

INTRODUCTION

This manual has been put together with the purpose of helping all new (and also) older members of the EXCHANGE Church to establish a firm foundation for their faith. God has much in store for every believer's life. We must never limit what God can do through our lives. It is important that every believer grows strong in their faith, so that they will be overcomers and fulfill all that God has planned and purposed for their life.

When we fulfill God's plan and purpose for our life, others will also become believers and fulfill God's plan for their life. We all have an important part to play within the Body of Christ and we all need one another. When all believers flow in their gifts and callings the church makes a great impact on the world.

God has a good plan and purpose for every believer. The Apostle Paul wrote:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20)

We pray that this book will be a blessing to all who read it. Just believe that your life can make a big impact in this world for Jesus and for eternity.

The Exchange Church

Believers' Bible Class

A. Creation- The Original Status

God created the heavens and the earth. Every living and non-living thing is a product of God's creation. Gen. 1:1, John 1:3, Heb. 1:2

Man was created in God's image- a spirit being (Gen 1:26&27, John 4:24). Created in God's likeness, man (Adam) had spiritual abilities beyond the average creature. He had:

- **Dominion (authority)**
- **Spiritual discernment**
- **Relationship with God (life)**
- **Divine provision**

B. Disobedience- The Fall/Introduction of Sin and Death

1) God gave Adam specific instructions concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He was not to eat of it. The resultant effect was death- a spiritual separation from the life, grace and presence of God.

Gen. 2:16-18

2) Man wilfully disobeyed God's command as Eve was deceived by the serpent- the devil. Adam followed suit. The consequence of the act was a fall from the status of grace, power and authority indicated by a sense of nakedness and condemnation- **Gen. 3: 1-12**

3) Through the act of disobedience, sin and death was introduced into humanity; which led to a physical separation from the life/grace/presence and power of God- **Gen. 3: 13-19, 22-24, Rom. 5:12**

C. Sin, the Law & the Flesh

1) Sin was introduced into the world as a reason of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's instruction- **Rom. 5:12.**

2) The consequence of sin is death and decay [deterioration]. This is due to the fact that sin isolates us from the personality and presence of God. **Rom 6:23, Gen 3:7-12, Gen 3:22-27**

