

# THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

## GOD ALMIGHTY

1. The Bible tells us there is one God, revealed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is no other God than the God of the Bible. He is a God of love and justice.
2. The God of the Bible is a spirit who also became a man in the person of Jesus Christ.

## CREATION

1. God created all things; the heavens, the earth and all that is in them, including Adam & Eve.
2. His original creation was very good.

## THE FALL OF ANGELS

1. Lucifer, a leading angel in heaven, rebelled against God.
2. 1/3 of the other angels in heaven joined Lucifer's rebellion against God.
3. God created the Lake of Fire to be the place of their eternal punishment.
4. He has not yet consigned them to this place, but He will in His timing.

## THE FALL OF MANKIND

1. Lucifer (*a.k.a. Satan & the devil*) came into the Garden of Eden and tempted Adam & Eve.
2. They disobeyed God and brought eternal death to the earth and to all their descendants.
3. Mankind was now lost and headed toward the Lake of Fire with the rebellious angels.

## GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE MANKIND

1. God selected a man named Abraham, made a nation from his children and called it Israel.
2. In the fullness of time, God sent to earth His Son, Jesus Christ, who was born to a young virgin named Mary from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of Abraham. Thus, Jesus was a Jew.
3. Jesus, "the second Adam," lived a sinless life by resisting all temptations and fully obeying His Heavenly Father. He then voluntarily sacrificed Himself on the cross of Calvary, shedding His innocent blood as payment for mankind's sin.
4. On the third day following His crucifixion, Jesus rose from the grave, giving evidence that his sacrifice was acceptable to God as the payment for the sins of the world. He ascended into heaven and now has been given "all authority in heaven and on earth". He is Savior now and will be Judge of everyone upon His return to earth.

**"God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."**

# HOW YOU CAN BE SAVED and STAY SAVED

Jesus Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:14

**“The gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”**

## 1. The true plan of salvation is repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

- **Repentance** is a change of mind that should result in a change of behavior. It involves consciously turning away from that which we know to be wrong in God’s eyes. This means we must be on guard continually against temptation and sin. Jesus said,

“... The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15

“Unless you repent you will perish.” Luke 13:3

- **Faith** is trusting God. It is striving to live right and walk in obedience to His commands. Faith is pleasing God, doing His will, not ours, in everything.

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. 2 Tim 4:18

“He (Jesus) became the source of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him.” Hebrews 5:9

## 2. We are saved initially (*born again*) when we call upon the name of the Lord with a repentant heart and faith in Jesus Christ. We thereby enter the “small gate” of salvation.

“For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13f

“... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord [Jesus] shall be saved.” Romans 10:9-13

## 3. The genuineness of our repentance and faith is demonstrated by our deeds

Apostle Paul said we “should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.” Acts 26:20

Apostle James said, “I will show you my faith by my works.” James 2:14-26

## 4. Continue to walk honestly and humbly before the Lord. Many get saved initially, but afterwards “fall away from the faith”. Trust God to keep you in “the way”!

Jesus said, “...they believe [trust and obey] for a while and in time of temptation fall away.” Luke 8:13

The prophet Micah said, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Jesus said, “... but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.” Matt. 10:22