

# FUNDAMENTALS

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR NEW BELIEVERS

BY TOREMA THOMPSON



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**Fundamentals: Laying a foundation for new believers.**

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## Hebrews 6:1-3

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works**, and of **faith toward God**, Of the doctrine of **baptisms**, and of **laying on of hands**, and of **resurrection of the dead**, and of **eternal judgment**. And this will we do, if God permit.*





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## WELCOME HOME!

Dear Treasured One,

Welcome home! You are loved, you are special, and you fit perfectly into His family; His Body; His Church. Accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour is the best decision you will ever make! Not only am I rejoicing with you, but Heaven is as well.

***“In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.” (Luke 15:10, NLT)***

You have put your trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God; you have accepted His perfect sacrifice on the cross and have believed in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Because of your confession of faith, your name is written in the Lamb's book of life. By the blood of Jesus, you have been made clean in the sight of the Father in Heaven, and the debt you owed for your sins has been cleared - FOREVER! You are now righteous because of Jesus; therefore, you can now come BOLDLY before the Father as His child. What a privilege!

***“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32, NLT)***

***Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. (Ephesians 3:12, NLT)***

You are now a part of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10) and all things are yours. You belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God (1 Corinthians 3:21-23); you have the God of all creation on your side! What and who should you now fear? What would God not do for you or give to you when He has already given you His Son? What can you not overcome now that you are in Him?

***And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.***

***What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.***

***Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.***

***And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to***

***separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:28-39, NLT)***

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to lay out those teachings considered to be foundational to every believer's walk in Christ. If you are to move on towards maturity in Christ, as God desires, it is crucial that you know, understand and believe these principles.

***Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. (Hebrews 6:1-3, emphasis mine)***

In the following pages, you will find one chapter devoted to each of the ideals that have been underlined in the passage above (with baptisms divided over three chapters). The scripture above makes it clear that these topics need to be *believed, received and applied*, so that you might move on to maturity in Christ. These foundational principles should form a

springboard into your maturation process, not become a resting place.

Scripture tells us that you are God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9). In the natural, the height of a building is limited to the depth of its foundation; similarly, if you are to grow to the height the Lord intended, then the foundation of your Christian life must firstly reach the depth that He desires it to. If we cut corners at this stage, although the hindrances may only appear to be small to begin with, as you move on further in your walk with the Lord, these hindrances will only become greater, stunting your growth. In other words, if the correct foundation is not laid at the onset, you could end up living a life way below the standard that God has for you.

So, as you read through this book (*as many times as you need to*), pray that the correct foundation will be laid for your life. As you discover the foundational principles and elementary teachings of Christ, be willing to believe, receive *and apply* what you learn, so that, ultimately, you might move on to perfection (spiritual maturity) as the Lord desires.

## CHAPTER 1:

### REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

#### REPENTANCE

Repent. That's not a word we hear very often these days, is it? However, after Peter (one of Jesus' twelve disciples) stood up to preach on the day of Pentecost, that was the first instruction he gave to the Jews when they asked him what they should do to be saved.

***Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2:37-39, emphasis mine)***

Repentance is an absolute prerequisite for true salvation. It is not simply to say you are 'sorry' but is a grief, pain and remorse that comes

from the heart, leading to a change in the direction and course of your life.

***Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God... (Luke 3:8a NLT)***

To repent speaks of a turning; one that begins as a decision in your heart and becomes manifested in your thought life, speech and actions.

***For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. (2 Corinthians 7:10, NLT)***

Godly sorrow doesn't just leave us feeling bad about ourselves but causes us to identify that our thoughts, motives and actions have been contrary to God. True repentance causes us to turn away from the sin that we loved before and towards *He* that is good. Worldly sorrow, on the other hand, may leave a person recognising that they have done wrong, but it carries no regret and no acknowledgement of the need for salvation. Rather than causing a

person to turn from sin, it causes a person to experience condemnation, self-justification or pride, all things that cause a person to remain in their sinful state rather than be freed from it. As the scripture above reveals, we can identify worldly sorrow because it lacks repentance (a turning). The only result in a failure to turn from sin is to fall deeper and deeper into its grips and further into darkness and spiritual death.

***Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. (Romans 6:16-17, NLT)***

True repentance causes us to obey the call of the Gospel, by turning from one slave master (sin) to the True Master, Jesus Christ, Who is able to save and give the power to live free from sin.

## FROM DEAD WORKS

***Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, NLT)***

***Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)***

Dead works are anything that come from the flesh; that is anything done through our sinful /

carnal nature, anything done outside of God's will and order. When a person repents, this is what they are making a decision to turn from. Most of us grow up believing that we are "good", "not as bad as so and so" or that we can somehow be good outside of God, but this is a lie! Less commonly, there are some people who consider themselves to be "a piece of work" or in other words, not a nice person; however, even then there is a kind of pride or acceptance in this that says, "this is just the way I am, don't try to change me!" Regardless, of which end of the spectrum a person finds themselves to be, outside of Christ Jesus, every human being falls short of the glorious standard of God; it is of this self-sufficiency and this self-autonomy for which repentance is required.

***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:23)***

Irrespective of the specifics of a person's sin, outside of Christ, all their works are worthless. No matter how many good things a person tries to do or say, or how many religious prayers or sacrifices they may offer up, outside of Christ Jesus everything is in vain. Outside of Christ, it is all filthy rags.

***We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6, NLT)***

## **ACCEPTING CHRIST WITHOUT REPENTANCE?**

Now, there is a common practice that has arisen within the church, where unbelievers are given the opportunity to accept Jesus without firstly repenting of their sin. We will look at “faith towards God” and receiving the gift of salvation in the next chapter; however, let’s just touch on this concept briefly.

Sin and Christ are at opposing ends; hence, if Jesus is standing at North (with salvation), but a person is facing South towards sin, it is categorically *impossible* for them to receive the gift of Christ whilst their back is towards Him.

***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:6-8)***

As we have discussed throughout this chapter, repentance is essentially a 180-degree turnaround. Before a person can receive Jesus, they must turn so that they are facing His direction. The only reason a person would turn in the first place, is if they have believed the bad news (which is that they are sinners separated from God and living a life contrary to His will), and secondly, if they have believed the Good News (which is that God desires to be reconciled to them and has made a way for that to be possible through Jesus). Only at the point of true belief would a person repent (turn) so that they can receive Jesus. If a person claims to believe but does not repent, then according to Scripture, they do not believe. Likewise, if a person claims to have received Jesus but has never repented (turned from their sin), then again, according to Scripture, they are not saved.

***Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart]; (Matthew 3:8, AMPC)***

Now, we know that repentance doesn't mean that you will not be tempted with certain sins ever again; however, there is a difference

between a temptation, and living in habitual sin i.e. deciding to pursue sin, condone sin or remain in it.

***We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. (1 John 5:18, NLT)***

A person who pursues sin, accepts sin as right, loves sin and continues in sin, whilst claiming to have received Jesus is a liar. If they really do believe that they have received Jesus but have not repented from their sin, the sad truth is that they have received a counterfeit Jesus - the devil disguise!

***And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light; (2 Corinthians 11:14, AMPC)***

***Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who***

***has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:6-8, NLT)***

God's kindness is never to leave or encourage a person to remain in their sin, because sin is bondage! Jesus died to free us from sin and to restore us to a right standing relationship with the Father. Any so-called "gospel" message that encourages a person to *remain* as they are and to simply add Jesus as an addition to their life is not the true Gospel and carries no power.

***Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? (Romans 2:4, NLT)***

So, as we can see, God is kind, but His kindness is intended to cause us to repent *from* dead works, not remain in them. In the next chapter, we will discuss what repentance from dead works brings us *towards*.



## CHAPTER 2:

### FAITH TOWARDS GOD

***I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21, NLT)***

In the kingdom of God, there is a principle called, “leave to cleave”. With God, we are always required firstly to leave something in order to cleave to something else. This is how we demonstrate our faith, this is how we demonstrate our trust in Him. God will not give us the new unless we are firstly willing to let go of the old.

