



# **New Life**

**A look at the New Life  
that Jesus offers**

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## **Could life be better?**

On a scale of 1 to 10 (where 10 is 'Life just could not be any better'), where do you rate your own life? As you have picked up this booklet, I suspect you might rate it well below 10.

If you are tired of your life as it is now and if you are serious about wanting a fresh start, then there is no better news than this: it is precisely what God wants for you too.

## **With God, life *will* be better**

God offers us a fresh start because He loves us: He loves us more than we can possibly imagine. That should not surprise us for He created us in His own image, in order that we might live in harmony with Him.

Sadly, things went wrong from the very beginning: Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. And every person who has ever lived (apart from Jesus) has inherited Adam's rebellious nature.

God is absolutely pure and righteous and hates everything which is impure. That includes not only the things we have done, of which we are only too ashamed, but also our everyday failings (including our thoughts) which do not trouble our consciences.

Whether we think that we are doing really well or whether we know we have completely messed up – or whether we fall somewhere in between – one thing is certain: we have all failed to meet God's standard. We must not fall into the trap of measuring ourselves against others. It is God's standard that counts.

***The Bible tells us:***

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Romans 3:23**

God cannot simply turn a blind eye to our sin: He is just and demands justice. And justice demands punishment.

## God's justice and mercy

But God is loving and merciful and does not want to punish us. So He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment in our place. Jesus willingly surrendered His life to satisfy the need for justice. Out of obedience to His Father and out of love for us, He endured the most brutal and horrific death by crucifixion.

### *The Bible tells us:*

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**

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**

Two days after Jesus died, God raised Him to life again. Because Jesus took our sin upon Himself, and paid the penalty for it, God is able to show us mercy by forgiving our sins and offering us a fresh start. And He will not simply patch up our old life but will give us a new life – a new beginning – and it is available to everyone who will receive it.

Sadly, there will be no mercy for those who continue in their rebellion against God: they will face His judgment when Jesus returns to earth to judge every person who has ever lived.

***The Bible tells us:***

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**



## Jesus, Son of God

The Son of God has always existed: He was in heaven with His Father before the very beginning of creation. Then, just over 2,000 years ago, He took on human form when He was born to a virgin. He was given the name, Jesus, meaning 'rescue' or 'save'<sup>1</sup>, for that was God's plan – that Jesus should save us from our sin.

Jesus Himself said that He was the only way by which anyone can get right with the Father:

### ***The Bible tells us:***

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

**John 14:6**


At the age of 33, Jesus fulfilled His mission as He willingly sacrificed His own life to rescue us from the punishment our sin deserves.

After two days He rose from the dead and, after forty days, went back to be with His Father in heaven.

<sup>1</sup>Matthew 1:21



## New Life with God now

 **a new identity** – a new creation ‘in Christ’.

### ***The Bible tells us:***

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

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

 **a new status** – adoption into God’s family.

### ***The Bible tells us:***


For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

**Colossians 1:13**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!  
And that is what we are!

**1 John 3:1a**

## As children of God, we will enjoy:

 **a new peace** – no longer an enemy of God and condemned; now reconciled and forgiven.


### ***The Bible tells us:***

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, ...

**Colossians 1:21-23a**

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

**Romans 8:1**

 **a new hope** – no longer without hope; now securely anchored to God.


***The Bible tells us:***

... you were separate from Christ ... without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you ... have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**Ephesians 2:12-13**

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

**Hebrews 6:19a**


 **a new helper** – God's Holy Spirit who lives within us to comfort, teach, help and strengthen us.

***The Bible tells us:***

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

**John 14:26 (ESV)**

## New Life with God forever

 **a new destiny** - as a child of God, we have the promise of a place in heaven.

### *The Bible tells us:*

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

**1 Peter 1:3b-4**

Contrary to popular belief, a place in heaven is not a reward for good people. As we have already seen, no one is good by God's standard. Heaven is for those who have their identity in Christ.

## **The cost of this New Life**

Yes, there is a cost to the life that Jesus offers and no one should sign up for it without understanding what it involves. Jesus makes a big demand upon those who want to be His disciple: He has to be at the very centre of their life.

