

8 - BORN TO LIVE FOREVER



1

The Secret of Immortality



2

(Video: 19 sec) The earth shook. The powerful tremors sent shock waves through the entire city. Office buildings collapsed and homes crumbled. Hospitals, schools and churches were all destroyed.

The earthquake in February of 2001 in El Salvador killed nearly 3,000 people instantly. Thousands were left homeless. Emergency aid workers labored tirelessly day and night searching for victims. They found only a few left alive.

After four days of continuous digging, they were preparing to give up their search when someone noticed a half-buried arm amidst the rubble. It was even more shocking when the arm slowly moved. Rescue workers dug furiously.

It took them nearly four hours to uncover a middle-aged man from underneath the debris. He was alive. He had survived for four days without food or water. Later in the hospital, he was asked how he possibly could have lived under such amazingly difficult conditions.

His answer, "I willed to live. I gasped for air. I did not want to die. I believed help was on its way."



3

**We were born with this desire to live.
You and I had it when we entered this world.
Everyone who has ever lived has had it.**

**It is probably the strongest desire we ever have.
We human beings are bonded together by our common desire to live.**

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4

And when a human life is threatened, people go to incredible, heroic lengths to save others.
It could be a child who has fallen into a well.
Or people aboard a crippled ship stranded at sea.



5

Or a climber stranded on a dangerous mountainside ledge.
Or victims trapped in the rubble of an earthquake.
But when someone's life is in the balance, people race to save each other.



6

Yet the truth that none of us likes to think about—but is true nonetheless—is that the lives of every last one of us are in danger.
Not just danger, either.
We're each doomed to die.



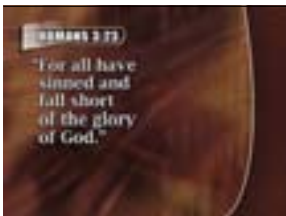
7

(Text: Romans 6:23)
“For the wages of sin,” the Bible says, “is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus the Lord.”
Romans 6:23.



8

Sin is poisonous stuff—it's deadly.
It's lethal. Why? Because it separates us from the Source of all life—God Himself, who created us.
And every one of us has sinned.



9

(Text: Romans 3:23)
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23.



10

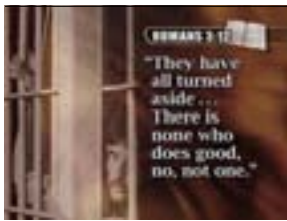
(Text: Romans 3:10-12)
“...There is none righteous, no, not one.



11

There is none who understands; there is none that seeks after God.

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12

**“They have all turned aside . . . There is none who does good, no not one.”
Romans 3:10-12.**



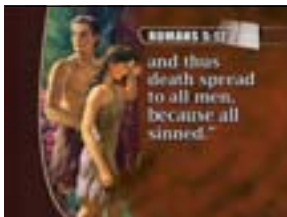
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Our original parents, Adam and Eve, from whom the entire human race descended, chose to cut themselves off from God by disobeying Him and going their own way.



14

**(Text: Romans 5:12)
“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin,**



15

**and thus death spread to all men, because all have sinned.”
Romans 5:12**



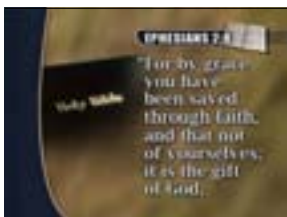
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**The natural result of sin is death.
The death rate from sin is 100 percent.
Adam would die because of his sin.
So too would all who descended from him—including each one of us.**



17

**So we’re all down a pit.
Trapped and helpless.
Doomed to die unless someone rescues us.
The bad news is we’re doomed unless someone saves us.
The good news is that Someone has!**



18

**(Text: Ephesians 2:8, 9)
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourself; it is the gift of God,**



19

**not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8, 9.**

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**Yes, we have all sinned.
There is no doubt about it!
We sin with every selfish act, word, or even thought.**



20

**Imagine the countless times each day that we had sinned!
And our problem is not just the sins we have committed –it's
the fact that we are sinners!**



