

Leading a Soul to Salvation

(You don't really know something until you can say it!)

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Here are several common approaches that you can follow:

"If you were to die, where would you go?" "Are you prepared to meet God?" "Would you like to know about God's simple plan of salvation?" "Would you like to know that you are going to Heaven?" If the reply is positive then ask this: "Has anyone every taken a Bible and shown you how to know for sure that you are going to Heaven?" If they give you a negative answer then ask, "May I have the privilege to show you from the Bible God's plan of salvation and how you can go to Heaven?" Let me answer several questions from the Bible to help you understand the way of salvation and how you can to Heaven.

1. What does the Bible say about sin?

a. Every person has sinned.

Rom. 3:23 – "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"

Every person has fallen short of God's moral perfection and holiness. This tells us that God has set a standard. The standard is God Himself. Measured by God's standard, we have all missed the mark. We have all sinned. No person measures up to His holy standard of perfection (see also Rom., 3:10; 5:12; Ecc. 7:20; Isa. 53:6). Sin is missing the mark of God's standard of perfection and rebelling against Him. We have all sinned and missed God's standard of holy perfection. Do you understand that you have sinned?

b. Sin is breaking God's holy law (Ten Commandments) - 1 John 3:4 – "sin is the transgression of the law" – **idols** in your heart (1 Jn. 5:21) - placing TV, sex, drugs, depressants,

money, sports, motorcycles, cars or camping before church and Christ, **worshipping graven images** in your heart – lottery & money, famous people, clothing, material things, **lying** – to mom and dad, teacher, making exaggerated claims about yourself, **stealing** - cheating on taxes, borrowing tools and not returning them, cheating boss out of time, not giving money to God's house as you should, **adultery** (not just outward but inward in the heart – Matt. 5:28), **honoring father and mother** - not obeying them all the time, not respecting them, **cursing** - taking God's name in vain when hitting your hand with a hammer, singing about God in church but not loving Him, **breaking the Sabbath** (Saturday) by working (Ex. 31:14), sports activity, baking cookies (Ex. 16:23), **murder** – even in the heart (1 Jn. 3:15), **coveting** another member of the opposite sex, a car or fame and fortune.

Do you understand that you have broken God's law? Since all have sinned everybody has broken God's Law. This leads to the next logical conclusion.

James 2:10

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

Questions:

How many holes does it take to sink a ship? How many stones does it take to break a window? How many links does it take to break a chain? When one part of God's law is broken then all of it is broken. God sees you as a sinner who has broken His holy Law. This is all that He sees.

c. Sinners are bad people in God's eyes.

“There is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10).

Since you are a sinner in God's sight you cannot do anything that pleases Him. All your righteous acts or good deeds are

still viewed by God as filthy rags (Isa. 64:6). This is because God only sees you as a sinner who is separated from Him and who cannot please Him in anything that you do. God's perspective about good deeds is different than ours. Sinners who are separated from God cannot produce good deeds in God's sight. God sees everything that we do as being tainted by sin. Therefore, you can't do any good thing that would allow you to gain entrance into Heaven. From God's holy perspective, you have no good deeds to offer Him. You are a bad person. "Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6) and "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Do you understand that from God's holy perspective you are a bad person?

d. God cannot accept sinners in His presence.

This is because God is holy! Sin bars us from the presence of a holy God. Habakkuk 1:13 – "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity... (with His favor or acceptance)"

Sin is a thing of horror to God! Sin is absolutely repulsive to God and a detestable act in the sight of His absolute holiness. Because of this, man is separated from God's holy presence, and cannot live and fellowship with Him. Romans 5:10 says that we are God's "enemies" and Col. 1:21 says that we are "alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works: and Eph. 2:13 concludes that we are "far off" from God's presence. Do you understand why God cannot accept you?

e. Sin deserves a penalty of judgment.

Every time you break a law there is penalty attached to it (illustration - running a stop sign, robbing a bank). The penalty for breaking God's holy law is judgment in Hell.