It may mean giving up some of our interests and relinquishing – or losing – some of our relationships: living to please Jesus must always be our overriding priority. We may even have to accept opposition from our own family.

We will also find that we have a new enemy – Satan – as we abandon his kingdom of darkness. He will do all he can to tempt us back to our old life. But God, by His Holy Spirit living within us, will help us to resist him.

As a follower of Jesus we will still encounter the disappointments, struggles and stresses that are a normal part of life. Problems we are facing will not suddenly disappear.

But the cost is nothing compared with what we gain – a life of purpose and meaning now and the peace of knowing that we will be safe with God forever.

## **Ready to receive this New Life?**

If you are ready to receive this New Life, you can do so by 'repenting', which means:

- confessing your sins to God and asking Him to forgive you, and
- turning your back on your old ways and, with God's help, starting to live His way.

To do that you can pray this prayer.



Dear Father God,

I am so sorry for everything in my life, past and present, which is not right. I want to stop living that way. I want a new life.

Thank You for sending Jesus to die in my place, for my sins, in order to save me from the punishment which I deserve. I want to live to please Jesus and to make Him the centre of my life – to be my King.

So please forgive all my sins and accept me as Your child. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit to help me live this new life which Jesus offers.

Amen

If you have been sincere in praying that prayer, God welcomes you into His family as His child. Do not worry if you do not feel any different. An important lesson to learn is not to rely on your feelings but on God's promises in the Bible.

One of those promises is expressed in this hymn:

*O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.<sup>1</sup>*

You should now tell someone – a chaplain or church leader – that you have become a Christian (a child of God) and ask them to help you to begin reading the Bible. Join a Bible study group if you can.

It is also important to start meeting with others who are on the same journey of following Jesus. You will be able to encourage and support one another.

<sup>1</sup>To God be the glory! Fanny Crosby, 1820-1915



## **If you are not yet ready**

Perhaps this booklet has given rise to questions or you may just feel that you require more time to think about beginning a New Life with Jesus.

That is understandable. But it is important to recognise the urgency, for Jesus will return to earth without any warning. His return will bring immense joy for all who have received the New Life. For others it will mean everlasting punishment, which the Bible speaks of as hell.

Remember, heaven is not for 'good' people but for those who have turned to God and put their trust in Jesus.

Conversely, hell is not for 'bad' people but for those who do not know God because they have not repented of their sin.

***The Bible tells us:***

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might...

**2 Thessalonians 1: 8-9**

On the following pages we answer, very briefly, just a few of the questions often asked. TrustIf you have other questions, please do get in touch. We will be glad to help you in any way we can.

## **What is a 'born again' Christian?**

Many people think that 'born again' Christians have either had a special spiritual 'experience' or take their faith too seriously. They may think of them, jokingly, as 'super Christians'.

But that is not true. Jesus Himself said that no one can enter God's kingdom unless they are born again.<sup>1</sup> He meant that they have to begin a new life (as we have explained in this booklet), starting to live God's way as a follower of Jesus. There is no other way into God's Kingdom.

Some Christians can point to a dramatic experience of their new birth. Others are not able to identify the actual time or place but, nevertheless, their new birth is genuine.

The great sadness is that many people think that they are a Christian on account of their regular church attendance and their 'good deeds'. Yet, they have never been born again by trusting Christ.

<sup>1</sup> John 3:1-21

## Can we really trust the Bible?

The Bible is the very foundation of Christianity and if it is no more than fiction, then the case for Christianity is completely undermined. But there is compelling evidence that it is the true Word of God. For example:

### **its unity**

The Bible comprises sixty-six books, written in three languages over a period of about 1,500 years and by more than forty authors from different backgrounds. But it reads as one unified volume, with a consistent message of God's unfailing love for His creation and His plan of redemption.

The only reasonable explanation is that God Himself was behind the human authors, directing their writing.

### **its historical accuracy**

There are other writings and numerous archaeological discoveries which support the historical accuracy of the Bible. All the available evidence makes it the best documented book from the ancient world.

## **its fulfilled prophecies**

About 2,000 of the Bible's prophecies have already been fulfilled. Prophecies concerning Jesus' birth, the nature of His death and His resurrection were all recorded several hundred years earlier.

