

A close-up photograph of a person's hand knocking on a dark-stained wooden door. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with fingers curled as if striking the wood. The door's grain is clearly visible, running vertically. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the wood.

*Knock
Knock*

Who's there?

Truth.

Truth who?

*Truth of the matter is,
we all need to know the truth
about where we stand with God.*

“Knock, Knock”

What is His main message in the Bible?

First a little Bible trivia....

1. The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years.
2. The Old Testament has 39 books & was written over a period of 1500 years and the New Testament over a period of approximately 50 years making 66 books in all.
3. The Bible was written by over 40 people. Many of these people never knew each other, yet all these books fit together and are in harmony! Whoa!
4. More people have died for this Book than any other book in the world.
5. This Book, the Bible, has been burned more than any other Book in the world. Just what is it about the Bible, GOD'S Word, that is causing such a stir?

Food for thought.....

***Most** people do not understand the character of GOD because they have only listened to other people's opinions and have made conclusions based on inaccurate information and the traditions of men instead of the Word of God – so it is possible that the true GOD you are about to meet as you listen to His words, may not be the same God you think you are meeting. Hang on for the ride of your life as you discover the answer to the following questions and are introduced to the Author Himself.

***Some** people say they don't believe the Bible. But here is something to consider. If they are right and the Bible is wrong, they have nothing to lose – but if the Bible is right and they are wrong – they have everything to lose – so at least it's worth investigating.

***Understanding** the main message of the Bible will help you understand the rest of the Bible and will allow you to see how everything fits together. What you decide to do with the answers to the following questions is between you and God.

The answers to these questions are found in the verses following each question.

***Please underline each answer and then write it out on the line provided.

1. What is God offering us?

***Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***John 17:3** - And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent.

***John 10:10** - The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

2. What is man's problem?

***Matthew 5:48** - Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

***Romans 3:23** - ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

***Hebrews 9:27** - And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.

***Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Isaiah 59:2** - But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.

3. What is God's solution to man's problem?

***Romans 5:8** - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

***1 Peter 3:18** - For Christ also died for our sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit...

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 - Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God to him.

***1 Timothy 2:4-5** - ...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

***John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

4. Can man solve his problem of being separated from God?

***Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast

5. What is man's response to God's offer?

***Romans 10:9-10** - ...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

***John 3:16; 36** - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

***John 5:24** - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

***John 5:24** - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

***Acts 16:31** - And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

***1 John 1:9** - If we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

6. Is it too late to receive God's offer after I die?

***Luke 16:19-31** - "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. "And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried." "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. "and he cried out and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame." "But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us." And he said, "then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." But he said, "No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!" But he said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead."

Answer: _____

6.a. Does anyone know when he will die?

7. How do I become God's child?

***John 1:12** - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

***Romans 10:9-10** - ...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

8. What is the result of receiving God's offer?

***2 John 5:24** - "Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

***1 John 5:11-13** - And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

***John 8:32** - and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

***Luke 15:10** - "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

***John 10:27-30** - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one."

***1 John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ASK YOURSELF

After looking through the illustration below, ask yourself:

- A. "Which side am I on?"
- B. "Which side would I like to be on?"
- C. "Is there any reason why I wouldn't want to make that decision to spend eternity with God instead of the consequences of being separated from Him?"
- D. Would I want to take that chance?

The Bridge to Life



Step 1 - God's Love and His plan

God created us in His own image to be His friend and to experience a full life assured of his love, abundant and eternal.

John 10:10b - Jesus said, "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Romans 5:1 - "...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Since God planned for us to have peace and abundant life right now, why are most people not having this experience?



Step 2 - Our Problem: Separation from God

God created us in His own image to have abundant (meaningful) life. He did not make us robots to automatically love and obey him, but he gave us a will and a freedom of choice.

We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

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

Isaiah 59:2 - "...your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear."

On our own, there's no way we can attain the perfection needed to bridge the gap to God. Through the ages, individuals have tried many ways...without success.

Good works won't do it...or religion...or money...or morality...or philosophy...

Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."



Step 3 - God's Remedy: The Cross

Jesus Christ is the only answer to this problem. He died on the cross and rose from the grave, paying the penalty for our sin and bridging the gap between God and people.

1 Peter 3:18 - "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God..."

1 Timothy 2:5 - "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."



Step 4 - Our Response

Believing means trust and commitment - acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness and letting Him control our life. Eternal, abundant life is a gift for us to receive.

John 3:16 - "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 5:24 - "I tell you the truth, whoever **hears** my word and **believes** Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

(Bridge Illustration used with permission from The Navigators)

Is there any reason why you shouldn't cross over to God's side and be certain of eternal life?

***SO IF YOU SENSE GOD STRETCHING HIS HAND TO YOU AND YOU ARE READY TO OPEN YOUR HEART TO GOD, HAVE A TALK WITH HIM. HE IS EXCITED THAT YOU'VE LISTENED TO HIS VOICE THROUGH HIS WORD TODAY AND HE'S READY TO LISTEN TO YOU!**

HERE IS A SUGGESTED TALK WITH GOD, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ELOQUENT WORDS - HE'S AFTER YOUR HEART.