Hell is described as spiritual separation and ruin from God's presence forever. Jesus said that those who are separated from God are actually a "child of hell" (Matt. 23:15) and "shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt. 5:22) and eventually "cast into hell" (Matt. 5:29-30; 18:9; 25:46 Mark 9:43-47). Ps. 9:17 - "The wicked shall be turned into hell" and Rev. 20:15 - "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." 2 Thess. 1:9 - "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction (spiritual ruin) from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Those who are separated from God are already sentenced to judgment - ("condemned already" - John 3:18) and have the "wrath of God abiding on them" (John 3:36). Rom. 6:23 - "the wages of sin is death" (spiritual separation from God in Hell).

illustration - Suppose you worked for me one day and you earned fifty dollars. The wages that I would have to pay you is fifty dollars. Fifty dollars would be your wages or what you earned. The Bible is saying because you and I have sinned, we have earned the wages of spiritual death or separation from God in judgment. What I earn for sinning is death or eternal spiritual separation from God in Hell. Do you understand that you must be judged for your sin?

2. Why did Jesus die upon the cross?

a. Because God loves sinners (John 3:16).

Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth (demonstrated) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Do you understand that God loves you?

b. Because Jesus needed to become a sacrifice and replacement for you.

What does this actually mean? It means several things.

1. Jesus took your sins upon Himself (past present and future sins) in order to remove them from your life.

1 Cor. 15:3 – “Christ died for our sins” and 1 Pet. 2:24 – “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree” and 2 Cor. 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us” and Isa. 53:5 -“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities” and Isa. 53:10 – “Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin” – Isa. 53:11 - “he shall bear their iniquities”). Jesus died taking your sin upon Himself (substitution) so He could remove them from your life (Heb. 9:26 – “He hath appeared to put away sin”). Note: All of your sins were still in the future when Jesus died upon the cross. He died to take all of them away that you would ever commit. Do you understand that Jesus died for your sins?

2. Jesus took your penalty of judgment upon Himself so He could forever remove this judgment from your life.

Galatians 3:13 - “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us (a curse of doom and judgment): for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

If you don't allow Jesus to pay for your sins then you will have to pay for them someday in the judgment of hell.

Through His sacrifice Jesus can save you from the eternal judgment of Hell (Rom. 5:9 - “saved from wrath through him”) – salvation involves deliverance from damnation or judgment, which sin brings upon your life. Do you understand that Jesus took your judgment upon Himself?

1 Peter 3:18 – “For Christ also hath once suffered (God’s judgment on the cross) for sins (your sins), the just (Jesus) for the unjust (you and me), that he might bring us to God (acceptance before God), being put to death in the flesh (His death upon the cross), but quickened (made alive – Christ’s resurrection) by the Spirit.”

Through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and removed and you receive Christ’s perfect righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21). Now God can accept you in His holy presence and you will never experience the future judgment of hell.

Explanation: **Since there was no way for you to come to God, God decided to come to you!** Jesus came into the world and took your sin upon Himself and paid for your own penalty or judgment for those sins, which you deserved. Your own sin and judgment was credited to the account of Jesus so that you can have your sins taken away and forgiven. Jesus died as your own personal substitute for sin and paid for your own judgment for sin, which you deserved. **Jesus died as you, for you, in your place, in your stead and on your behalf** – bearing your own sin and judgment for that sin. The third day He rose again to prove that He had conquered sin and death or the judgment that sin deserves.

illustration – If you were in the hospital dying of cancer and I could come to you and say, “I want to do something for you. We’ll take all the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body.” What would happen to me? I would die. What would happen to you? You would live. Why? Because I took the thing (cancer) that was causing your death and placed it upon myself, and I died as you substitute. The Bible says that Jesus took the cancer (spiritual cancer of sin) that was causing your death (spiritual death and judgment before God) and placed it upon Himself. Jesus actually died in your place,

taking your own sin and the death or judgment, which resulted from sin, upon Himself. It was a judgment that you deserved. But Jesus became your substitute.

c. So Jesus could rise again from the dead as prophesied (Ps. 16:9-11; Isa. 53:10; John 2:19; 1 Cor. 15:4 – “according to the Scriptures”).

1 Cor. 15: 4 says that Jesus “was buried” (to prove that Jesus was dead) and “that he rose again the third day” (to prove that Jesus had paid the penalty for our sin in full and had been accepted by the Father in Heaven – “raised again for our justification”– to represent us in Heaven and give us a righteous standing before God - Rom. 4:25). The resurrection is proof positive and the guarantee that the Father has accepted the Son’s sacrifice so we can be saved from hell. If Jesus did not rise from the dead to guaranteed our acceptance before the Father’s presence in Heaven, then we cannot be forgiven of our sins (1 Cor. 15:17 – “And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.” The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that He conquered sin, death and the judgment we deserved for our sin. It also proves that Jesus has the ability to forgive sins and grant eternal life to those who will receive Him as Savior. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?

