

# Native New Day

6



## What God Will Do for You

Legend tells the story that a fox, wishing to cross a wide river, asked a turtle if he would give him a ride across the river on his back. “No,” said the turtle,

“because I fear you will bite me when I stick out my head to swim across the river.” “No, no,” said the fox. “I promise I wouldn’t do such a thing to you.” “OK, if you promise you won’t bite me, I will take you,” said the turtle. So the fox got on the turtle’s back, and the turtle began swimming across the river. Halfway across the river, the fox reached down and fatally bit the turtle behind his neck. “Why did you do this?” asked the dying turtle as both began sinking to their death. “I can’t help myself,” said the fox. “It’s just my nature.”

Today we see people doing bad and evil things, whether they live in the biggest cities or smallest villages. The reason for this is that we all have a “carnal” or sinful nature. These sinful tendencies are in us at birth. Like the fox who realized it was just his evil nature to do wrong, the Bible teaches us it is natural for us to do things we know we should not do. We often wonder if our children will ever know what it means to live in an upright, moral society.

God knew something had to be done about our problem of sin and our sinful nature if we were ever to experience living in a sinless, heavenly kingdom and have eternal life. Because of His loving concern for us, God instituted a way to rescue us. Jesus Himself is the Way, the means of our salvation from sin.

Because all of us have sinned, we become subject to



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Jesus made Himself the Way.

the penalty for sinfulness, which is death. Jesus came to this earth and lived as a human being, like ourselves. By holding on to His heavenly Father for strength, (“You Father are in me and I in You.” John 17:21) Jesus lived a perfect life. Because He was sinless He didn’t have to die as a penalty for sin. This allowed Him to die for us, as a perfect substitute for our sins and sinfulness. When by faith we accept this gift, we do not have to die eternally for our sinfulness. Though we are weak, we can be accepted as God’s children and receive the right to the heavenly kingdom. God then also gives us strength to live for Him and prepare for citizenship in heaven.



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**Key Thought.** We must first understand that though we are all naturally weak and sinful, we should not wait to be perfect in order to come to Jesus. We should come just as we are—with all our problems and difficulties. Some people think they need to first get rid of all of their bad habits before Jesus can give them help and hope. God’s plan of salvation was designed to reach sinners right where they are. The important thing is for us to be “willing” to reach out for help from God and be

transformed by it. Then, God will help us to “want” to do what is right and He will also help us to live a victorious life.

## BIBLE ANSWERS

**1. How many of us have sinned? Romans 3:23, Isaiah 53:6.** “For \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned.” “All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” *(All quotations from the Bible in these lessons are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.)*



**The important thing is for us to be willing to reach out for help from God.**

**NOTE:** All of us have weaknesses through which we can be tempted to sin. It is hard at times to realize this when we have good health and a sound mind, but overall we are spiritually sick. We may be trying to be honest and good people, but we often forget that we are naturally weak. All of us need divine forgiveness and a miraculous change of nature—which the Bible calls conversion. Only Jesus can change us, forgive our sins, and work miracles in us through the Holy Spirit, by giving us the power we need to live righteously (Colossians 3:5, 8).

**2. What symbolic term does Jesus use to describe this miracle of our being “in Christ” and being changed into a “new man” with a new nature that abhors**

**impure thoughts and crippling anger? John 3:3.**  
“Jesus answered . . . ‘unless one is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”



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herefore, if  
anyone is in  
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(2 Corinthians 5:17).

**NOTE:** Nicodemus, a spiritual leader, came one night to see Jesus. Jesus told him that he had to be “born again.” Nicodemus asked, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” (John 3:4).

Jesus changed the emphasis from being born again physically to being born spiritually from above—by God’s power. When the Holy Spirit moves us to surrender our lives to Jesus, we are born again spiritually (see Romans 6:6). A change takes place in us. Jesus puts within us a desire and power to do what is right. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in us and moti-

vates us to think as He thinks and to do what He does. We don't have to rely on our own strength or ability to live righteously. Instead, we trust in and rely on God's power as it comes to us from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will miraculously work "in us" when we align ourselves with Him. God quietly produces within us an upright lifestyle.

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*ike the changed life of Mary Magdalene in the Bible account, repentance means we are truly sorry for our wrong actions and by God's help we want to turn away from them.*



3. What part must we play in order to be “born again?” When Paul and Silas were jailed, an angel opened the doors of the prison. The frightened jailer asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” What answer did Paul and Silas give? Acts 16:30–31. “So they said, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.’”

**T**o believe in Jesus means that I accept Jesus’ death on the cross for me personally and ask Him to forgive me and come into my heart.

**NOTE:** Paul told the jailer to believe in Jesus. What does “believe” mean? To believe means that I accept Jesus’ death on the cross for me personally and ask Him to forgive me and come into my heart to guide me.

“And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger and he who believes in Me shall never thirst’” (John 6:35). This passage reveals that true belief in Christ is the same as coming to Him, fully surrendering to Him. Jesus said that if we would follow Him we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24).

When we pray for forgiveness, Jesus answers that prayer immediately. “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). The Bible tells us that God buries our forgiven sins in the bottom of the sea

(Micah 7:19). This is one way of saying that they are covered by the blood of Jesus. We can “believe” that as a fact!

By simply trusting or “believing” that God means what He says when He promises to forgive us and give us eternal life, we can stand before God as though we have never sinned.

**T**he Bible says that God buries our forgiven sins. Through Jesus, we can stand before God as though we have never sinned. He becomes not only our Savior, but also our Lord.