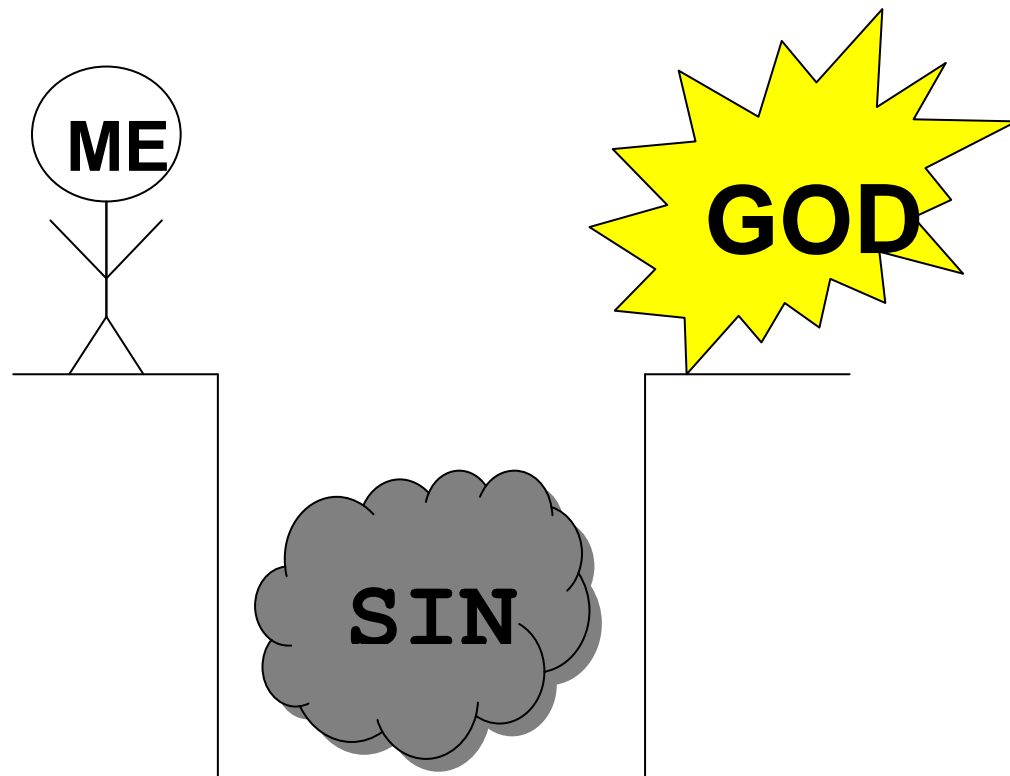


Illustration 1. For all have sin and come short of God's glory. Rom. 3:23

3) By wilfully disobeying God, leading to a fall in grace, the sin nature was introduced/ embedded into the DNA/ genetic makeup of Adam and Eve's descendants. **Gen. 6:5-6, Eph. 2:1-4 Rom. 8:19, Eph. 4:22, Rom. 5:12-15.** Humanity became wired/setup to do evil/disobey due to the influence of the sinful nature- the flesh. *Rom 8:8&13, Gal 5:16-21.*

4) The law was a system of righteousness imputed by works. Humanity did not have the inherent capacity to do right/fulfil the legal/moral requirements of the law. **Rom. 8:1-4, Rom. 3:20, Matt 5:17-20, 2nd Cor. 3:6.**