21

**A person with a fatal illness who never recognizes his or her
problem or seeks medical help will die. And that is the fate of
sinners who fail to recognize their spiritual condition and
seek help.**



22

**(Text: Isaiah 59:2)
“Your iniquities [sins] have separated you from God.” Isaiah
59:2.
God is the source of all life, and when Adam sinned, he began
to die.**

**But a God of love did not tell us the result of sin without giv-
ing us hope for salvation!
Here's the good news!**



23

**(Text: Romans 6:23)
“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
Romans 6:23.**



24

**Salvation is a gift.
we don't deserve it.
nor can we earn it by our own good works, and we can't buy it
at any price.**



25

**Most people believe that human beings receive forgiveness
and eternal life by doing more good deeds.**

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People sit on beds of spikes, believing that by torturing their bodies they can earn God's favor.



26

Some people beat and bruise their bodies with whips and chains, others pierce themselves with sharp hooks, and



27

some walk barefoot on hot coals seeking divine favor by unusual acts of physical abuse.



28

Others believe they gain merit for a future life by building temples or feeding the holy men,



29

and for some others, there is no greater joy or better way of earning favor with God than a pilgrimage to Mecca or dying in defense of Islam.



30

Many Christians unwittingly do the same thing. They attend church, give offerings, and follow the Bible's Golden Rule, thinking they earn favor with God and thus deserve eternal life. But is that possible?



31

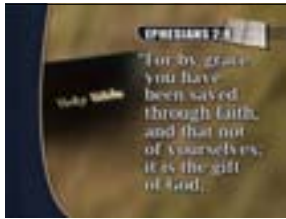
Can man, through some means of physical punishment, mental anguish or deed of kindness, bribe God to grant him forgiveness and eternal life?



32

Do we earn salvation or win it as one does a sports trophy or gold medal?

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(Text: Ephesians 2:8, 9)

The Bible says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

33



not of works, lest anyone should boast."
Ephesians 2:8, 9.

34



We cannot save ourselves by our own works—we must depend on God's grace and His love and favor, which He freely gives us.

If we could earn salvation, it would not be a gift.

35



Suppose your employer handed you an envelope and said he had a gift for you.

36



If you discover your paycheck for the past two weeks inside, would that be a gift?

NOT IF YOU HAD EARNED IT!

37



But why would the mighty God who rules the universe

38



(Video 12 sec) be concerned about people on a planet out on the edge of space?

Why didn't He just abandon selfish, rebellious man and leave him to suffer the results of his sin?

39



(Text: 1 John 4:8)

The answer is found in John's first letter:

"God is love."

1 John 4:8.

40

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41

Some of you are parents.



42

And some of you know what it's like to have a baby get sick and begin to cry day and night. You try everything to make things better, but nothing seems to help.

You walk the floor, sing to the baby, and try all sorts of advice from friends, but nothing works. But let me ask you something.

No matter how tired you are, no matter how long the baby is sick, do you ever even think of giving the baby away or leaving it to suffer alone?



43

No? Why? Because you love that little helpless baby all the more because of the pain and suffering he or she has to endure. That is what God is like!



44

His children on Planet Earth became sick with the disease of sin,



45

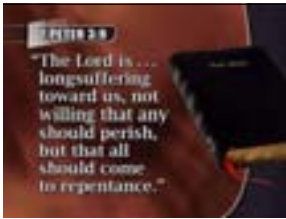
and the pain and suffering they endure because of it only makes God love them even more.



46

Never has God considered just walking away from us! Never has He considered leaving us to die and suffer the results of our rebellion.

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47

(Text: 2 Peter 3:9)

The Bible says, "The Lord is . . . longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.



48

Regardless of how good or bad you may be, God loves you and wants to save you.
He is not willing that you should die.



49

However, we have all sinned.

We have all rebelled against God and broken His law.



50

Earthly governments cannot tolerate lawlessness and survive for long.



51

Violators are punished.

But violating God's law is even more serious, because sin separates us from God—the only One who can help us and save us!