## **its New Testament writings**

The New Testament authors, and many hundreds of other believers, knew Jesus personally and many of them saw Him after His resurrection. They were so convinced that Jesus was truly the Son of God that they were willing to suffer and many were killed for their faith.

Three of the four gospels are believed to have been written within forty years of Jesus' death. They were not disputed by those who had heard Jesus teach and witnessed His miracles.

**It is estimated that more than 100 million Bibles are printed each year. It is the best-selling book in the world of all time, far ahead of all others.**

## Was Jesus really raised from the dead?

There is overwhelming evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. Consider the facts.

### **Jesus died**

Roman soldiers were professional executioners. It is inconceivable that they failed to ensure that Jesus was dead. Dying from crucifixion could take days, but the Bible records that Jesus died within a few hours, probably because of the brutal treatment He had received.

The soldiers normally broke the legs during a crucifixion to hasten the death but they didn't bother with that with Jesus: they could see that He was already dead. But a soldier did thrust a spear into His side. It cannot be disputed: it was the dead body of Jesus that was laid in the tomb.

### **the tomb was empty**

But there was no sign of the body when the disciples went to the tomb two days later. They discovered the enormous stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

One theory is that the body could have been stolen, but by whom and why? And if it had been, surely it would have turned up eventually. If the authorities had had any part in its disappearance, they would have been quick to produce it to put an end to the reports that Jesus was alive again.

### **Jesus was seen alive**

The disciples saw Jesus. They felt His wounds and they ate with Him.<sup>1</sup> On one occasion He was seen by more than 500 people.<sup>2</sup>

### **the disciples were changed men**

Jesus' disciples were totally transformed. They were no longer afraid as they had been when Jesus was crucified. They committed themselves to preaching the truth about Jesus, despite the risk involved.

They were willing to die because they were now convinced that Jesus truly was the Son of God, who had been raised from the dead and who was now in heaven with His Father.

<sup>1</sup> John 20:19-21:14; <sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:6

## **Do you have to be baptised to be a Christian?**

It is wrong to think that baptism makes you a Christian or that you can only be a Christian if you are baptised. But baptism is important. It enables a new Christian to demonstrate publicly that they are a follower of Jesus.

Being immersed under water is a wonderful picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It signifies, too, that the person has died to their old, sinful life and been raised to a new life, cleansed from their sin through God's forgiveness.

Jesus instructed His disciples to go and make disciples and to baptise them.<sup>1</sup> And they obeyed that command. On one occasion, about 3,000 people repented and were baptised.<sup>2</sup>

And so, many churches place great emphasis upon new believers being baptised once they have begun the new life which Jesus offers.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 28:19; <sup>2</sup> Acts 2:41



## **Is God still in control of the world?**

If God is all-loving and all-powerful, as the Bible tells us, He must care about all the evil and suffering in the world and He must be powerful enough to step in and stop it. So, why doesn't He?

The world today is not the world which God created. The world He created was perfect but He created humans with the freedom to make choices. And in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve abused their freedom when they deliberately disobeyed God. God's creation was corrupted by sin and has continued to be ever since.

God acted against the great evil in Noah's day by destroying the earth through the great flood. The world today is in the same state, just as Jesus said it would be.<sup>1</sup> But God has not lost control. He will bring an end to all this world's evil when He chooses. Then Jesus will return and everyone who has not turned to Him in repentance will face God's wrath and eternal condemnation.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 24:36-44

## Is hell a real place?

Many people scoff at the idea that there can be a real place like hell and many others believe that only the most evil of people will end up there.

We can believe that or we can take note of what the Bible tells us. And when we read the Bible, we cannot escape the fact that hell is just as real a place as heaven. (It is no surprise that far more people are willing to accept the reality of heaven than of hell).

Jesus spoke about hell more than anyone else. He gave solemn warnings. He described it, amongst other things, as a place of torment.<sup>1</sup> The Apostle Paul spoke of it as a place where people '... will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord...'<sup>2</sup>

What a contrast to heaven, where Jesus reigns and where all who have trusted Him for forgiveness will live with Him forever, regardless of the mess they may have made of their lives.

<sup>1</sup> Luke 16:23; <sup>2</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:9



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