

WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

MAN

GOD

IN THE BEGINNING . . . The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created by God and enjoyed perfect fellowship with Him. They were without sin and lived peacefully in a beautiful garden that supplied all their needs. God gave them only one rule, which was not to eat the fruit of a particular tree. However, Satan tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit by saying it would benefit them. They ate it, and that act of disobedience against God was the first sin. It severed Adam's and Eve's relationships with God because He is holy and cannot have fellowship with evil.

MAN

SIN

GOD

OUR CONDITION TODAY . . . Since we are all Adam's descendants, every child in the world has been born with his fallen nature. Instead of coming into the world desiring to do right, we are all born with an inclination toward sin and evil. Proof of this natural downward tendency is abundantly evident anywhere human beings are found. Our sin results in tremendous pain, sorrow, and suffering. The consequences of sin reach far beyond this life because those who reject God and die in a sinful state will go to Hell and be separated from God eternally.

MAN

JESUS

GOD

GOD'S PLAN . . . God wants to remove sin from our lives so that we can have a relationship with Him and spend eternity in Heaven. However, the penalty for sin is death, and that penalty must be paid. Out of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus lived as a man and died in our place for our sins. Because of that, if we follow the steps that God has laid out in the Bible, our sins can be forgiven. God will change our desires and give us power to live without sin so we can enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven one day.

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GOD WATCHING OVER US

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From war-torn Cambodia to the hospital bedside of his critically ill baby, God has been with Roth.

By Roth Mom



God is the reason my life is what it is today. I was born in Cambodia during the civil war there, which lasted from 1968 to 1975. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodians died, and more than two million were displaced from their homes. After that, the Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot, came into power and mass bloodshed continued. Some of my earliest memories are of when my family had to pack up what we could carry and start running. That was the last time we saw our house. While I didn't understand what was going on, I knew to follow my parents, and now I

appreciate them so much for not leaving us behind. Often at night they scouted or looked for food, and sometimes I wondered if they would come back, but they always did.

Every day for three or four years we ran through the jungle from place to place, doing our best to stay hidden so we would not be shot. I saw people pacing with rocket launchers as we hid under bushes and in holes. We went through areas where there were land mines, but thankfully we did not step on them. Many times we could have been killed—people next to us fell down left and right as we ran. God was with us and protected us, even though we didn't know Him yet.

Once I fell into a raging river, and another time I was left on a canoe as it went floating away from my family. On another occasion, I almost lost my life in a lake. I was in a shallow area and didn't realize I was near a sudden drop off in the lake floor. I began falling backwards into deep water when somebody unseen pushed me back up. I didn't drown, and I believe it was because there were angels watching over me.

God helped us escape to Thailand, and we were there for a year or two. Next we went to the Philippines for nearly a year while my brother had surgery and recovered. Finally, we were blessed to come to America, arriving in 1984. When we had lived in the United States for a few months, someone invited my siblings and me to Sunday school at the Apostolic Faith Church. We began to attend regularly and learned about God and His Son Jesus. In time I understood that there was a Heaven and a Hell, and that if Jesus was not in my life, I would end up in Hell. I did not want that. Right before my senior year in high school, I prayed after a church service and gave my life to the Lord, and He forgave my sins.

Before I was saved, I often had nightmares about the things I had seen during those years in the jungle. As soon as God saved me, I had peace; there were no more nightmares. God erased all that. At that time I also realized that God had protected our family because He had a plan for us.

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After I became a Christian, my brother and sister were saved, and a few years later my mom was saved also. However, it took my dad a while to come to God. When he learned that he needed a minor surgery, we all talked to him, saying it was a good time to get rid of pride and talk to Jesus. Three days before the operation, he prayed and was saved. He said that a big burden was lifted off his shoulders. He went into surgery but, even though it was minor, there were complications and he passed away. However, we had peace because we knew he had gone to Heaven.

God blessed me to meet my wife, Kristy, and we were married in 2003. We had five children, and when the youngest was a year old, he got a bad case of the flu. We took him to the doctors and the hospital over and over, but they would just send him home. Meanwhile he grew

worse and worse. Finally, we took him to the doctor again, and that time we were told, "Take him to the hospital right now. He is very sick!" He was admitted and hooked up to IVs, but we began to get more and more bad news. His kidneys had failed, he was septic, he had necrotizing pneumonia, and various other things were wrong with him. One day when I had gone home to be with our other children, the doctor told Kristy, "It is very, very serious and we don't think he will make it through the night. His heart could stop at any moment. It's not a matter of *if* he will get worse; he *will* get worse. That is the course of the disease."

When Kristy gave me the news, I came back to the hospital, and we got down on our knees and prayed. God's people at many locations were praying with us. Though my heart broke at the thought of losing our baby, God gave me peace, and helped me to accept that if the Lord took our son, we would see him again someday in Heaven. As we prayed, the Lord came into the room, and our son did not get worse. The doctors could not explain it, but we know that God had mercy on him and us. It took some time, but the Lord healed him completely. Now, over six years later, he has no lasting damage, and we are so grateful.

In all the challenges of raising children, working, and many other matters, I am so thankful for God's Spirit to guide. I can ask Him for wisdom and discernment each day in everything I do and say. Without God's love and mercy, I wouldn't be here. He is awesome, and I want to serve Him the rest of my life.

■ **Roth Mom is an Apostolic Faith minister in the United States.**

STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

ACKNOWLEDGE

Admit that you have sinned and need God's help.

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

CONFESS AND REPENT

Be genuinely sorry for the sins you have committed and ask God to forgive you.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)

FORSAKE

Determine that with God's help you are going to turn away from all sin in your life.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him . . . for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)

BELIEVE

When you have honestly and sincerely taken the steps above, then believe that God will hear your prayer and save you.

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)

RECEIVE

God will let you know that the work is done in your heart.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)

If you are a new Christian, we encourage you to write and request the tract titled **"STARTING OUT."**

If you are not a Christian or if you have been walking with the Lord for some time, we want to do all we can to help you with your spiritual needs.

Email us at info@apostolicfaith.org or address a letter to the Apostolic Faith World Headquarters: 5414 SE Duke Street, Portland, Oregon 97206 USA.