"Thank You Lord for speaking to my heart today! I really don't want to be separated from You anymore because of my sin. You have made it clear that just as there are consequences in everyday life for things I do wrong, there are eternal consequences as well!

What great news that You love me as no other love I've ever known, which You have demonstrated by taking my punishment for me, cleansing me! Wow! I realize now that even though You took the punishment for my sin and it killed You, that because You are God and greater than death, You now live so that I can actually have a relationship with You as I listen and talk to You!

And even though I am undeserving of this incredible gift and can't do anything to earn it, it could only be a true Father's heart that would do something like this...so painful....so sacrificial...so loving. I'm forever grateful for You bringing me out of the darkness into Your marvelous light!

Oh, please forgive me, cleanse me, come into my life. I turn away from everything else but You. I will definitely need Your help on this journey. I'm just thankful that I finally found the One who can lead the way! I'm forever grateful to You! In Jesus' Name, Amen."

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

If you have truly repented (forsaken, turned away) from your sins, placed your trust in Jesus Christ's sacrificial death, and received the gift of eternal life, you are now a child of God! Forever! Welcome to the Family of God! Today is your spiritual birthday - a day that you will always want to remember!

WHAT'S NEXT? Just as a newborn baby grows physically, so you will grow spiritually by taking the following steps:

1. **Read** one chapter of the book of John in the BIBLE each day. "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word (of God), that you may grow thereby." (**1 Peter 2:2**)
2. **Spend** time each day in **PRAYER** conversing with God. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...." (**Philippians 4:6**)
3. **Worship** regularly in a church that teaches you the Bible and honors Jesus Christ. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'. (**Psalms 122:1**) "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (**John 4:24**)
4. **Fellowship** with Christians who will help you grow in faith. "And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, ...encouraging one another." (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)
5. Be a **Witness** by telling others what Jesus Christ means to you! Jesus said, "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (**Matthew 10:32, 33**)

If you truly are not ready to receive this wonderful gift God is offering - please don't stop here! Please know for sure that it was no coincidence that you went through this little booklet today...God deeply desires to have you in His family. Whatever confusion or hesitation you may have just tell Him..."God, if you really are real and really are listening, please reveal Yourself to me and help me understand, because if this is the Truth, I really want to know and I don't want to miss out!" God loves an honest heart! You will see!

Look in the Bible at the Table of Contents and find John in the New Testament and as you read, ask these questions:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did He come?
- What does He want from me?

He has the answers, and He loves that you are asking!

"Now to Him who is ABLE to keep you from FALLING and to present you before His glorious presence WITHOUT FAULT and with great joy - to the only GOD, our SAVIOUR be GLORY, MAJESTY, POWER and AUTHORITY through JESUS CHRIST our LORD, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen." Jude 1:23

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Question: "What is repentance and is it necessary for salvation?"

Answer: Many understand the term repentance to mean "turning from sin." This is not the biblical definition of repentance. In the Bible, the word repent means "to change one's mind." The Bible also tells us that true repentance will result in a change of actions (**Luke 3:8-14; Acts 3:19**). **Acts 26:20** declares, "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds." The full biblical definition of repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action.

What, then, is the connection between repentance and salvation? The Book of Acts seems to especially focus on repentance in regards to salvation (**Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20**). To repent, in relation to salvation, is to change your mind in regard to Jesus Christ. In Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost (**Acts chapter 2**), he concludes with a call for the people to repent (**Acts 2:38**). Repent from what? Peter is calling the people who rejected Jesus (**Acts 2:36**) to change their minds about Him, to recognize that He is indeed "Lord and Christ" (**Acts 2:36**). Peter is calling the people to change their minds from rejection of Christ as the Messiah to faith in Him as both Messiah and Savior.

Repentance and faith can be understood as "two sides of the same coin." It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about who He is and what He has done. Whether it is repentance from willful rejection or repentance from ignorance or disinterest, it is a change of mind. Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.

It is crucially important that we understand repentance is not a work we do to earn salvation. No one can repent and come to God unless God pulls that person to Himself (**John 6:44**). **Acts 5:31** and **11:18** indicate that repentance is something God gives—it is only possible because of His grace. No one can repent unless God grants repentance. All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts. God's longsuffering leads us to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**), as does His kindness (**Romans 2:4**).

While repentance is not a work that earns salvation, repentance unto salvation does result in works. It is impossible to truly and fully change your mind without that causing a change in action. In the Bible, repentance results in a change in behavior. That is why John the Baptist called people to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (**Matthew 3:8**). A person who has truly repented from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ will give evidence of a changed life (**2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:19-23; James 2:14-26**). Repentance, properly defined, is necessary for salvation. Biblical repentance is changing your mind about Jesus Christ and turning to God in faith for salvation (**Acts 3:19**). Turning from sin is not the definition of repentance, but it is one of the results of genuine, faith-based repentance towards the Lord Jesus Christ. (from Gotquestions.org)

Closing reminder: "repentance and faith" is the CEASING "to do" or "to work". It is "believing and trusting" in Him and "His power" and "His finished work". (from Craig Branch ARC ministry)