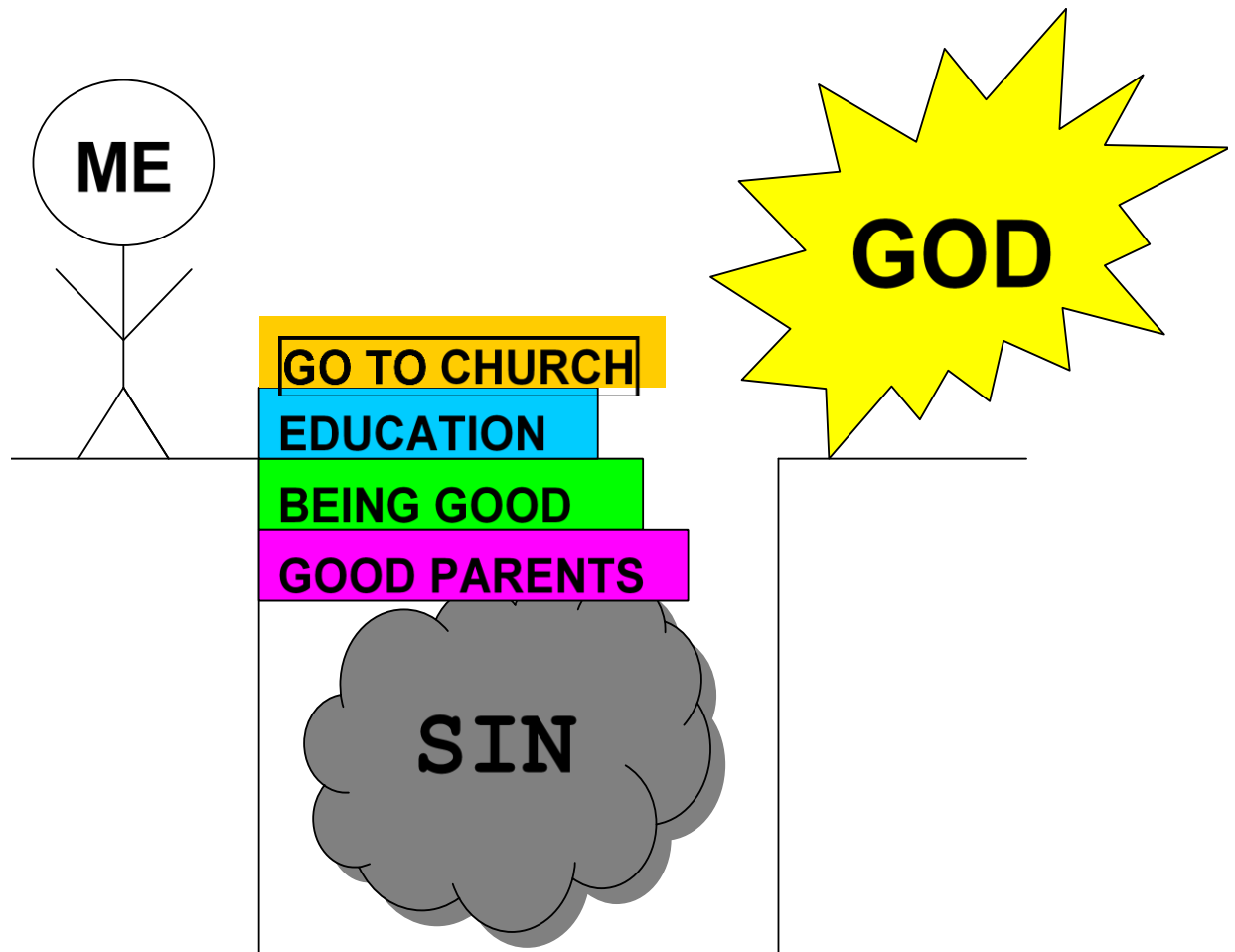


Illustration 2. You cannot be saved by the works you have done. Eph. 2:8-9

D. The Good News- Christ Came, Died and Rose Again

1) Christ came for the reconciliation of man to God. He was sent of God with the message of redemption. **Isaiah 61:1, 2 Cor. 5:18&19, Rom 8:3, Heb. 1:1-2, John 10:10, Heb. 2:9.**

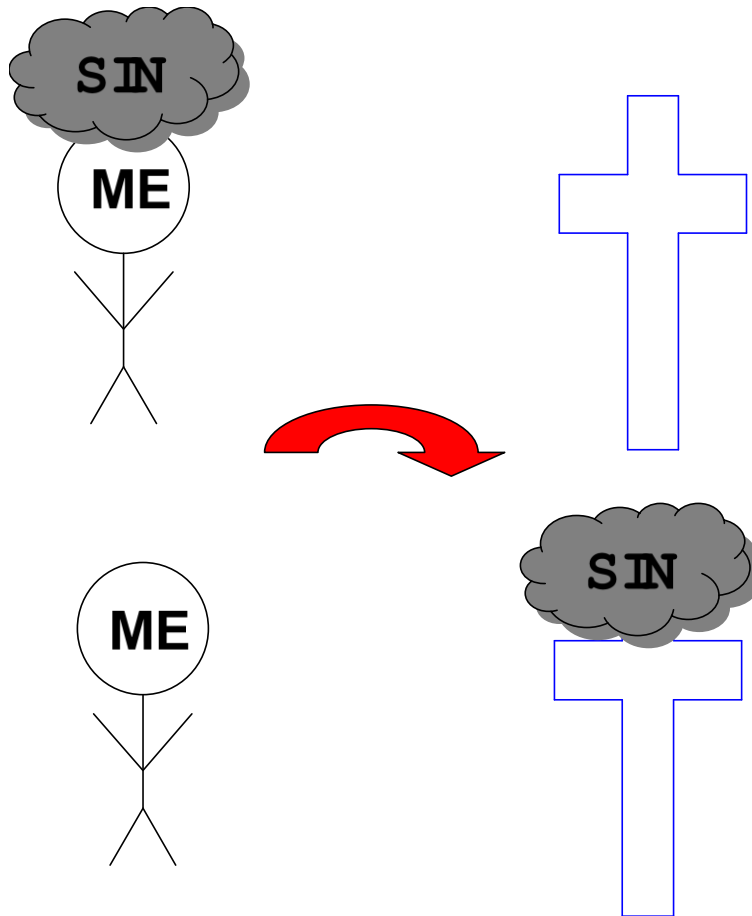


Illustration 3. For he made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5:21

