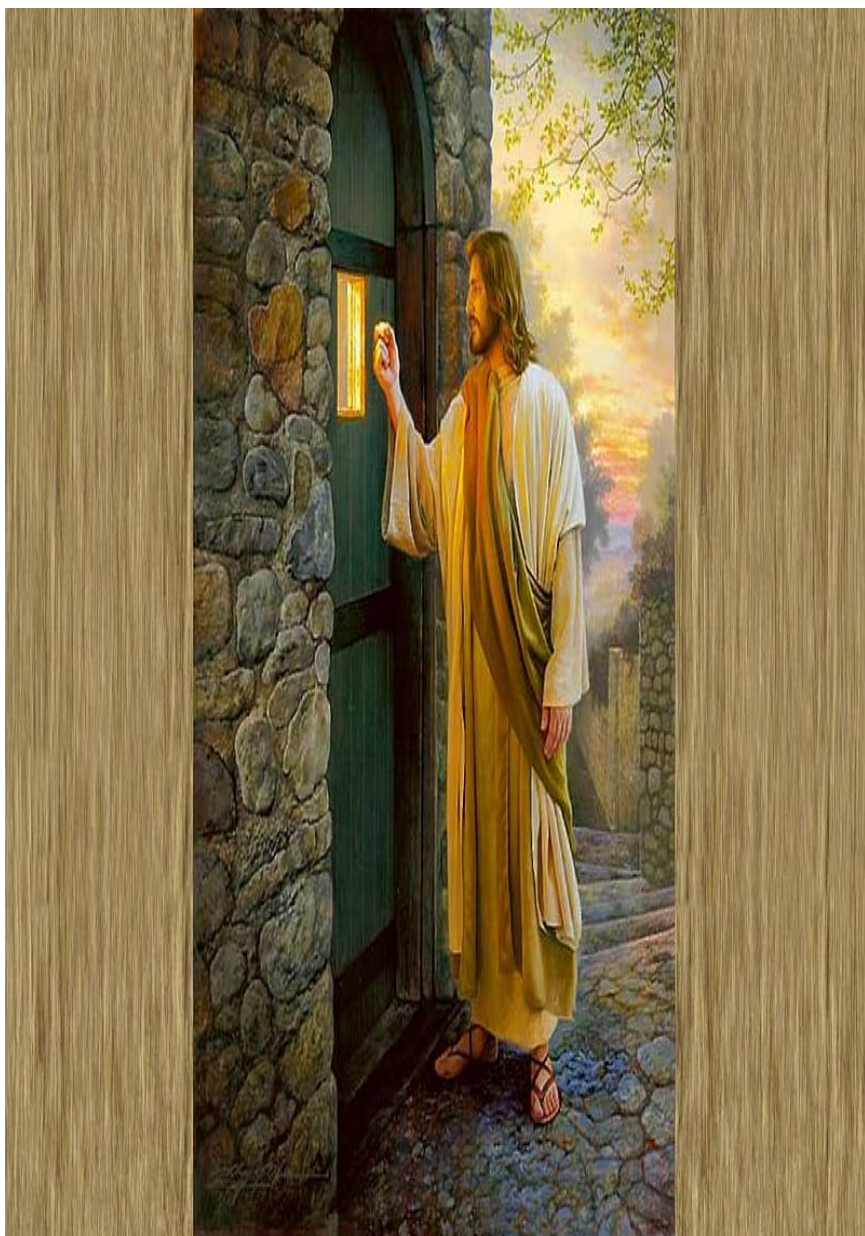
God looks at our heart and motive when judging. These can be seen in these scriptures:

1 Samuel 16:7 **ESV**

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Jeremiah 17:10 **ESV**

“I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”



CHAPTER EIGHT

Being Baptised By Water, Holy Spirit & Fire

In the following verses, the Bible tells us the importance of baptism.

John 3:5 ESV

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when the Spirit of God comes upon a believer. The Holy Spirit fills the believer's mind with a genuine understanding of truth, takes possession of the believer's abilities, and imparts gifts that qualify the believer for service in the body of Christ.

Mark 16:16 ESV

“Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Matthew 28:19 ESV

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 3:11 mentions three types of baptism. One is called a baptism of fire. What exactly is the baptism of fire? Should you seek this kind of baptism?

John the Baptist told a large crowd that had gathered where he was baptising, “I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

“He who is coming after me” was referring to Jesus Christ. So John was saying that he was baptising with water and Jesus would (in the future) baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

This did not mean that Jesus would abolish and replace water baptism. John the Baptist meant that *in addition* to water baptism, Jesus would add two outcomes that could only come from God- the Holy Spirit and fire.

So, what are the three types of baptism in the Bible?

Water baptism.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism of fire.

This is why, many years later, the author of Hebrews lists “baptisms” (plural) as one of the foundational doctrines of the Church of God (Hebrews 6:2).

The word *baptise* comes from a Greek word that means “to immerse.” John was immersing people in the water of the Jordan River. That is what water baptism literally means- the complete immersion of a human body in water for “the remission of sins” (Mark 1:4). Immersion in water symbolises the burial of the “old man” and the forgiveness of past sin.

But what exactly did John mean when he said Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire? What is the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of fire?



What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Roughly 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus Christ appeared to the apostles and told them that they would soon be “baptised with the Holy Spirit” (Act 1:5).

