

#GOSPEL → STORY



SEPARATION FROM GOD





Have you ever thought about your relationship to God? Naturally, we want that picture to look good. **The problem is sin separates** each of us from God like a brick wall.

The Bible teaches us, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23



CLIMBING THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN GETS US NOWHERE





Many of us try to deal with sin on our own. We think, "Maybe I can do enough good things to outweigh the bad and work my way to God." In essence, we try to build a stairway to heaven with good things.

Again, God's Word teaches, "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9



EVEN AT THE TOP, WE FIND THAT THERE IS A GAP





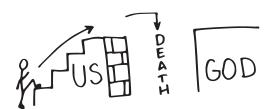


Even if we could climb our way to the top of human goodness, the Bible makes it clear that our goodness isn't enough. "There is no one righteous, not even one." Romans 3:10

Doing good things will not make up for the problem of sin. The greatest problem with sin is what it costs — "...the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23



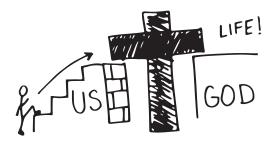
HERE'S THE PICTURE



We are all sinners by nature and choice, and sin separates us from God. God is both holy and just, so He must punish sin. **The payment for sin is death and hell.** This makes the gap from where we are to where God is impossible to cross on our own.



THE CROSS OF JESUS BRIDGES THE GAP



What we need is a bridge. Jesus is that bridge. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took on human nature (yet remained fully God), lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, was buried in a tomb, and rose from the dead 3 days later that we might live with Him forever. **Through Jesus the penalty for our sin is paid for, forgiveness is provided, and eternal life is a gift.**

Jesus said in John 5:24, "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."



HAVE YOU WALKED ACROSS THE BRIDGE?

Here's how:

1. Come to grips with your spiritual need. Admit it — you are a sinner.



2. Make a spiritual u-turn! The Bible calls this repentance.



Confess Jesus is Lord, and believe with your heart that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the grave.



4. Accept God's offer of salvation and receive His gift of eternal life!



Pray a prayer like this:

Lord Jesus, I believe that the penalty for sin was paid when you died on the cross and that you rose from the dead giving eternal life to all who believe in you. I admit that I am a sinner. I repent of my sin and place my faith in you for the forgiveness of my sin and for the gift of eternal life.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:11–12



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