If we apply this principle to what we have discussed so far in this book, you will recognise that repentance is the “leaving” part of this principle. Before a person can “cleave” to God, receiving righteousness and salvation, they must firstly choose to turn from sin. It is in this turn of faith of the heart (leaving) that the Lord faithfully steps in, and thus a cleaving can take place. When an individual makes the decision in their heart to repent, they are

turning from dead works and trusting (by faith) that God is faithful to save them as they turn to Him.

***That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 10:9-11)***

When a person repents, they are actively putting their faith in God (Who they cannot see) to make Himself personal and present as He has promised. They are saying, they know they cannot make themselves righteous but are trusting in the power of God through Christ Jesus. When a person repents, they are saying, they know they would never be able to meet God's standard of righteousness but choose to believe that if they put their faith in Jesus, God will forgive their sins and make them right in His sight.

***We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we***

**are. (Romans 3:22, NLT)**

## GRACE NOT WORKS

***God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT)***

Now, in the previous chapter we identified that true repentance will lead to a turning away from sin. This is not to be misconstrued with “getting it all together” or “making yourself right” and then coming to God (this is impossible anyway). Although people can only identify true repentance as time goes by (through the fruits of a person's life), God on the other hand, sees the heart of man and He is able to identify, at the very moment a person believes and confesses, whether their heart is genuine or not. For everyone who truly does believe that turning from sin and in faith towards Jesus will save them, God knows, and immediately saves their soul by taking them out of the enemy's camp of darkness and placing them into the Kingdom of Light.

***[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (Colossians 1:13, AMPC)***

Repentance of the heart is a decision of faith because the reality is, not one person is able to truly turn from sin without the grace (empowerment) of God anyway. When a person repents in their heart, they are *simultaneously* putting their faith in Jesus to make them new and to give them the ability to live free from sin - just like He did.

***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)***

***But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— (John 1:12, AMPC)***

So you see, a person does not start living righteously in order for God to save them. No, righteousness and a transformed life are the

RESULT of true salvation. At the moment a person puts their trust in Jesus, they become a new creation, born of God, now able to desire and do what God desires.

***When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:20-23, NLT)***

Before we received salvation, we were all slaves to sin and could not live righteously even if we tried. However, when we turned to Christ by faith, we received a new heart and a new spirit (His Spirit) which means we now have new desires and a new ability to do the things that please the Father, just like Jesus demonstrated when He was on the earth (John 8:29).

***A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will***

**give you an heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)**

## WHAT'S IN THE GIFT?

As you can see, salvation is the wonderful gift of God received the very moment we turned from our sin and trusted in Christ Jesus our Lord. But what does this gift contain? Let's briefly discuss what we received through salvation.

- OUR DEBT WAS CLEARED

Sin had a penalty and that was death – eternal death (separation from God, the Source of life). When we received the gift of salvation our debt was cleared completely.

***For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)***

***He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12, NLT)***

- WE RECEIVED RIGHTEOUSNESS

Not only was our penalty paid, but we were

also made righteous, holy, clean and pure before God. We could never work to receive this, it was given to us as a gift. Where sin used to keep us from His presence, we can now enjoy a *personal* and *intimate* relationship with Him.

***Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (Romans 5:1)***

***And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. (Hebrews 10:19-20, NLT)***

- WE BECAME ONE SPIRIT WITH CHRIST

At the moment we accepted Christ Jesus, He joined Himself to us (or we could say that He engulfed us into Himself); essentially, we no longer exist - only Christ. Everything He is, we are too. His Spirit is our spirit.

***But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17, AMPC)***

***For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)***

***For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27, AMPC)***

- WE WERE ADOPTED

We used to be orphans, estranged from our Heavenly Father. But through our union with Jesus, we became children of God, born into the eternal family.

***So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. (Romans 8:15-16, NLT)***

- WE BECAME HEIRS WITH CHRIST

We are no longer just your average Jo Bloggs. Our inheritance has changed, our DNA has changed... through Jesus we are royalty!

