



reflecting Jesus

BETA

I am saved
to become like Jesus **07**

?

did you know...

salvation is not a ticket to Heaven

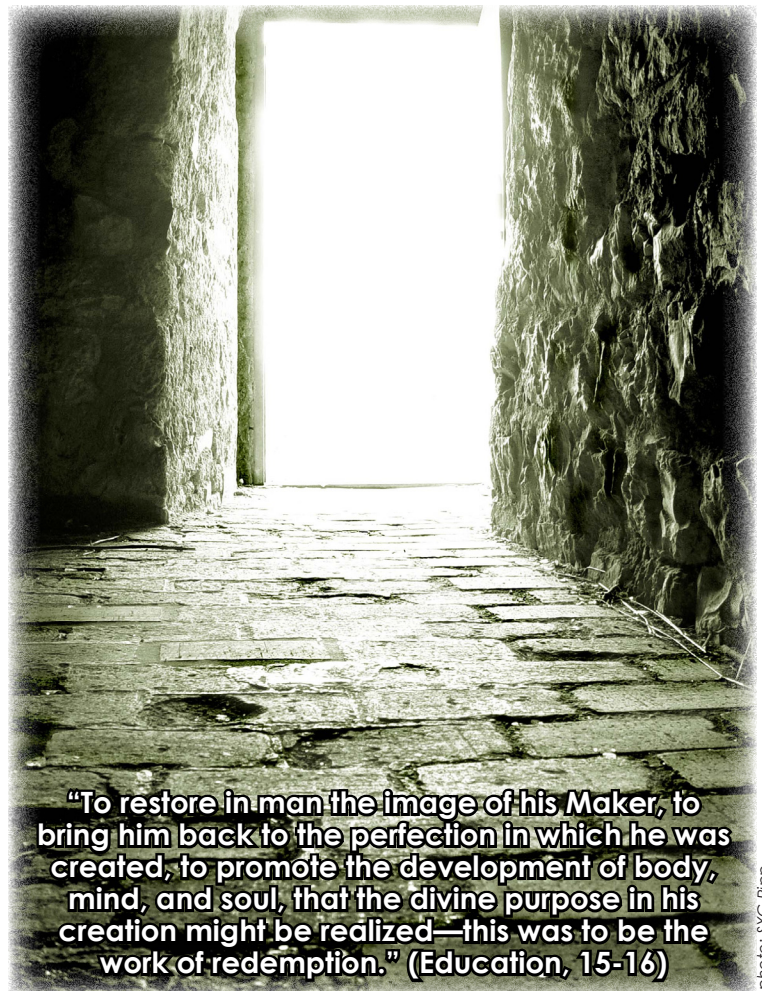
Nor is salvation a reward for following Jesus. Are you surprised? Ok, salvation certainly includes these important things, but these are not the most important. Rather, the most important consequence of salvation is the process where God is at work in us to restore what was broken when sin came into our lives—God's character in us.

so salvation is like a door

Salvation is the door into a life of reflecting Jesus.

salvation is all about becoming like Jesus

It is Jesus who saves us, as God begins to restore us into His image. So salvation saves us from the consequences of sin, and saves us to a character like Jesus'.



"To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption." (Education, 15-16)

photo: SXC Pipp



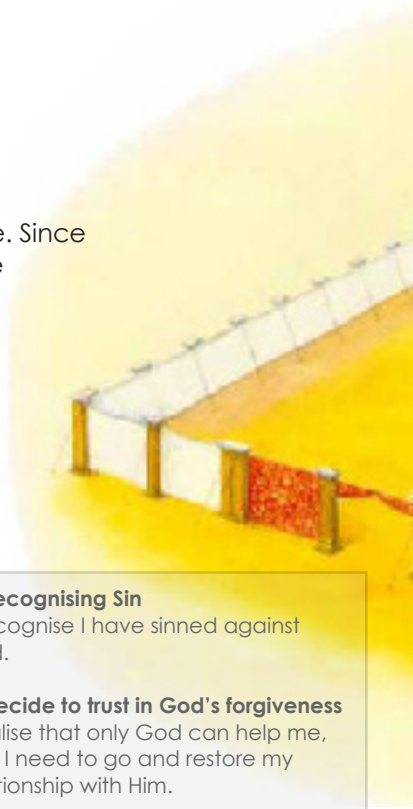
the facts of his story

In earlier lessons, we learned that God is in the process of restoring us into his image. Since the beginning of time, God designed us to reflect his character. Even with sin in the world, God "decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son." (Romans 8:29, The Message) But God had a challenge. How could He restore us into His image, if we were full of sin—for this sin was destroying his image in us? The answer was simple but hard. The only way this could happen was for Jesus would come to earth, He would take our sin, and with our sin on Him, He would die in our place. Then, and only then could we have a chance to reflect the character of Jesus as the Holy Spirit works within us. This is salvation—saved from sin to reflect Jesus.