3. How can a person be saved?

By believing on Jesus Christ. This is the one thing God asks of you. Belief in Christ brings the blessing of salvation from hell into your own life. Jesus provided for your salvation upon the cross, by becoming a replacement for you, but belief is the only way to receive the benefits of Jesus’ work upon the cross and in His resurrection. **You must believe that Jesus is alive today and what He did for you on the cross (taking your sins and judgment upon Himself) will provide forgiveness**

for your sins (1 John 1:7), the gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:23), and save you from hell (Rom. 5:9). You must believe that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you can be saved.

John 3:16 - "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 6:47 - "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Acts 16:31- "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Belief or faith involves two things.

a. Belief involves accepting the truth about the person and work of Jesus Christ.

You must believe or accept four things as being true about Jesus Christ in order to be saved:

- 1. That Jesus is God** ("Lord" - Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9 - "confess Jesus as Lord") - only God can save you - man cannot save man (John 1:1, 18; 10:30; 8:24; Heb. 1:3, 8). Christ's deity is the basis of His offer of salvation and gives Him the right and authority to offer eternal life to lost sinners. God demanded a perfect sacrifice and therefore sent His only Son, who is God, to become a perfect holy sacrifice (Eph. 5:2; 1 Pet. 1:19; Heb. 9:14) that He could accept, and which could remove your sins.
- 2. That Jesus died in your place to give you salvation from hell** (1 Cor. 15:3 - "Christ died for our sins"), (1 Pet. 3:18 - "the just for the unjust") & (Rom. 5:10 - "saved from wrath through him").

3. **That Jesus rose again from the dead** - giving proof that Jesus has paid for your salvation and has the ability to give eternal life to those who will receive it (Rom. 10:10 – “Believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”).
4. **That Jesus is the only way to Heaven** (John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”)

Works (good deeds) will not get any person to Heaven - Eph. 2:8-9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it (salvation) is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.” Works are a form of boasting and cannot save! Salvation is a free gift to receive by grace (God’s own favor and kindness bestowed upon the sinner through Christ’s saving work). Salvation is a free gift to receive (Rom. 6:23 – “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”). Salvation is a free gift to receive (Rom. 3:24 – “justified freely by his grace”) and is an expression of God’s grace (His kindness expressed through the death of His Son Jesus).

Salvation does not involve something you do for Jesus but something Jesus does for you – He died in your place taking your sin and judgment upon Himself in order to give you the free gift of salvation and demonstrate God’s grace in saving you from hell. Are you depending upon your works to save you?

b. Belief involves relying upon Jesus Christ for salvation.

This is a very important part of belief that Jesus explained as receiving Him as Savior. John 1:12 – “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” Believing on

Jesus Christ is receiving Jesus Christ as your own Savior. Jesus explained faith as taking the initiative to appropriate or take the salvation, which He offers, into your own life. You must actually reach out and receive His saving provision for your life.

Jesus also explains this aspect of faith as coming to Him and receiving bread. John 6:35 - "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

Using the analogy of bread Jesus presents the need for people to actually come and take what He has to offer (salvation and eternal life) through the provision of His death and resurrection. Jesus and the salvation and eternal life that He offers, through His death and resurrection, is likened to bread that you must eat and water that you must drink (John 4:14 - "whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst").

When you believe in Jesus Christ or the death and resurrection of Christ to save you, you are actually taking what Jesus has to offer you – the forgiveness of sins, salvation from hell and eternal life. The gift of salvation must be taken. It involves a personal response to Jesus Christ, which reaches out and receives what Jesus is offering. You are asked to transfer all of your trust to Jesus Christ and take His offer of salvation. When you believe or trust in Christ for salvation you are actually relying upon Christ to bring salvation into your life. Only when you express this kind of belief can salvation be brought into your life.

Romans 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This also expresses the aspect of belief that involves reaching out and taking what Jesus has to offer – salvation and eternal life.

Belief is not just possessing mental awareness of the historical facts about Jesus dying upon the cross and rising from the dead. Faith is not simply head knowledge but involves a personal inner heart response (“for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness” – Rom. 10:10) and personal appropriation or taking Jesus Christ to be your actual Savior. Jesus was very clear that you must have a belief in Him that actually takes the initiative to step out and totally rely upon His death and resurrection to bring salvation and eternal into your own life. When you take Jesus Christ to be your Savior the offer of His salvation is being accepted – the gift of eternal is being received.