***And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (Romans 8:17)***

***But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7, NLT)***

- WE RECEIVED PROMISES OF GLORY

We have the promise of eternal life, yet the Body we have now is dying. When we were saved, we received promises of a new body and a new home; a body that will never die and a home that will never see corruption. This earth is not our home, we are simply sojourners.

***We were given this hope when we were***

***saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) (Romans 8:24-25, NLT)***

***In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:2-3)***

***But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53, NLT)***

- WE BECAME ELIGIBLE TO FULFIL OUR PURPOSE

We used to have our own plan for our life, but

God saved us so that we could do what He planned for us to do all along. When we were saved, we became eligible to actually say “yes” to God’s plan and begin the process of learning obedience.

***For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)***

- WE RECEIVED HEALING POWER

When we were saved, we remained in this fallen world and this fallen body; however, we were given the power to overcome every pain, sickness and disease both internally and externally; emotionally and physically.

***He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24, AMPC)***

What a miraculous gift salvation is; truly it is a divine exchange! The remainder of your life in Christ will be an adventurous journey of

unpacking these truths and experiencing the full manifestation of them in your life.

## FAITH IN THE SON

When a person turns from dead works and in faith towards God, they have to trust in the salvation available through Jesus (the Messiah / Christ / Anointed One). In this section, we will summarise the key factors that validate why He is the only One we could put our trust in for salvation.

***Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (John 14:1)***

Many people have no issue with believing in "God". They can acknowledge the existence of someone who is sovereign, all powerful, eternal, omnipresent and unseen; however, when it comes to the idea that God has a Son and the need for the sacrifice of the cross – this is where the rubber hits the road. Yet, this the very thing God chose to bring salvation to mankind.

***For the preaching of the cross is to them that***

***perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)***

***But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; (1 Corinthians 1:23)***

If a person claims to believe in God, but refuses to acknowledge His Son, then the God that they claim to believe in, is not the God of Heaven. Jesus is the One who revealed the Father to us in bodily form. Without the manifestation of the Son in the earth, we would never truly know the nature of the Father, neither would we be able to be reconciled to Him.

***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)***

***Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. (1 John 2:23, NLT)***

***No man has ever seen God at any time; the***

***only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known]. (John 1:18, AMPC)***

## **THE NEED FOR A SACRIFICE**

Before we confirm why Jesus is our best and ONLY option for a sacrifice, let's quickly outline why a sacrifice was even needed.

Anyone can recognise that mankind has a problem – that problem is sin. Since the first man in history fell (Adam), every person born into this world since then, is plagued by the same fatal defect.

***Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man, and death as the result of sin, so death spread to all men, [no one being able to stop it or to escape its power] because all men sinned. (Romans 5:12, AMPC)***

In short, sin is breaking God's commandments. Because God is Holy, Righteous and Good,

everything He institutes is also holy, righteous and good; therefore, a lack of adherence to His laws is innately evil. Sin separates us from God because God is the Source of all life, all light and all goodness; therefore, separated from Him the only tendency of man is to fall towards darkness, depravity and death.

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

Now, according to the law of Moses (the old covenant of God), the only way a person could be purified and forgiven was for blood to be shed.

***In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22, NLT)***

The blood of a thing contains its life. As we saw previously, the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23); therefore, in order for a person not to die for their own sin, another life (sacrifice) is required in their place.

***for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible. (Leviticus 17:11, NLT)***

Under the old covenant, there were a vast number of rules, regulations and instructions about how sacrifices were to be made, on what days they were to be made, what animals should be sacrificed for different sins and the list goes on! The thing with all these sacrifices, was that the life of animals was never enough to completely take away a person's sin. Hence, these sacrifices had to be performed over and over again, year after year after year!

***The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been***

***purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God— as is written about me in the Scriptures.'" First, Christ said, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them" (though they are required by the law of Moses). Then he said, "Look, I have come to do your will." He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. (Hebrews 10:1-4, NLT, emphasis mine)***

Enter Jesus, the Saviour of the whole world (John 1:29). Since we have all sinned, we ALL require a sacrifice. There is none among men that could save us, so God Himself came down to Earth to become the sacrifice for us. Wow,

what love!