Jesus’ statement was fulfilled a few days later on the Day of Pentecost when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4, emphasis added throughout). This was the fulfilment of what John the Baptist and Jesus had said would happen. This was the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Before this time, when people were baptised by a servant of God, they only were baptised for the forgiveness of sins. Beginning on the Day of Pentecost, a new element was added to Christian baptism- the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Later, the book of Acts reveals that the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” takes place after a person is baptised in water for the forgiveness of sins through a ceremony called the laying on of hands.

We see an example of this process in Acts 19. When Paul was in Ephesus, he came across a group of disciples who, he discovered, had not experienced a full Christian baptism.

But after they learned the fullness of the gospel, Paul helped them take the next steps:

First, “they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus” (verse 5). This was water baptism by immersion, whereby they accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and received forgiveness for their sins.

Second, “Paul ... laid hands on them, [and] the Holy Spirit came upon them” (verse 6). This completed the baptism process and provided them with the Holy Spirit. This was a baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Did the baptism of fire also occur on Pentecost?

Some people believe that on the Day of Pentecost, the baptism with fire also took place. This is based on a misunderstanding of Acts 2:3: “Then there appeared to them divided tongues, *as of fire*, and one sat upon each of them.” But notice that these were tongues “as of” fire, not literal fire.

Luke, the author of Acts, used fire as an image to describe this miracle to his readers. The Bible does not describe “tongues, as of fire” appearing on Christians baptised after this. This was a unique miracle that happened on this special occasion.

When something happens for the first time in the Bible, God often performs a dramatic miracle to draw attention to it. That is what was happening with these believers on the Day of Pentecost.

This leads us to an important point: Jesus did not introduce a baptism with the Holy Spirit *and* fire. The Bible shows that He introduced two distinct and separate baptisms: the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of fire. The baptism of fire is something totally separate from water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Confusion about this has led some people to desire fire to be a part of their baptism. Some have said, “I want that baptism with the Spirit and fire!”

Let us now discover exactly what it means to be baptised with fire. As we will see, the baptism of fire is something nobody should desire to experience!

What is baptism by fire?

What does it mean to be baptised by fire?

We learn the answer by reading the context of John the Baptist's statement about Jesus baptising "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). Right before the statement, he talked about what will ultimately happen to those who do not "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (verse 8).

John was talking about the commitment to change, which is proof of repentance. Real repentance is a necessary starting place for developing a righteous character that would result from having the Holy Spirit. Years later, Paul wrote about the link between fruit and the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Notice what John said about those not bearing fruit: "And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matthew 3:10).

A few verses later, he said, "He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (verse 12). John warned that fire would be the fate of those who refused to repent and "bear good fruit."

This refers to the final punishment for unrepentant people after Jesus Christ's return and 1,000-year rule on earth. Revelation 20:15 tells us that unrepentant people will be "cast into the lake of fire."

This is what the baptism of fire is. The baptism of fire is being immersed in the lake of fire. Unlike water baptism, which is immersion in water to "newness of life" (Romans 6:4), the baptism of fire is immersion in fire that results in eternal death (Romans 6:23). This is the "everlasting punishment" that Jesus later referred to (Matthew 25:46).

What does the Bible say about eternal punishment?

The baptism of fire is also referred to in Revelation 21:8: "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

This scripture gives us a basic listing of sinful character traits that will not allow a person to receive eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Those who ultimately refuse to repent of those things will experience the baptism of fire or the second death, eternal death in the lake of fire.

This was also prophesied by Malachi hundreds of years before John wrote the book of Revelation. “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up” (Malachi 4:1).

The baptism with fire will be the destruction of incorrigible sinners who refuse to repent. Some of these people are described in Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-27.

God also destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone for their sins. The difference is that the people who perished in Sodom and Gomorrah will be resurrected in the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-12; see also Matthew 11:23-24).

On the other hand, the Bible shows that those who are destroyed in the lake of fire will be destroyed forever. They will not be cruelly tormented in Hell for eternity but will be mercifully destroyed and cease to exist.”

In fact, Jesus is the One who will authorise the destruction of the incorrigibly wicked in the lake of fire. This point is illustrated in Matthew 13:40-42 in the parable of the

tares. The sinners will be immersed or engulfed in the lake of fire.

Now That You Have Said the Sinner's Prayer, These Are the Next Steps to Make

Find a Bible Believing Church that believes in the Trinity of God, a Church that offers Bible Study that is looking to turn you into a Disciple, not just a Church Member, a church where you can grow in the Spirit.

Get Baptised in Water, Fire, and Spirit.

We have all been called to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations. In order to do this, we need to know the Gospels and the Word of God to know and understand the ways of God, what upsets and pleases Him.

Spend time with God each day in prayer, worship and seek Him through His Word, i.e. the Bible.

Develop the daily habit of praying to Him and reading His Word.

Ask the Holy Spirit of God to increase your faith and your understanding of the Bible.

Seek fellowship with other followers of Jesus. The Bible tells us Hebrews 10:25, “do not forsake the company of the saints.”

Welcome to the family of the Father, Son, the Holy Spirit, and the God Most High.

Suggested Apps

- **Holy Bible – You Version**
- **Daily Audio Bible**

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