52

Even though God is a God of everlasting love, He is also a God of justice.

On Mount Sinai He described Himself:



53

(Text: Exodus 34:6, 7)

"...The Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,



54

maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."

Exodus 34:6, 7.

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55

**Is there no solution? No way out?
Yes, there is a way out!
A loving God found a way to save us and still be just.**



56

**He found a perfect Substitute to die in our place, paying the penalty for our sins so that we could live.
John, the beloved disciple, explains it this way:**



57

**(Text: John 3:16)
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,**



58

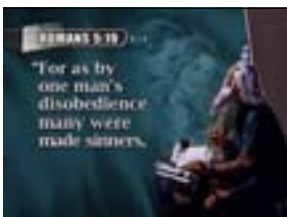
**that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16.**



59

**Jesus came to live on Earth as a man, facing the same problems and temptations that every human has faced.
He lived a life of perfect obedience.**

**Then, as the one sinless representative of the human race,
Christ voluntarily took upon Himself the guilt of every person who would ever live, and died on their behalf.**



60

**(Text: Romans 5:19)
Paul wrote, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners,**



61

**so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”
Romans 5:19.**

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62

Jesus' death was in no sense intended to satisfy an angry God. Jesus offered to die to save us from our sins, and God loved us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His only Son for us. Jesus was the Lamb of God, the sacrificial Lamb!



63

(Video 25 sec.) As God's chosen people, the Israelites, wandered in the wilderness near Mount Sinai after being delivered from Egypt by Moses, they daily witnessed, in symbols and ceremonies, an illustration of God's plan to redeem fallen man.

The desert tabernacle, built to God's specific instructions with services instituted by God, continually called man's attention to a future Calvary—the mountaintop where Jesus would die,

where the true Lamb would be sacrificed for the sins of all mankind, giving to all the hope and assurance of forgiveness and salvation.



64

The sinner came, bringing a sacrificial animal. He placed his hand on the head of the animal and confessed his sin.

Then he took a knife and killed it, symbolizing that his sins caused the death of the sacrificial Lamb, which represented Jesus.



65

Unpleasant, yes. But the cross at Calvary that brought the promise of eternal life to the human heart was far more unpleasant. However, by this act God demonstrated that sin brings death, either to the sinner or to the innocent sacrifice.



66

God's people in Bible times offered sacrifices to show their faith in the coming death of the Son of God, the One who would die in man's place as his substitute.

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67

(Text: John 1:29)

Jesus was the true sacrifice. As Jesus came to be baptized, John said, "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

How ironic that some of the men He came to save plotted to take His life!

Jesus was beaten, mocked, and sentenced to be crucified by one of the worst forms of execution.



68

(Text: 1 Peter 2:22)

Yet, as the Bible says, the One "who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" died on that cross! 1 Peter 2:22.



69

Christ was crucified at the Passover season. It was the custom of the Roman rulers during this season to turn one criminal loose as a show of good faith.

The crowd chose Barabbas and let Jesus die instead.



70

In death, Jesus was identified with sinners.

He was crucified between two thieves!

And as God placed upon Him the sins of the whole world,



71

(Text: Matthew 27:46)

He cried out, "...My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46.

He felt the terrible separation that sin brings. Jesus could not bear the agony of separation from the Father. It broke His heart.



72

(Text: Mark 15:31)

The crowd shouted, "...He saved others; himself he cannot save."

Mark 15:31.

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73

**And that was true!
He could not save Himself and still save others.
He was God paying the price for a lost race, a broken law, the wages of sin.**

Thus it was that God, with a love that could not be satisfied until man was restored to His family, gave His own son to die in man's place, as his Substitute.



74

**Jesus was treated as we deserve that we might be treated as He deserves.
He was condemned for our sins and suffered our death that we might have eternal life.**

In this way God could give us eternal life and still be just. Not because of any good thing we have done, but because God can give us credit for what Christ did—for the perfect life he lived.