***When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:6-8, NLT)***

It was never His desire for animal sacrifices to take away our sins; He knew from before the foundation of the world, what He would do and that was to send His one and only Son, Jesus (Revelation 13:8).

***Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me. (John 14:16, AMPC)***

Let's finally look at some of the key factors as to why we can put our trust in Jesus, the one and ONLY worthy sacrifice for our sins, and the one and ONLY way to the Father in Heaven.

- JESUS IS GOD

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)***

***And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)***

Before Jesus came to earth as a man, He was the Word in Heaven. He always existed with the Father and through Him was everything created.

***Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (John 5:58)***

***Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, (Colossians 1:15, NLT)***

One of the reasons the Jewish leaders hated

Jesus when He was on the earth, was because He proclaimed that God was His Father. In declaring Himself to be the Son of God, Jesus was revealing the Godhead in a way humanity did not yet know them.

***But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God. (John 5:17-18, NLT)***

Jesus had to be God in order for His sacrifice to be worth the sins of all mankind. Nevertheless, He also had to become man in order that He might die and shed His life (blood) on behalf of all humanity (Hebrews 2:14). If He was *just* a man with the same blood as Adam (like everybody else), He would have needed a saviour also. However, the fact that He was God and was conceived into the world supernaturally, made Him the perfect candidate.

- JESUS WAS CONCEIVED SUPERNATURALLY

***Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and***

***bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)***

Biblically, the lineage of man could be traced through the male line all the way back to Adam. As we look through this line, every person in history fell short of the glory of God; everyone sinned, everyone died, and everyone needed a saviour.

***For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)***

Therefore, in order for Jesus to redeem the world, He needed a different type of DNA, He needed a supernatural one. Through the supernatural conception, the divinity of God was encased by the frailty of humanity; thus, Jesus was legally able to enter into the world as a man (with all the rights that God gave to human beings on the earth), whilst simultaneously carrying the supernatural life (blood) of God.

***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)***

***For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God. (1 Corinthians 11:12, NLT)***

- JESUS LIVED IN A BODY

***Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14)***

In order to die, Jesus needed a human body made of flesh and blood. How could He conquer (overcome) sin if He did not experience the same temptations as man? How could He pay the penalty for sin and defeat the power of the enemy if He was unable to die?

***The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. (Romans 8:3,***

**NLT)**

- JESUS LIVED WITHOUT SIN

Jesus, both God and man, lived in a human body just as we did. A body that was subjected to death because of the nature of sin that permeates the flesh. Yet, where the rest of us failed, Jesus succeeded. Hallelujah! Where the rest of us could not live according to the law of God, Jesus fulfilled it perfectly.

***This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15, NLT)***

***Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. (Matthew 5:17)***

- JESUS DIED ON A CROSS

***But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (Galatians 3:13, NLT)***

At the appointed time in history, Jesus became our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). The animal sacrifices that the Jews made year after year, were only foreshadows of what the coming Messiah would do. Where the sacrifices of animals were not enough to purify man from sin, Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice once and for all.

***Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant. (Hebrews 9:14-15, NLT)***

- JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

***And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (1 Corinthians 15:4)***

***He, foreseeing this, spoke [by***

***foreknowledge] of the resurrection of the Christ (the Messiah) that He was not deserted [in death] and left in Hades (the state of departed spirits), nor did His body know decay or see destruction. This Jesus God raised up, and of that all we [His disciples] are witnesses. (Acts 2:31-32, AMPC)***

Jesus was sinless; therefore, it was impossible for death to hold Him down. The resurrection of Christ proves that He is indeed the Son of God – the Saviour of the whole world! If He had been a sinner as the rest of us were, then He would still be in the grave today. If He were not raised from the dead, then we would still be in our sins; but by the grace of God, we are free forevermore!

***And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. (1 Corinthians 15:14)***

***And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17)***

***But the fact is that Christ (the Messiah) has been raised from the dead, and He became the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death]. (1 Corinthians 15:20, AMPC)***

So you see, when we turn in faith towards God, we can be *confident* that our faith is in *He* that has the power to save us from our sin... Jesus, the name above every other name!

***Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)***

***Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)***