

What's Your Life Story?

Acts 26:19-29

Pew Bible page 1740

God's Story (His-story) intersects our lives at the Cross.

1. Paul's Story

Paul was a hard charger, successful in Jewish faith, very religious, but going the wrong way. Paul was going against God and against Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: *"I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."*—Acts 26:29

2. Pastor Bain's Story —the opposite of 2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-control." (RBPV)

<i>Fearful</i>	<i>Powerless</i>
<i>Lacking Love</i>	<i>Floating through life, no purpose</i>

3. What's Your Story? _____ How's it working out for you?



Step 1 God's Purpose: Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life--abundant and eternal.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?

Step 2 The Problem: Our Separation

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and a freedom of choice.

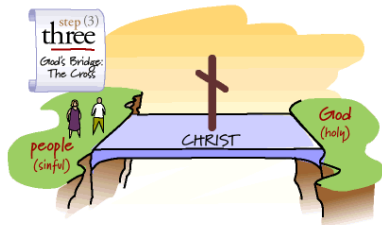
We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today resulting in separation from God.



"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23



Step 3 God's Bridge: The Cross

Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ."

1 Timothy 2:5

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

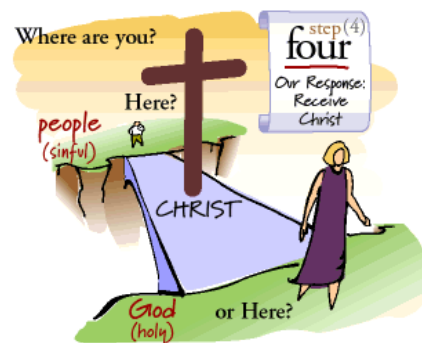
God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice.

Step 4 Our Response: Receive Christ

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12



How to Receive Christ...

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

How to pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose again from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name, Amen.

Words of Assurance

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9



"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:12-13