EMBRACE

God's Powerful Love, Forgiveness and Grace

God created you in love, and in His image. God is love, and He is loving. When God made you, He had wonderful things in mind for your life! Although the world is imperfect, God is flawless and kind. He wants to walk with you through life, guide you, and share a special relationship with you.

Our world is not always a good place, so bad things happen. We aren't perfect people, either. Just today, you've probably dropped the ball, said a "white lie," or slighted someone. When we mess up, God calls it sin. Sin is serious; it separates us from God. It's not that God is bullying us about our imperfections; it's just that evil can't coexist with good any more than darkness can coexist with light. Sin is evil. And just like your hard work deserves wages, the wages for sin is...death. Death and permanent separation from God.

This is horrible news. What can we do?

Good news, here: God loves you so much that He would rather die than live without you.

So, He did. He took the burden, so we only need to respond.

God gave us the gift of Jesus, His only begotten Son (begotten, not made like we). Jesus came to the earth in the form of a little baby. He lived a perfectly sinless life, so we can understand His heart. Then, He took on the blame for all the sin and shame of every single person, ever. He paid those wages of sin COMPLETELY through His own death on the cross, so we can never be hounded by them again.

After three days, Jesus rose from the dead. Because He rose from the dead, all who surrender their lives to Him receive His new life, and they will never die.

It doesn't mean you are stuck in your body, getting older and older forever. Rather, your spirit is remade like His. You are fresh and new. And, when your physical body fails (they all do), you will pass into eternal life, instead of eternal death, paying for all those sins you've commited.

Does this sound good to you? Then say this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I know You are good. You have made me for a reason, and You want good things of my life. I believe Jesus came to give me an example for life, to take away my sins and shame on the cross, and to reconcile me to You. I believe He offers me new life in Him.

I haven't always chosen good. I've messed up, and You call this sin. Sin is serious, and it has separated us. I repent of my sins and accept Your forgiveness. In return, I forgive all others of anything they have done against me. Please take bitterness, selfishness and anger out of my heart. I submit my life to You, forever.

Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and make me bold to live my life in connection with You. I know this world has many troubles, but You have overcome it. Empower me by You Spirit to live a life of love, righteousness, peace and joy. Live in me and love through me. I give my life to You, Lord Jesus, and yield to You each day. Thank you for Your eternal love.

Amen.