

Name: _____

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I. Your Spiritual journey

1. Briefly explain in your own words where you have come from spiritually (Spiritual journey thus far)?

2. Briefly explain in your own words what you think the problem is in our relationship with God?

3. How do you think a person becomes saved?

4. Briefly explain what you think about Jesus?

5. Briefly explain what you think about the Bible?

6. Briefly explain what you think God would say about your spiritual condition?

II. God

A. The Creator God

God created man in **His own image**, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Gen 1:27)

- God **owns** us and He determines our purpose. (Acts 17:24, Ps 24:1)
- God created Man with the purpose to reflect something of **God's Character (Reflect His image)**. Man is to **glorify** God. Is 43:7

because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 1 Pet 1:16

One of God's attributes is His Holiness. He expects man to be Holy because He is Holy.

¹¹ God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day. ¹² If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. Ps 7:11–12

- Because God is Holy, He is also a righteous God and has punish sin.

Righteousness is the state of conforming to God's perfect law and holy character. The root meaning implies Gods Justice.

III. The Problem of Our Nature.

*¹² Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered into the world, **and death through sin, and so death spread** to all men, because all sinned...¹⁸ So then as through one transgression **there resulted condemnation** to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience **the many were made sinners**, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. Rom 5:12, 18-19*

How has Adam's sin affected all people? _____

IV. The Problem of Our Actions

¹⁰ as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; Rom 3:10–11

For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. Isaiah 64:6

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Rom 3:23

What does the Bible say is wrong with man's actions? _____

²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 6:23*

What are the consequences of mans' sins?

V. The Solution to the Problem of Sin

¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² **by which also you are saved**, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1 Cor 15:1–4

The Gospel is the good news about what God has done to save sinners through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ.

VI. How Should You Respond to the Gospel?

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

³⁰ *“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:30–31*

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 1 Thess 1:9

B. What is True Repentance?

- **Intellectually:** true repentance recognises **that we are sinners by nature** and that our sin offends a Holy God. We are personally responsible for our sin.
- **Emotionally:** genuine repentance often accompanies **sorrow or feeling** ashamed.
- **Volitionally:** True repentance also involves a **change in direction**; it involves the willingness to abandon stubborn disobedience and surrender to the will of Christ. (Judges 10:10-15, Is 55:7-9)

⁹ *that 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; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. Rom 10:9–10*

¹ *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the men of old gained approval. Heb 11:1–2*

³ *for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and **put no confidence in the flesh,** Phil 3:3*

⁸ *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, Phil 3:8–9*

²³ *And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. Luk 9:23*

²⁶ *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Luke 14:26*

³³ *“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. Luke 14:33*

C. What is True Saving Faith?

Intellectually: True saving faith is based on **knowledge of the truths** of who Christ is and what He accomplished. (John 8:24, Ex 3:14) The sinner comes to recognise and understand the truths of the gospel. (Rom 10:9, 1 Thes 4:14)

Emotionally: **saving faith** not only knows these truths, but also **whole heartedly embraces** it. There is now a **settled confidence, an assurance, a heart persuaded by** and affirming the gospel. **It’s a God given certainty about these truths.** (The believer embraces the truth about his sinfulness and sees Christ as God’s only saving solution for this problem).

Trust: Saving faith is a **total reliance, a personal trust and a personal commitment** to Christ as Saviour and Lord. The believer puts no confidence in the flesh.

What role do good works play in salvation? (James 2:14-25, Eph 2:8-10, Rom 3:19-20)

Some evaluative questions.

- Have you come to understand and comprehend that you are a sinner by nature and guilty before a Holy God? _____
- Do you believe that Jesus is God the Son, fully God and fully Man.? _____
- Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to be saved? _____
- Do you believe that Jesus died for your sin on the cross and rose again?

- Have you asked God to forgive you of your sins, to save you and give you the faith to believe in His gospel and transform you into His image? _____
- How do you **know** that God has saved you?

- How has your life changed since your conversion to Christ?

VII. Baptism

A. Baptism is a command that the believer must obey

³⁶ *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.* ³⁷ *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”* ³⁸ *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:36–38 (ESV)*

What does Peter require the believers to do in response to the gospel?

Baptism then is the public profession of faith and submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Baptism is a command the church must obey

¹⁸ *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* ¹⁹ *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Mat 28:18–20*

The Great Commission is the mission that was given to the Church. The church needs to make disciples of Christ by going to the nations, baptising them and teaching them to obey Christ.

Baptism is the church’s act of publicly affirming the believer’s profession of faith. It is a visual picture of Christ’s union with the believer.

C. Baptism is an external sign of spiritual realities

The believer's union with Christ

³ *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* ⁴ *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.* ⁵ *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* ⁶ *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.* ⁷ *For one who has died has been set free from sin.* ⁸ *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*
Rom 6:3–8 (ESV)

- Jesus died for our sins and the believer, in union with Christ, died with Christ to the power of sin
- Jesus rose from the dead and the believer, in union with Christ, rose to a new life with Christ.

The believer's profession of faith

- Baptism is then also the external sign of the believer's profession of faith in Christ. (Acts 2:36-38)

Baptism is the external sign of the believer's union with the invisible church of Christ

¹³ *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.* *1 Cor 12:13 (ESV)*

Baptism is also the visual sign of the believer being placed into the invisible body of Christ, the church.

D. Baptism was practiced by immersing people in water

²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized John 3:23 (ESV)

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8:35–39 (ESV)

1. How do you know from these two passages that baptism was practiced through the immersion of the water?

E. Baptism does not save

Baptism does not save a person. (The thief on the cross did not go through baptism)

F. Who should be baptized?

Every believer should be baptised. Mt 28:18-20, acts 2:28

VIII. Take time to evaluate the following:

1. Have you undergone a believer 's baptism? _____