

Currently, numerically the most successful American denomination in evangelism, the SBC has been high-drive for decades. A schoolmate of mine at SBTS did "Good News for Modern Man," and the SB press did an evangelistic version of it con-joint with ABS: "GNMM: Broadman Press Edition" [ABS/67], from which here I re-produce 6pp. referring to thumb-indexed vss.

You have read nine verses from the Bible which show you the way God has provided for you to receive a new life—full and everlasting. A matter of such great importance needs to be understood clearly. There-fore, you should review the truths in a simple, or-ganized form.

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I. The Bible says that God loves you and wants you to have full, eternal life.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his Son, so that everyone that believes in him may not die but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

"I have come in order that they might have life, life in all its fulness" (John 10:10).

II. Sin has separated you from God and deprived you of eternal life.

"All men have sinned and are far away from God's saving presence" (Rom. 3:23).

"For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

III. Although you are separated from God, he—by sending his only Son to die for your sins—has made it possible for you to return to him.

"But God has shown us how much he loves us: it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

"For Christ himself died for you; once and for all he died for sins, a good man for bad men, in order to lead you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

IV. God has given you a choice: You can continue in sin and die eternally; or you can accept his gift of eternal life offered through Jesus Christ. This is your decision. How do you accept God's gift?

1. *Repent*—change your attitude; for example, hate sin rather than delight in it; seek to obey God rather than disregard his will.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that he will wipe away your sins" (Acts 3:19).

2. *Believe in Jesus Christ*—commit your life to him as your Saviour and Lord. Realize that nothing you can do will bring you salvation.

"Jesus answered him: 'I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life; no one goes to the Father except by me'" (John 14:6).

"For it is by God's grace that you have been saved, through faith. It is not your own doing, but God's gift" (Eph. 2:8).

3. *Accept the fact that having repented and accepted Christ, you will be God's child forever.*

"Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children" (John 1:12).

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never die; and no one can snatch them away from me. What my Father has given me is greater than all, and no one can snatch them away from the Father's care" (John 10:28–29).

V. God's Word invites you now to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Christ himself said:

"Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and eat with him, and he will eat with me" (Rev. 3:20).

Now that you know what God requires of you in order to receive his gift of salvation, will you take the step that can transform your life?

My Decision

I recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me, that he lives eternally and is ready now to hear my cry of repentance and faith. He is willing to forgive my sins and give me everlasting life as a child of God. I confess that I am a sinner and deserve the judgment of God, but I ask Jesus to forgive me and to come into my life and change it. With all my heart I accept Jesus as my personal Saviour and will make him Lord of my life.

Name _____

Address _____

Date of Decision _____

OVER

A Word to Believers

If you have truly given your life over to Jesus, the Bible says that you are a "new being." "When anyone is joined to Christ he is a new being: the old is gone, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Your life has been changed. Jesus described this change as being so unusual that it is as if you had been born again. "Flesh gives birth to flesh, and Spirit gives birth to spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you, 'You must all be born again'" (John 3:6-7). It was the Holy Spirit who made you God's child. "For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you a slave and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's sons, and by the Spirit's power we cry to God, 'Father! my Father!' God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children" (Rom. 8:15-16).

You have been born again, but you are not full-grown: you are like a newborn baby. You need to grow and mature. A human baby needs air, food, exercise, and loving care from others in order to grow. Let us see how these compare to your needs as a spiritual babe in Christ.

1. Air.—No one can live without air. Nor can Christians live without prayer. The Christian must stay constantly in touch with God. When we pray, we

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are most conscious of God's presence. Jesus gave us the best example of prayer; many times in the Gospels we are told that he went off alone to pray. "Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of town to a lonely place where he prayed" (Mark 1:35). You need to spend time in prayer and to learn to talk with God about all your needs, problems, and desires. "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart" (Phil. 4:6).

2. Food.—Our spiritual food is the Word of God found in the Bible. Jesus said, "The scripture says, 'Man cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that God speaks'" (Matt. 4:4). We cannot let a day go by without eating; neither should Christians let a day go by without reading the Bible. Throughout your Christian life the Bible will be your guidebook and the Holy Spirit your teacher. "For all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living" (2 Tim. 3:16).

3. Exercise.—The human body needs exercise in order to develop. For the same reason, the Christian needs the exercise of service for the Lord. You can do this by telling others of the Saviour, helping those in need, following Christian principles in your everyday life, and being active in the life of the church. "So pay close attention to how you live. Don't live like ignorant men, but like wise men. Make good use of every opportunity you get, because these are bad days. Don't be fools, then, but try to find out what the Lord

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wants you to do" (Eph. 5:15-17). "Love one another warmly as brothers in Christ, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard, and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. Share your belongings with your needy brothers, and open your homes to strangers" (Rom. 12:10-13).

4. Christian friends.—As a new believer, you need the guidance and encouragement of more mature Christians. This is one reason why Jesus established his church: so that believers could strengthen one another and learn from one another. You are now a fellow citizen with God's people and a part of God's family! (Read Eph. 2:19.) As you grow in the fellowship of believers, you will find yourself, along with them, becoming more mature. You will be moving toward the ideal of the Christian life: to be as much like Christ as you can be. "And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature men, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature" (Eph. 4:13).

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