75

**(Text: Ephesians 2:8)
Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, said,
“For by grace you have been saved through faith.”
Ephesians 2:8.
This faith is the very heart of salvation.**



76

When the Philippian jailer asked Paul what he must do to be saved, Paul answered,



77

**(Text: Acts 16:31)
“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”
Acts 16:31.**



78

**However, just agreeing in your mind that Christ lived on earth is not enough. That is not saving faith.
There is more to it than that.**

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79

(Text: James 2:19)

The Bible says that “the devils also believe, and tremble.”
James 2:19.



80

To believe in Jesus means more than acknowledging that He died over 1900 years ago.
The Bible says,



81

(Text: Proverbs 3:5, 6)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;



82

in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5, 6.

Do you trust Him? Do you really trust Him?
Enough to let Him control your life?



83

Saving faith is trusting in the sacrifice of Christ as the full and complete payment of the price for every sin we have ever committed.

It means believing that it is not what we can do that saves us, but what Christ did for us on Calvary.



84

No human can ever boast that he saved himself.

The glory all belongs to God!

It is grace on God's part and faith on our part: trusting God completely—willingly letting Him control our lives.



85

Receiving salvation is so simple, yet many make it seem so difficult and complicated.

The question we must answer is the same question that came to the Philippian jailer when he cried out to Paul and Silas that horrible night when the earthquake opened all the prison doors:

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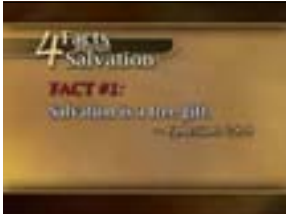
86

(Text: Acts 16:30)
“What must I do to be saved?”



87

There are just four facts about salvation that you need to know in order to be saved.
Just four.



88

(Text: Ephesians 2:8, 9)
FACT #1: Salvation is a free gift.
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Now the question is, “Why is it that salvation must be a free gift?”

The reason why it must be a free gift brings us to point number two.



89

(Text: Romans 3:23)
FACT #2: All of us have sinned.
Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”



90

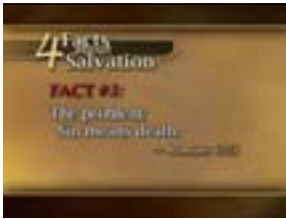
That means that I don't deserve the gift.
I don't deserve salvation.
You see, I have sinned.
I have come short of the glory of God.

If salvation depends on my goodness, then I can never earn it, because I have sinned—I can never be good enough.

That is exactly the reason why salvation must then be a free gift, freely given to me, because I can't earn it and I don't deserve it.

We have all sinned and come short of God's glory.

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91

(Text: Romans 6:23)

FACT #3: The problem: Sin means death.

Romans 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death."

That's the great problem we all face.

I'm a sinner; therefore I deserve death.

I don't deserve that free gift.

That's why it has to be a free gift then, you see, because we've all sinned and we've come short of the glory of God.

The problem is that as a sinner I deserve to die. But God has a solution to the problem.



92

(Text: Romans 5:8)

FACT #4: The solution: Jesus died for us.

Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Isn't that beautiful? Jesus died for me, a sinner. And friend, He died for you too!



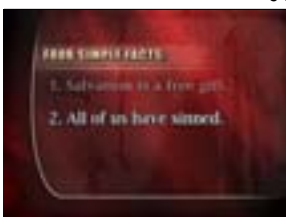
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Four simple facts. Let's review them:



94

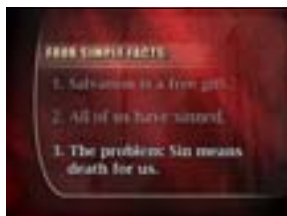
1. Salvation is a free gift.



95

2. All of us have sinned.

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96

3. The problem: Sin means death for us.



97

4. The solution: Jesus died for us, which means life for us if we accept Him as our Savior.



98

**While we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. Don't you love Him, my friends?
Don't you love Him for dying for your sins and my sins?
Don't you love Him for giving us that free gift of salvation?**



99

Now you might ask, "How can I accept that free gift?"



