



• RELIGION

Most religions believe that the way we have a relationship with God is by obeying rules. God did give us laws to follow like the 10 Commandments, but none of us follow them all of the time. We do things wrong. This has a name. It's called SIN.

• SIN

We all have the same problem. That's why the Bible says... ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)*** Sin is a common term understood by other religions. It is an old military term which means to miss the mark you are shooting for. We sin when we fall short of living the way God wants us to. We don't show His love to others all of the time. We become selfish. Relationships are built on trust and we've broken trust with God by being selfish. This keeps us from having a relationship with Him. Knowing that we can't earn a relationship with God by following rules, we rely on Him to bridge the gap and come to us and He does because He loves us.

• LOVE

He sent Jesus to show His love to us. That's why the Bible says... ***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 does love us and sent Jesus to show His love for us. The truth is, we don't deserve God's love. What we deserve is to be PUNISHED for the things that we do wrong....

• PUNISHMENT

That's why the Bible says... ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*** Many think of wages as money that we earn for something that we do. In this case, we earn something for what we don't do. We don't obey the rules and we earn the payment of DEATH for our sin.

• DEATH

Why death? We know that sin, at its worst stage, leads to death. It's the worst way we can hurt others by taking a life. That's why the Bible says in *James 1:15*...

"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." We are punished for the worst of what humanity can do. That is why death is our punishment. **WE ALSO KNOW THAT WE WILL ALL DIE ONE DAY** and if we don't have a relationship with God, we will be separated from Him forever. God lives in Heaven and we are separated from Him in a place called Hell. God doesn't want that for us so He did something. He sent us a SAVIOR...

• SAVIOR

A Savior is someone who takes our punishment for us. He saves us from being punished. Our savior is JESUS who died on the cross for our sins.

• JESUS

The Bible tells us about him in Romans 5:8... ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NOT ONLY DID HE DIE FOR US, BUT THREE DAYS LATER HE CAME BACK TO LIFE.*** He came back to life to provide a way for us to also come back to life in Heaven after our death. **GOD DID ALL OF THIS SO WE COULD HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**

• RELATIONSHIP

Notice there is still a gap. To have this relationship, we must experience something. We must be FORGIVEN...

• FORGIVENESS

We are forgiven when the punishment for our sins is paid for and we ACCEPT what has been done for us.

• ACCEPT

We accept this forgiveness by believing in what Jesus did for us and telling God that we need him. That's why the Bible says... ***If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)*** We do this through prayer. The Bible says... ***for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*** (Romans 10:13) What do we pray? We **ADMIT** that we have sinned and ask God for His forgiveness. We tell God that we **BELIEVE** that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and was resurrected to provide a way for me to live forever with you in Heaven. We **COMMIT** to follow Jesus as the Lord, or leader, of our lives as we live to be more like him each day.

Is there any reason why you wouldn't be willing to accept what Jesus did for you right now?

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear God, I **ADMIT** that I have sinned and ask for your forgiveness. I **BELIEVE** that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for my sins and was resurrected to provide a way for me to live forever with you in Heaven. I accept what he did for me. I **COMMIT** to follow Jesus as the Lord of my life as I live to become more like him each day. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.