- 2) His death upon the cross was the atonement of our sins, our deliverance from the influence of sin and death. **Rom. 8:1-4, Eph. 1:1-5**
- 3) His ultimate sacrifice brought about a restoration of our spiritual status. **Eph. 2:6, John 1:12**, our righteousness in God. **Rom. 3:22**
- 4) Through his death and resurrection, we have access to newness of life- **2 Cor. 5:17**, *Ezekiel 36:26*, eternal life -**John 10:10, John 10:27-28, John 17:1-2, divine healing- **Mark 16:17-18**, divine prosperity- **3 John 1:2****

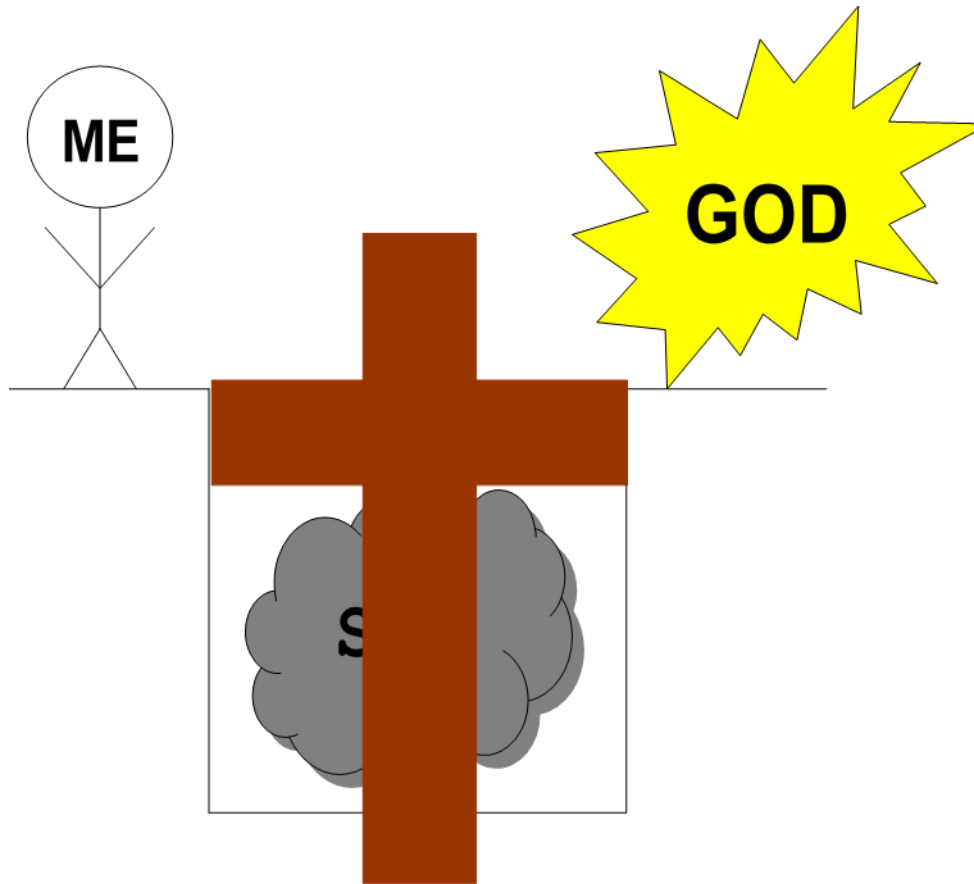


Illustration 4. To meet God's holy character of justice (for sin) and love (for the sinful man), the last Adam (Jesus) was sent to break down the barrier between God and man. Rom 5: 17-19, 1 Cor. 15:21-22