100

**(Text: Revelation 3:20)
The Bible gives us the answer to that in Revelation 3:20.
"...Behold, I stand at the door and knock."
If the One with eternal life knocks at the door of your house, do you leave Him outside—or do you invite Him in?**



101

**Of course, you open the door and invite them in! You see, by receiving Jesus, we receive the gift of eternal life He brings. Isn't that beautiful?
Jesus wants to come into our lives.
We invite Him in.**



102

**That's how we accept that free gift.
We simply reach out and say "Thank You, Jesus!
Come into my life.
Come into my heart.
Take control of my life—take control of my heart."**

And when Jesus comes in, we accept Him as our Friend, as our Savior, and as our Lord and Master.

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103

Two important things happen when we ask Jesus into our hearts—when we accept Him into our lives.



104

(Text: 1 John 1:9)

First, we confess our sins and receive His forgiveness.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins



105

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. Friends, that is a beautiful promise.



106

No matter what we’ve done or where we’ve been, no matter what kind of lives we have lived, even if we have been the most terrible sinner we can come to Jesus and accept that free gift of salvation.

We can confess our sins and receive complete and total forgiveness.



107

The Bible tells us that Jesus cast our sins into the depths of the sea, never again to be remembered.



108

My friends, when Jesus forgives, He forgets.

Is there some sin that you have confessed to God, yet you are still condemned and burdened by guilt. Maybe you feel that there is some sin that is even too great for God to forgive.

We must believe what God says.

In I John 5:10 the words make very clear to us that if we don’t believe God, we make Him out to be a liar.

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109

(Text: 1 John 5:10)

"He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself;



110

he who does not believe God has made Him a liar,



111

because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son." 1 John 5:10.

When Jesus promises that He will forgive our sins and take away our guilt, He will do exactly what he says He will do.



112

When Jesus forgives, He forgets, and we should forget, too!



113

(Text: Acts 3:19)

In the words of Peter in Acts 3:19:

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."



114

You see, we come to Jesus, we accept the free gift of salvation, we invite Him into our lives, and the first thing that happens is that He forgives and cleanses us, He washes us, He casts our sins into the depths of the sea.

Isn't that beautiful, my friends?

Don't you love your Savior and mine?

But there's something else that happens when we invite Jesus into our hearts.



115

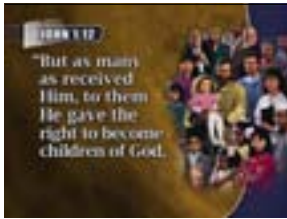
He gives us the power to overcome our sins and become more and more like He is—to walk in His footsteps.

The thief no longer steals.

The liar no longer lies.

The drunkard no longer drinks.

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116

(Text: John 1:12)

Notice in John 1:12: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,



117

to those who believe in His name.”

He’ll give us the power to become His children, His sons, His daughters. No longer are we controlled by Satan. No longer are we the children of darkness.



118

He’ll give us the power to walk in His footsteps. As we believe in Him, as we accept that gift of salvation, He’ll give us the power to be over-comers.



119

If we stumble and fall after we have received the gift, He’ll forgive us again and again. Then He’ll give us that power to be over-comers –to grow more and more like Jesus.

It’s a growing process to learn to have faith and confidence and trust in Jesus our Savior. We will not be perfect, but we will be forgiven. Satan is no longer our lord. Jesus is our Lord.



120

You see, to believe means to have faith and trust, and to accept that gift of salvation. He forgives us of our sins and He also gives us the power to walk in His footsteps.



121

When we answer that knock at the door of our hearts and invite Jesus inside, He cleans up our sinful hearts and forgives us. He also gives us power to change and win over sin and become more and more like Him.



122

And when Jesus lives in us, we can know for absolutely certain that we have eternal life. Did you know that?

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We don't have to worry about whether we'll be saved and live forever with Jesus.



123

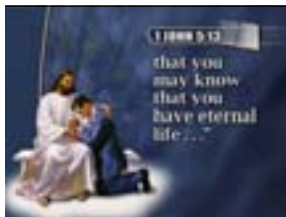
(Text: 1 John 5:12, 13)

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.



