



Easy Beliefs

A Personal Discovery of Grace

God offers me salvation, a gift I don't deserve.

Salvation is not merely a singular event, but a lifestyle of companionship and stewardship. While sin is a self-centered condition that takes for itself, salvation is the stewardship of all we have through faith in Jesus Christ, whose shed blood atoned for our sins. The interval of our lives is a sacred trust - a path walked in prayerful partnership with the Holy Spirit.

A Childhood Realization

We are raised with a basic understanding of right and wrong. As children, we are told not to do "bad things," but we are never explained that sin truly is the condition we are all born with. During a time of prayer, God reminded me of a moment in my childhood—my very first sin. I was just a child; innocent by most accounts, yet born a sinner, nonetheless.

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."— Psalm 51:5 (ESV)

The full memory came back and felt "alive" for a moment. The thought reminded me how much I enjoyed being an innocent offender against God. For all sins are sins against God. In the moment, committing the sin felt like scratching an itch: there was a temporary satisfaction in the moment, "oh what satisfaction!", but no good outcome followed the act. What did follow were consequences. Sooner or later there are unavoidable consequences. Yes, I found out that even for sin, the deed that God sees in secret will give its just reward openly.

"The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers." — Psalm 5:5 (ESV)

The Secret That Was Never Hidden

For years, I believed that that moment was a long-forgotten secret, buried deep under a mountain where no one could find it. But God knew; and God saw. This conviction isn't meant to terrify us, but to bring us to the truth of our need for a Savior. We often spend our energy chasing a life we are trying to build on our own, ignoring the fact that our hearts and deeds are open before the Creator.

"And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

— Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)

The Exchange of the Three Spikes

The itch of sin is like a disease. The Holy Spirit guided me to the cure to this "itch": Jesus Christ. The Great Conqueror, the King Pastor, Emmanuel, the Bread of Life that became man and took the place intended for me on the wooden cross. I felt guilty as charged at the thought of the scene: tears in His eyes and blood pouring from His pierced hands and deep wounds. It wasn't just three nails; it was three spikes that kept Him on that cross; one for pride, one for greed and one for lust. He suffered for hours on that cross until death came to him. All done to justify my sin.

"For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world."

— 1 John 2:16 (ESV)

He sacrificed Himself for the "itch" of sin I couldn't stop scratching. He suffered this not only for me, but for countless millions of brothers and sisters—even for those who currently want nothing to do with Him. Even for you.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

— Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

A Walk Alongside the King

Everything I am and everything I have belongs to God. He allows me to administer these things to add to His glory. I came into this world with nothing and will leave with nothing. The flesh I am made of will go back to the bosom of the earth and my soul will live on forever, knowing that at any given moment I will have the duty of submitting before Him for judgment. My heart's desire for that moment is simple: I only ask for the chance to cleanse His feet and repair His shoes.

I ask this because I have come to know some of His character: He likes to take long walks right alongside us. He gives us all the attention we need, hearing our prayers, convicting us of sin, and showing us the right path according to His will.

"I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be my people."

— Leviticus 26:12 (ESV)

Now that I know him, he has tended to my wounds and healed my soul. Him the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, he alone is worthy of my life.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

— Isaiah 9:6

The Steward of the King’s Glory

When I say that everything I have belongs to God, I am recognizing that I am no longer the owner of my life, but its administrator. In the tragedy of Amnon and Tamar (2 Samuel 13), we see the danger of entitlement—the belief that "I deserve this" or "I’ve earned it". But the cross and the three spikes silences that pride.

I was born into this world with nothing and will leave with nothing; the interval between is a sacred trust. This is why I desire to repair His shoes. Stewardship is not just about managing finances or talents; it is about maintaining our life in the narrow path we walk with Him. By administering my time, my words, and my deeds to add to His glory, I am simply keeping the "shoes" of our relationship ready for the next mile of the journey. We must not spend our work chasing a life we build on our own but work in humble satisfaction in being a "doer" of His word.

The Long Walk of the Healed Soul

The "itch" of sin is like a disease, but the Long Walk is the recovery. Resisting the constant assault of worldly temptations—the sensual feeds, the secret fantasies, and the markets of false promises—is exhausting when we walk alone. However, as the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus does not just forgive the sin; He tends to the wounds it left behind.

This walk alongside the King is a journey of constant communication with the Holy Spirit. He gives us the discernment to identify our old tendencies before they take root. It is in this daily companionship—not in a scripted monologue, but in an open and contrite heart—that the soul is truly healed. He walks right alongside us, not as a distant judge, but as the Prince of Peace who ensures that as our trials abound, our consolation through Him abounds even more.

"And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

— Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

And

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

— Matthew 11:28-29 (NKJV)



“...Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”

James 1:2-4

Prayer Book (by Nancy Guthrie - 10 Publishing, 2021)

Lord, I thank you that your love and care for us extends to both body and soul.

Our bodies are so vulnerable to sickness in the world, and our souls are too.

I ask you to give the reader physical vigor and health as only you, the Healer, can provide.

I also pray that you will give the reader insight into areas of spiritual sickness that need your healing touch.

Heal the reader of this essay in body and soul for your glory and gladness.

In Jesus of Nazareth's name,

Amen.