**4. Those who listened to Peter’s sermon about Jesus and His death for their sins were convicted by the Holy Spirit. What question did they ask and what did Peter tell them to do? Acts 2:36-38.** “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘\_\_\_\_\_, and let every one of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

**NOTE:** To repent means to be truly sorry for one’s sinful ways and turn away from repeating the same wrong habits and actions. God is ready to give us a new heart and strength to do this. God is willing to change our lives, which we can’t do for ourselves.



To be baptized shows that a person has chosen by faith to openly die to sin, bury the old man of sin, and be raised to a new life, to live as God's man, woman, boy, or girl. By baptism, we tell Satan that we now belong to Jesus. Jesus can then limit Satan and his angels in their harassment of us.

*(A study on baptism will be given later in this "Native New Day" series of lessons that will answer questions many ask about this subject.)*



**S**o when we give our life to Jesus and become a Christian, according to the Bible, we will:

(1) **Believe.** Believe that Jesus who died for me is my Savior and Lord. Believe that His death for my sins and His resurrection and priestly ministry in Heaven give Him the right to forgive me and give me divine power when I ask Him. Do you believe that Jesus does all this for you personally?

*Our believing in Jesus will lead us to:*

(2) **Repent and be baptized.** Repentance means that I am truly sorry for my sinful habits and actions and by God's power I will to turn away from them. Baptism symbolizes that I have chosen to begin a new life in Christ's power and that I have openly chosen to accept Jesus as the One to continually control and guide my life.

*Because of this I will be enabled to:*

(3) **Live an obedient life with God's help.** By choos-

ing to be lovingly obedient to God's Word, I show I want to live God's way for eternity. I realize that I can't obey on my own. But with the help of the Holy Spirit I realize that "Blessed [happy] are those who do His [God's] commandments" (Revelation 22:14). According to Jesus, when a person inherits eternal life, he or she will want to keep God's commandments. Such a person does not obey the commandments in order to be saved, but because of their deep love for Jesus and what is right. (John 14:15).

Have you given your life to Jesus and become a Christian? Have you repented of your past life of sin and asked Jesus to forgive you? Is it your sincere desire and the intent of your heart to follow God's plan for your life? If this is your experience, you have been born again and are in harmony with God's plan to give you eternal life as a free gift of His grace.

**5. How does the apostle Paul describe the change that takes place in a person's life which enables him or her to live a life that delights in obeying Jesus? Ephesians 4:22-24.** "That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the \_\_\_\_\_ which grows corrupt . . . , and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the \_\_\_\_\_ which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."

 **S**urrendering to and trusting God brings peace of mind. God gives us eternal life as a free gift of His grace.

**NOTE:** Here on earth by nature we are weak, and to live a righteous lifestyle is difficult at times. However, as followers of Jesus, we learn to love Christ more and more and to choose to turn to the Holy Spirit to ask for help to do the right thing. Because of the inner peace, spiritual prosperity, and happiness we experience as a result, we will grow to long to live in heaven where everyone will think and act in harmony with God’s plan for us. We may fall and make mistakes at times, but God has promised to always forgive us if we repent and ask. Those who truly love God and learn from their mistakes will hold on tighter to God’s hand and power.

**6. How does Scripture describe the close relationship a Christian has to God’s Spirit? John 14:16-17.** “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, . . . the Spirit of truth . . . you know Him, for He \_\_\_\_\_ with you and will be \_\_\_\_\_ you.”

**T**he Holy Spirit steers us to spiritual success and fulfillment.

**NOTE:** When we choose to allow the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts, He honors this decision by blessing us in many ways. In Ephesians 5:9 Paul reminds us that “the



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ust like a man who has two dogs and feeds one and not the other, if we feed the spiritual nature—relying on God's strength and grace—He helps us deal with temptations.





fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.” The Holy Spirit knows the end from the beginning and will guide us in the best directions. Though things may not work out immediately the way we think they should, the Holy Spirit sees what it will take in the long run to steer us to spiritual success and fulfillment.

**7. How are we to deal with temptation? What promises does God make to those who are tempted by the Devil? James 4:7.** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will \_\_\_\_\_ you.”

“Without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5); “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Remember, Jesus was “in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the \_\_\_\_\_ of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15 last part, 16).

You can depend on God, for “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be \_\_\_\_\_ beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13, last part).

**R**elying on ourselves is like getting into a boxing ring against the heavyweight champion. Our hope is in the One who will get into the ring with us and fight for us.



**P**eaceful feelings  
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**NOTE:** The messages in the above Scriptures are encouraging and tell us how to overcome temptation. Resist the Devil; rely on Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will make a way of escape when you are tempted.

Relying on ourselves is like getting into a boxing ring with the world's heavyweight champion. As we face Satan's supernatural powers and temptations, our only hope is to turn away from Satan, the bully, to the One who will get in the ring with us. God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit together are much stronger than we or the devil with all his fallen angels. They will stand by us as we fight our daily battles against Satan and sin. Our part is to surrender to Jesus, resist Satan, and in humility continually to ask God for help and strength.

**Closing Thought.** Often people place roadblocks in the way of those who wish to be saved. They say, "You have to pray it through," or that you are supposed to "feel" some sort of electrifying experience. But God doesn't ask or require that. If a person prays in simple, humble faith, "I am a repentant sinner, and by faith I accept the

**F**or by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8).

gift of salvation through Jesus,” God will welcome him with open arms. Then ask Him to be with you as you live for Him. Salvation is something God promises. “Peaceful feelings” will come as a result of knowing your sins are forgiven and that you’re accepted by God.

**Next Lesson.** How can your life be changed? How does God make you into a “new person”?

***Here is a suggested prayer:***

*“Dear God, Thank You for Your free gift of salvation in Jesus and a new beginning. I invite Jesus into my heart to be my Savior. Thank You for forgiving my sin and coming into my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*



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