In the Old Testament, long before Jesus actually came as a baby, God used the tabernacle to explain to his people how Jesus would take away their sins. Look at the picture of the tabernacle and read through the six stages of how people could have their sins removed and their relationship with God restored.

In this process, Jesus is represented by the sacrificed animal—which dies for each person's sins, and by the priest—who is the only one who can offer forgiveness to the one who has sinned.

Jesus didn't die just so we could move houses—trading the one we have now for one that is bigger and nicer in Heaven. He died to take away our sin in order for us to live the life he intended for us, working with him, and living His character with great joy!



1. Recognising Sin
I recognise I have sinned against God.

2. Decide to trust in God's forgiveness
I realise that only God can help me, and I need to go and restore my relationship with Him.

1. Read Titus 2:11-14. In verse 14, what two things does God do in us that are a direct result of the death of Jesus?

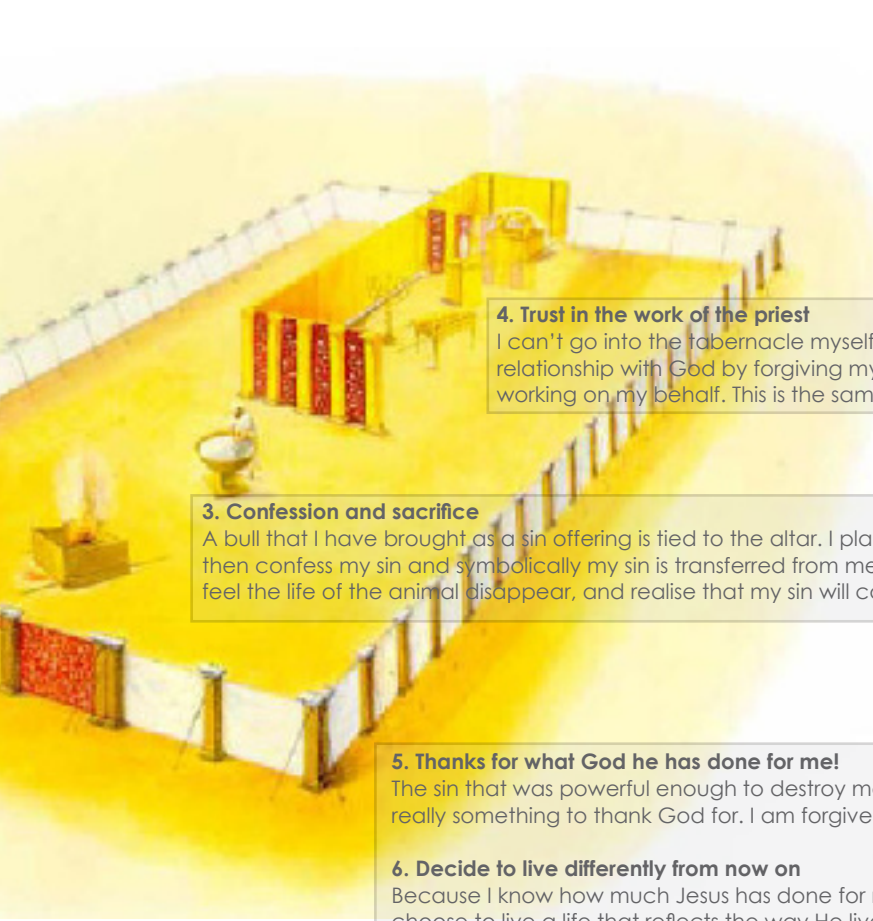
2. Read 1 John 1:9. What two things happen when we confess our sins?



thinking it through

1. How does 1 John 1:9 give you assurance of your salvation?

2. What do you think of the idea, "I am saved to become like Jesus"?



4. Trust in the work of the priest

I can't go into the tabernacle myself to complete the work of restoring my relationship with God by forgiving my sin. I have to trust that the priest is working on my behalf. This is the same as trusting in Jesus working for me.

3. Confession and sacrifice

A bull that I have brought as a sin offering is tied to the altar. I place my hand on its head. I then confess my sin and symbolically my sin is transferred from me to the animal. The I kill it. I feel the life of the animal disappear, and realise that my sin will cause the death of Jesus.

