

## Understanding Salvation

Since we must have a RIGHT RELATIONSHIP with God before we can have the BENEFITS of salvation, it's **vital and critical** to clarify God's TERMS for our relationship to Him.

**1. God loves us and has provided the only way for our salvation and eternal life with Him.**

*For the wages of sin is death: **but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** (Romans 6:23)*

**2. None of us DESERVE God's salvation.**

*There is none righteous, no not one (by our own human efforts). **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.** (Rom. 3:10, 23)*

**3. Since we don't deserve salvation because of our sin, what do we actually DESERVE?**

*For the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23-A) This is both physical and spiritual death, eternal separation from God in Hell. **It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.** (Hebrews 9:27) **And whosoever was not found in the book of life was (will be) cast into the lake of fire.** (Rev. 20:15) We all deserve Hell!*

**4. No other way to be saved.**

*Jesus Himself said, "**I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me." (John 14:6) (Also see Acts 4:10-12)***

*He that believeth on the Son (Christ) hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3:36) (Also see John 3:18)*

**NOTE: There is no neutral ground or safety zone until we decide. We either believe on (trust) Christ alone for our salvation, or we are automatically REJECTING Him.**

**5. Salvation is a GIFT of God.**

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: Not of works; lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8, 9)*

**NOTE: We can not work for or earn our own salvation, even partly. We either ACCEPT God's GIFT of salvation with all its benefits, or we are automatically REJECTING it.**

## Receiving Salvation

A gift offered to a person must be **received** by the person before it becomes THEIR gift. When Christ came into the world, He was rejected by most people. "**But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (right, authority) to become the Sons of God.**" (John 1:11, 12)

**HOW do we receive Christ and God's gift of salvation?** There is only one way any of us can have a right relationship with God and the benefits of His gift of salvation. "**For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**" (Galatians 3:26)

Do you **want** God's salvation with all the associated benefits? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

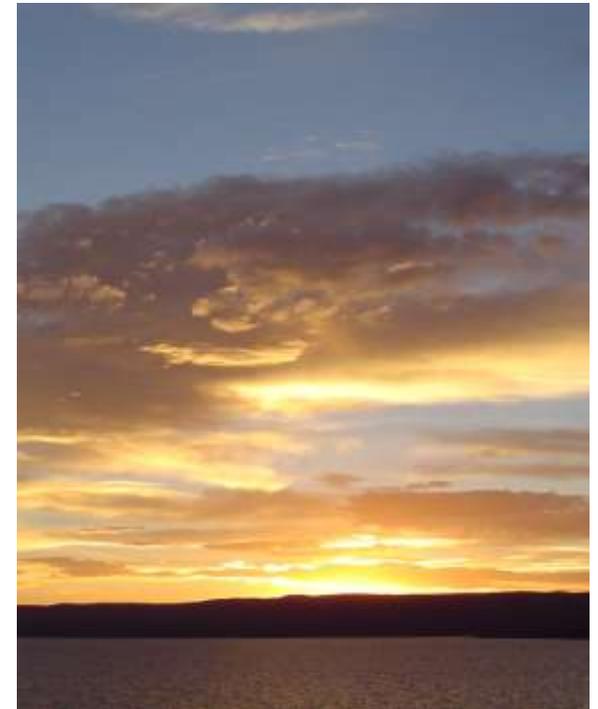
Will you now accept God's GIFT of salvation, **by trusting Jesus Christ alone (100%)**? This means you are depending on His death, His shed blood as the total payment for your sins and salvation. YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_ Signed\_\_\_\_\_

*If you have trusted Christ as your personal Savior, we recommend you find and get involved in a good Bible teaching church. Bible study, worship and fellowship with other believers will be a major key for your spiritual growth and JOY.*

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# Life after Divorce or Death



By Leon Bates

# Life after Divorce or Death

Hello. I'm Leon Bates and this was my wife, Pat. She graduated to Heaven in 1996, after a battle with cancer. Pat loved the Lord and we had 43 years of great married life together.