E. How to be Saved [ABC of Salvation]

1) A-Acknowledge

- Acknowledge that you are a sinner. Your good works or ideas do not meet up with God's righteous standards, Rom 3:23, Eph. 2:8-9
- There is no other name given to be saved- Acts 4:10, 2 John 14:6, Rom 10:13, Eph. 2:18

2) B- Believe

- Believe that Christ died for your sins. Believe that he was crucified for our transgressions- **Rom 5:6-8**, Heb. 2:9. Believe he resurrected from the dead and ascended to the heavens claiming victory over sin and death- Eph. 2:8-9, 1st Cor. 15:4

- Believe that you are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. **Acts 2:21, John 3:16, John 20:31, Rom 10:9.**

3) C-Confess

- Confess your sins and repent. 1st John 1:9
- Confess that Jesus is the son of God. He [Jesus] is your Lord and Saviour. **Rom 10:9&10, 1st John 4:15, Luke 6:45b**

Salvation Prayer

Dear God, I know that I have sinned and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sin. Forgive my sin and put me right with you. I will follow Jesus as my Lord and obey him in all that I do. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Exchange Church

Believers' Bible Class

Sweet Holy Spirit

A. Introducing the Trinity- God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit [5 Min]

1. God exists as 3 distinct personalities- God the father- the source of all authority and power [Gen 1:1, John 3: 16, Heb. 1:1], God the Son- the word of God [John 1:1&14, Heb. 1:1, John 17:1-3, John 17:21, Phil 2:5&6] and God the Holy Spirit- the power of God [1 Cor. 2:11, Gen 1:2].
2. The personalities in Godhead are in one accord [1John 5:7, John 17:21, Matt 28:19, Phil 2:5&6, Amos 3:3, 1 Cor. 14:33].
3. The three personalities in God have distinct personalities [traits] and functionalities [roles]

B. The Person of the Holy Spirit [5 Min]

1. The Holy Spirit is a divine being: a person, not a force or some physical quantity.
 - He has a voice [Rev 2:7, Acts 13:2, Heb. 3:7]
 - Will [1 Cor. 12:11, Acts 11:12]
 - Mind [1 Cor. 2:9-16]
 - Emotions [Eph4:30]
2. He chooses to manifest himself in diverse ways e.g.
 - Fire [Acts 2:1-8, 1Thess 5:19]]
 - Water [Isaiah 59:19, John 7:37-39]

- Wind [Acts 2:4, John 3:8]
- Earthquake [Acts 4:31, Acts 16:26]
- Dove [Matt. 3:16]

C. The Anointing Upon/Within and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost [10 Min]

1. In the days of old [Old Testament], the Spirit of God came upon individuals for a specific purpose; for a specific and limited amount of time e.g Samson, Saul [Judges 14:19, 1Sam. 10:9, 1Sam. 16:14, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Luke 1:35, Isaiah 61:1].
2. God prophesied and promised of a time when there would be an outpouring of his Spirit on all flesh- mankind [Joel 2:28, John 7:38&39 John 3:34, 1 Cor. 6:19, Mark 16:7]. In this dispensation, the Spirit of God will be resident within man.
3. The new dispensation was ushered in on the day of Pentecost: a dramatic experience signifying the beginning of a new era. [Acts 2:1-4]
4. The Holy Ghost baptism is a significant event. It is not the same thing as the salvation experience. It is depicted by infilling of God's Spirit evidenced by speaking in new tongues. [Acts 19:1-6, Acts 8:14-17].