Chair illustration of faith – You need to sit down on a chair so it can support you. Standing beside the chair will not support you but when sitting down on the chair you are trusting in the chair to support you. It is one thing to believe that the chair will hold you up. It is another thing to sit down on the chair and trust the chair to hold you up. Biblical faith is sitting on the chair. It involves personal reliance and transferring your trust in Jesus Christ to save you.

Lifeboat illustration of faith – You need to step into step into a lifeboat so you will not drown. It is one thing to believe that the lifeboat will save you from drowning but it is an altogether different thing to step into the lifeboat and rely upon the boat to save you. When you sit in the lifeboat you are trusting in the lifeboat to save you. Biblical faith is stepping into the lifeboat. It involves personal reliance and trust in Jesus Christ to save you. Have you ever placed this kind of belief in Jesus Christ?

When you believe (Acts 16:31) on Jesus Christ you express personal faith (Eph. 2:8) in Christ. This is expressed as calling (Rom. 10:17) out to Christ in earnest prayer and receiving (John 1:12) Him as your actual Savior and taking (John 6:35) Him to be your own Savior in order to receive the actual

blessings of salvation and eternal life. Expressing this kind of belief (personal trust) in Christ and what He has done for you allows you take His offer and gift of salvation, which He has freely offered to you (“take the water of life freely – Rev. 22:17). This aspect of faith involves a definite decision for Christ or a time when you reach out to Jesus Christ and totally rely upon Him for the forgiveness of your sins and salvation from hell.

illustrations - There was a definite time when you were born. There was a specific time when you graduated from school. There was a special time when you were married. So there should be a specific and special time when you personally express faith in Jesus Christ and rely upon Him as your own Savior. You must step into the lifeboat! You must make the definite decision and take the specific action to personally rely on the saving provision of Jesus Christ, made available through His death and resurrection, and receive Christ as your Savior and His gift of salvation. This is an important aspect of faith that brings salvation into your life.

4. What may keep you from believing on Jesus Christ?

*This step may be eliminated if the person’s heart seems repentant over their sin – when in doubt speak about this point.

In order to change your view or thinking you must repent. Repentance involves a change of mind and heart attitude. It speaks of a person changing their inward belief system. You must change your distorted views about God, the way of salvation, the person and work of Jesus Christ, and your own love for sin. These things can keep you from believing on Jesus Christ. Therefore, you must repent about several things.

a. About God - there is only one true God (Acts 20:21 – “repentance toward God”; Duet 4:35; Isa.44:8; 45:5-6; 1Cor. 8:5-6, Acts 17:23-30) – a right view of God is needed. God is unique from all other man made gods. The Bible does not teach pluralism.

b. About the way of salvation – salvation is by grace – works cannot save – (Heb. 6:1 –“repentance from dead works”

c. About the person and work of Jesus - Jesus is God (Mark 8:27; John 8:24) and Jesus is the only way to Heaven – (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Acts 4:12) – a change of mind concerning the person and work of Jesus.

d. About sin - Luke 15:18; 18:13; Ps. 51:3-4 – (self judgment) that you are a horrible sinner in God’s sight and because of this you hate your sin and want God to change your life by saving, freeing and delivering you from the strongholds of sin in your life (Luke 14:8 - Jesus came to proclaim “deliverance to the captives” – those held captive by sin). **Do you hate your sin because it offends God’s holiness? Do you really want to be freed from sin’s bondage and change your life?** If not, then you are not ready to believe on Jesus Christ to save you. You are not ready to receive the salvation He offers to you.

*Love for sin can keep you from repenting and receiving Jesus as your Savior – “Men loved darkness rather than light” – John 3:19. Do you hate your sin and really want to be freed from sin’s bondage and change your life?

5. What happens when you do believe on Jesus Christ?

a. You escape the judgment of hell (Rom. 5:9; Rom. 6:23). The penalty of your sin is lifted and you are now delivered from the judgment, which you deserved.

b. You receive the total forgiveness of sins – past, present and future (Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

c. You are no longer God’s enemy but become accepted in God’s presence (Rom. 5:1, 10; Eph. 1:6).

d. You become God’s child (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1).

e. You become a born again Christian (John 3:3; Acts 11:26). This means that you receive new spiritual life; the very life of God is communicated to your own spirit, so that you have God’s power and help to live differently as a Christian (follower of Christ).

f. You receive eternal life (John 3:16; 5:25. 6:47; 1 John 5:11-12).