Friends often asked if I was going to get married again. I said I was busy, not noticeably lonely and wasn't planning or even praying to get married again. But the Lord had other better plans. After 6 years of living alone, God brought a former friend and an amazing Christian widow, Ruth, into my life and later we were married.



Ruth and her fantastic Christian husband, Leo, had 53 years together before he also graduated to Heaven after a battle with cancer. At the time of writing this, Ruth and I have enjoyed 4 years of wonderful companionship together. Now in our 70's we realize how enjoyable life can be, even after the deaths of our former beloved spouses.

I share this so you will understand that we have both experienced the hurt of losing our former spouses and the end of our former marriages.

Like millions of couples, perhaps you have also suffered the agony and loss of your marriage partner through death or divorce. In spite of the pain of loss of a mate, there can be recuperation and a wonderful life for you now AND forever.

**The key is to understand and benefit from God's deep and intimate love for you. He can bless your life to overflowing with JOY.**

## Relationship to God is foundational.

A right "Relationship" with God provides His gift of SALVATION to us with its many wonderful benefits. Here are just a few:

**1. FORGIVEN.** Our sins are forgiven by God and "removed from us as far as the east is from the west." (Psalms 103:12) No matter what the past sins, God says they are GONE when we place our total trust in Christ for our salvation. **Who would not want ALL their sins forgiven by God?**

**2. HEAVEN BOUND.** Another immediate benefit of our salvation is we are saved from an eternal destiny in Hell to a future in Heaven. "For God so loved the world (including you and me) that He gave His only begotten Son (Christ), that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) **Who would not want their eternal destiny changed from Hell to Heaven?**

**3. COMFORT.** When we trust Christ alone for our salvation, God's Holy Spirit instantly takes up permanent residence in our being as our divine comforter. (John 14:16, 17) He will help heal our loneliness, suffering and hurting. **Who would not want the super natural comfort of God's Holy Spirit within them?**

**4. ASSURANCE.** We can KNOW (with proof) that we are saved by Christ and Heaven bound, even if the devil tries to make us doubt our salvation. (See 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:11 – 13) Note: God gave us His written Word, - **WHY?** As our PROOF that we have eternal life. **Can God lie?** (See Titus 1:2) **Who would not want PROOF of their salvation, beyond the shadow of a doubt?**

**5. VICTORY.** Another aspect of the JOY of our salvation is victory over sin in our daily lives. The devil will attempt to foul up our lives with many temptations to sin. The indwelling Holy Spirit is more powerful than the devil. (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4) God says believers can resist the devil by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (James 4:7) **Who would not want victory over sin and the devil's temptations in their daily life?**

**6. TEACHING.** Another purpose of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to be our personal, indwelling teacher. He will enable us to UNDERSTAND the Bible, God's Word, for His truth and wisdom. (John 16:13, 14) **Who would not want the Holy Spirit to be their teacher for learning about God and His will for their life?**

**7. GUIDANCE.** The complexities and challenges of life cause all of us to need more than mere day to day human wisdom. God's Word says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5 - 7) We who have a right relationship with the Lord have His promised help for our many life decisions. **IF** we take Him into consideration when we face decisions, He has promised to direct us. This is a great benefit for all of us, especially those who are challenged by loss of their mate in life. Many decisions about family, education, health-care, residence, career, income and expenses must be made. **Who would not want the divine wisdom of God for guidance?**

**8. PRAYERS.** Many people get caught up in life without a right relationship with God, and then later wonder what went wrong. They may **think** God hears their prayers. They may not even realize prayer is a privilege reserved for God's obedient children. "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth." (John 9:31; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:12) One of the great benefits of our salvation is to know God hears our prayers, cares for us and wants to give us His very best for our lives. **Who would not want the privilege of prayer to God and His best for our lives?**

**9. JOY.** We don't need to settle for discouraging, boring lives of just mere existence day to day. Jesus came that we might have ABUNDANT LIFE. (John 10:10) God wants us to have a right relationship AND FELLOWSHIP with Him... **FOR OUR JOY.** (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:3, 4) **Who would not want an exciting, happy ABUNDANT life with God's overflowing JOY in our hearts? Who would not want All this... and Heaven too?**