124

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,



125

that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:12, 13.



126

Jesus wants us to know—here and now—that we have eternal life.

We can know here and now that as we invite Jesus into our hearts, we receive the assurance of our salvation.

Jesus gives the invitation to everyone everywhere, so that



127

(Text: John 3:16)

"whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16.

Perhaps you feel you are a hopeless sinner, but that is not true!

God can turn the most impossible situation into victory.

No life is too bad, no sin too great, for Christ to forgive!

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128

On December 31, 1995, John Clancy, veteran firefighter in New York City, led his crew into a burning vacant apartment building in a lower Manhattan drug district. As the fire raged out of control, the firefighters were concerned that someone might still be in the apartment building,

although the only ones who used it were vagrants, drug addicts, alcoholics, and prostitutes. Nevertheless, Clancy and his colleagues decided to enter the blazing inferno to conduct a search and rescue operation. The building was filled with smoke, making visibility almost zero.

The firefighters were risking their lives to find vagrants who might be using the building as a temporary home. Suddenly the second-floor ceiling collapsed, trapping John Clancy. His colleagues worked feverishly to deliver him from the fiery holocaust, but when they finally pulled him out, it was too

His body was burned beyond recognition. The last day of 1995 was the last day of this courageous firefighter's life. He left behind a wife who was six months pregnant and the future they were planning together. John Clancy believed that all life was valuable;

therefore, he was willing to risk his own to save whoever might be in the building. He left the safety of his own home for the danger of a raging fire. He entered the flames to save lives and lost his own. His devotion to duty cost him his life. He could not stand idly by when he knew others were dying.

As details of this story were uncovered, investigators discovered that the fire had been caused by arson. Edwin Smith, one of the "down and outers" who was reportedly in the building, set the fire. The hard fact is, John Clancy was attempting to save the one who burned the building down. He gave his life

What an example of Jesus Christ.



129

Jesus left the security of His heavenly home and plunged into the raging inferno of this world's flames.

Our Savior hung on a cross, and the fires of sin totally consumed Him.

By our own deliberate choice we sinned.

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**We set this world aflame with our angry tempers, our dishonesty, our lust, our greed, our adultery and our lying.
Christ died so we can live.**

He experienced the flame of sin on the cross so we would not have to experience the flames of hell when Jesus comes to burn up sin forever.

Today Jesus longs to give you the assurance that you can live forever.



130

He is listening and waiting.

Why not open your heart's door today and invite Him to come in and be the Savior and Lord of your life?

He is waiting! He's listening!

There is one thing Jesus cannot do, that is to force you to open your heart's door to Him.

He has given us each the power of choice.

We must be the ones who open the door!

He will gladly come in if we open the door!

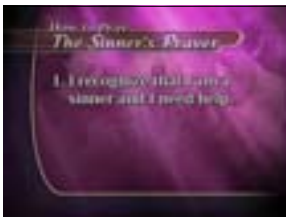
Friend, would you like to do that right now?

Would you like to invite Jesus into your heart without waiting a moment longer?



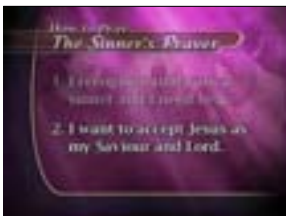
131

If so, pray this prayer with me.



132

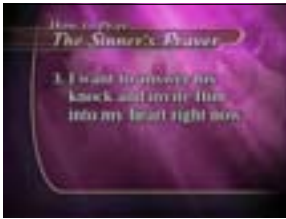
“Dear God, I recognize that I am a sinner and I need help.



133

I want to accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

8 - BORN TO LIVE FOREVER



134

I want to answer His knock and invite Him into my heart right now.



135

Please forgive every sin I have ever committed. Please take complete control of my life.



136

**I want to have Jesus come into my heart and wash it clean and then help me live for Him.
Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer, in Jesus name, Amen."**

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