This is spiritual life (life in the human spirit) that you immediately receive and possess (John 3:36 – “hath everlasting life”) and will always possess. It is the promise that you will have endless life with Jesus in Heaven throughout eternity.

6. Why should you believe on Jesus Christ today?

a. Because God loves you (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8) **and does not want you to perish** (2 Pet. 3:9 – “God is not willing that any should perish”). There is no escape when salvation is neglected (Heb. 2:3).

It’s important to express the love of God for the lost sinner. This gives them the assurance that God wants them to be saved.

b. Because the Bible illustrates that delay can bring sudden destruction – (1 Thess. 5:3 – “then sudden

destruction cometh upon them”).

- c. **Because now is the day of salvation** (2 Cor. 6:2 – “Behold, now is the day of salvation”). Tomorrow may be too late.

Remember: almost becoming a Christian still means you are lost and going to Hell (Acts 26:28 – “Almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian”). Almost but lost! You are either absolutely saved or absolutely lost!

7. Are you ready to believe on Jesus Christ right now for salvation?

This involves bringing a person to the place of decision where they actually rely or trust upon the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ to save them. The soul winner must pursue the matter about making a decision to trust Christ but not push the nonbeliever. Evangelism is presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the intent or goal of seeing the unbeliever place faith in Christ. Remember: You have not shared the Gospel until you have given the nonbeliever something to believe.

The Soul Winner’s Invitation (Rev. 22:17)

“Is there anything that is keeping you from trusting Christ as your Savior right now?” If they say “No” than invite them to pray to Christ and believe on Him so that they can receive the gift of salvation. A transition question may go like this: “Would you like to pray right now and tell Jesus Christ that you are trusting in Him to be your Savior?”

The Soul Winner’s Prayer (Rom. 10:1)

The soul winner should pray a prayer for the person he is leading to Christ (1 Tim. 2:1-2) Let is be something like this:

“Lord Jesus I’m glad that Fred is now going to believe on You for the forgiveness of his sins and his salvation from hell. Help Fred to know that You love him and are going to hear his prayer. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

The Sinner’s Prayer

The sinner’s prayer should be prayed out loud. Ask the individual to pray out loud as He prays to Christ for salvation. It is best to kneel but not necessary. Kneeling brings the person to the place of humility. If a person prays himself without assistance be sure he is admitting that he is a sinner before God and is really believing on Jesus Christ as his Savior. If he does not include this let him pray until he is finished and then say, “Now let’s add this to your prayer. Lord Jesus I’m a sinner and I’m believing on You to forgive my sins and become my personal Savior from hell.”

Helping the Sinner to Pray

Share with the person who you are leading to Christ that his prayer does not save him but his faith or belief in Jesus Christ. Then say: “Here is a prayer that may help you to express faith in Jesus Christ so that He can become your own personal Savior from hell and bring the blessing of salvation and eternal life into your own life.”

“Dear Lord Jesus, I am a terrible sinner in Your holy presence. I have broken Your law. I do believe that you died on the cross bearing my own sins and the judgment which I deserved. Thank you for dying in my place and rising from the dead so You can forgive me of my sins and save me from hell. Today I want to personally believe on You to be my Savior from hell. I am relying totally upon You to forgive my sins, save me from hell, and give me the gift of salvation and eternal life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Life's Soul Searching Questions

“If you were to die right now, where would you go?” This is the first question the soul winner should ask the individual who recently prayed and believed on Christ for salvation. If the person really understood what they were doing they will say, “Heaven.” The second question the soul winner should ask is this: “Why should God let you into Heaven?” The sinner should respond with something like this: “Because I have believed on Christ for forgiveness and salvation.”

The Spirit's Part

Remember that our part is to present truth and God's part is to open the heart (Acts 16:14) with the truth of the Gospel, as people respond to God's inward conviction through the Spirit's ministry (John 16:7-11). God is the real soul winner! He is the Lord of the harvest (Lk. 10:2). We do the fishing (“fishers of men” – Mark 4:19). But it is the Lord who provides the catch! It is the Lord who gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:5-7). Let's go fishing!

**“Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me;
And may I humbly do my part
To win that soul for Thee”**