Benefits of the Holy Ghost Baptism [10 Min]

1. **Power:** a supernatural empowerment/enablement that comes from the Spirit of God. [Acts 1:8, Zech. 4:6, Eph. 1:19-20, Rom 8:11].
2. **Revelation:** an insight into God's divine plan & purpose, God-given ability to see the past, present or future. [1 Cor.2:9, John 16:13, Prov. 20:27]
3. **Comfort/ Assurance:** the assurance of God's presence in our life situations, bringing hope and strength in time of distress and loneliness.[John 15:26, John 16:7, John 14:16, Isaiah 28:11&12.]
4. **Spiritual Edification:** building spiritual strength and virtue in our inward being through interaction with the Spirit of God [Jude 1:20, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 3:1-16, 1 Cor. 14:4.].
5. **Intercession:** praying according to God's will/spending time alone in God's presence. [Rom 8:26&27, Eph. 6:18, 1 Cor. 14:2&14].
6. **Instruction/Teaching/Understanding of Scripture:** we are promised that when the 'comforter' Comes, he will guide us into all truth. The Holy Spirit plays an integral part in our ability to understand the integral part in our ability to understand the inner workings of God's promises embedded in his word. [2 Peter 1:21, John 16:13, 1 John 2:20, Job 32:8].
7. **Conviction in Righteousness:** the Holy Spirit is holy. Therefore, he works with our conscience as a barometer to guide us out of sin into righteousness. When we fellowship with him consistently over time, God's divine nature is imparted into us. Also, by following the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are able to subdue the flesh and maintain a righteous lifestyle. [John 16:8, Rom. 8:4, Gal 5:16].
8. **Direction:** when we maintain intimacy with God, he promises to direct our paths according to his will which is good, acceptable and perfect. [Ps. 23:1, Acts 10:19-20, Acts 8:29, Acts 13:2].

9. **Witness/Confirmation:** the Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit concerning God's word, God's will and God's way. [Rom. 8:16, Rom. 9:1, Heb. 10: 15&16, John 15:26, Acts 5:32].
10. **Magnification/Praise:** the Holy Spirit helps us to magnify/worship God in a language beyond our human comprehension. Worship God in a language beyond our human comprehension. Worship/praise which comes directly from our hearts [Spirit] takes us to greater heights in his presence. [Acts 10:45&46, Eph. 5: 18&19, Col. 13:16, 1 Cor. 14:15].

How to Receive the Holy Spirit

1. **Laying-on of Hands:** this is a spiritual impartation carried out by a believer/disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ acting upon spiritual instruction. Acts 8:14-18, Acts 19: 1-6.
2. **Prayer of Faith:** God promises in his word to honour every request for the awesome gift of the Holy Spirit when we ask in faith. Luke 11:11-13, Heb. 11:6
3. **Outpouring of God's Spirit Activated by Faith:** whenever/wherever the word of God is shared [discussed or preached], there exists an anointing/power backing up his word. Many times, faith in the hearts of the hearers of the spoken word makes them legitimate recipients of the grace of God. Rom 10:17, Acts 10:44-48.
4. **Sovereign Manifestation of the Spirit of God:** at times, God chooses to manifest his grace/presence in a sovereign manner. In such cases, the time, place, people and manner of outpouring are not of our choosing. Acts 2:1-4, Acts 11:15, Joel 2:28, Acts 2: 17&18.

The Exchange Church Believers' Bible Class SAVED TO SERVE

A. The Concept of Stewardship [Luke 16: 1-2, Eccl. 3: 1-8]

A steward is a person in whose hands certain things are committed so that he\ she would give account. The fact is that God does not save us so we can sit, but so we can serve. If God has saved you from your sin, He has called you to serve Him in accordance with your gifts and abilities.

- Once saved, service is compulsory
- When you plan to serve, you will receive more grace to serve and more blessings

B. What God Needs from you in Order to Serve Him

- Time – do not put God on Schedule but build your schedule around God
- Talent- God is the source of all talents
- Treasure- could be your finance **2 Cor. 9:6-8**

C. **Covenant Blessings of Service**

1. Prosperity: The secret of blessings is service. Job 36:11, Ps. 35:2
2. Protection: **Acts 27:19-22, Ps. 105:14-15.**
3. Power: **Phil. 4:13**

D. **The Needs Required From A Believer By The Local Assembly**

1. The need to be planted [receive God's leading]
2. The need to be committed [attend believer's class, be part of a departmental unit]
3. The need to be a partner [pray and pay]