5. Thanks for what God he has done for me!

The sin that was powerful enough to destroy me has been taken away and I am free. That is really something to thank God for. I am forgiven, and my relationship with God is restored.

6. Decide to live differently from now on

Because I know how much Jesus has done for me, and am certain of my salvation, I then choose to live a life that reflects the way He lives.



habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus ~ sanctuary restoration

The Old Testament tabernacle and sanctuary services were God's way of teaching his people how to have their sin removed, so that they could enjoy the life that God intended for them—a life of joy in close relationship with him. Their sin had to be removed in order for them to clearly reflect his character. Though these services were to explain to the Israelites what Jesus would do for them when he died on the cross, the process of forgiveness that was used for God's people then, is the same for us today.

the process of forgiveness

Imagine I am an Israelite who has stolen some money from my neighbour's tent. What would have to happen in order for me to receive forgiveness from God? I would need to:

1. **Recognise my sin.** Before anything happens, I have to realise that I have disobeyed God.
2. **Decide to trust in God's forgiveness.** If I

don't make a decision to trust in God, I will never go and restore my relationship with Him. But to go and do that, I have to believe that God has the power and the longing to help me. This decision to trust God would lead me to choose a bull calf without any imperfections, and go with it to the tabernacle to sacrifice it as a sin offering. (Different animals, not just lambs, were used for different types of sacrifices.)

3. **Repent of my sin and sacrifice.** Before God I tell him that I am sorry. To remind me that sin always kills, I have to lean my whole body weight onto the animal. Then with a knife, I cut the animal's throat. I watch it die and feel its life disappear, knowing that I am the cause of its death. But repentance is more than feeling sorry. Repentance is a commitment to God to change the way I wish to behave in the future. From now on, no more stealing from my neighbour!
4. **Place my faith in Jesus to take my sin away.** My sin, confessed onto the animal, is now

on the animal. The priest, also representing Jesus, takes the animal's blood (with my sin symbolically in it) and drips it inside the tabernacle before the veil separating the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

5. **Thank God.** The sin that was powerful enough to destroy me has been taken away and I am free. That is really something to thank God for!
6. **Respond to God's grace by pursuing the character of Jesus in the future.** Now that I am forgiven of my sin and it has been removed from me, what shall I do now? Shall I continue sinning? No way! With God working inside me, I will choose to live according to his will for my life with full assurance of my salvation.

You can read about this forgiveness of sins in the Old Testament times in Leviticus 4.

what about when I sin today?

You can follow the same process to allow the Bible to shape your confession to God and restore your relationship with Him. Here are the steps again.

1. Recognise my sin (this happens through the work of the Holy Spirit in us, John 16:7)
2. Decide to trust in God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
3. Repent of my sin (Psalm 32:5)
4. Place my faith in Jesus to take my sin away (Romans 3:22-24)
5. Thank Jesus for what he has done for me! (Psalm 13:5-6)
6. Respond to God's grace by pursuing the character of Jesus in the future (Hebrews 4:14-16)

See how these steps can shape your prayers of repentance. Here is a sample:

Dear Father, I realise that lying about what I was doing last night was wrong (step 1). I know that you promise to forgive my sin and change my life (step 2). I really am sorry for doing this (step 3). I trust that Jesus' died in my place so my sins could be forgiven and I can be made totally clean inside (step 4). Thank you for what you have done for me (step 5). From now on, grant me the power and desire to live according to the character of Jesus (step 6). In Jesus' name, Amen.



putting the pieces together

In "the facts of his story" we looked at the process of being forgiven in the Old Testament which is the same process we follow today. It shows how we are saved from the consequence of sin so that our relationship with God can be restored. Titus 2:14 emphasises this, saying that the death of Jesus is to both redeem and purify us.

In "thinking it through" you were challenged to consider how the death of Jesus affects your own life.

In "habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus" we saw how God's words about forgiveness and restoration can shape the way we pray to God when we need to confess sin.



my time with God

At the end of each day in the coming week, spend some time to reflect on your day. Each time, ask the Holy Spirit if there is any sin that you need to repent of that is affecting the health of your relationship with God. Follow the example of the Sanctuary Restoration prayer to confess any sin the Holy Spirit shows you. You can use your Journal to record your prayers.



pass it on!

Could you teach the Sanctuary Restoration habit to a friend?



extra help

1. How to Experience Revival, by Charles Finney.
2. Steps to Christ, by Ellen White.
3. The Tabernacle and It's Services, Patriarchs and Prophets chapter 30, by Ellen White.