

You Were Made To Last Forever...

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Imagine three circles that represent the three phases of your existence.

1. Life in the Womb
2. Life in this Fallen World
3. Eternity

Each of us starts out in the womb. None of us is a self-starter.

You were made to last (or exist) forever.

You will always be you, through many changes, including death, and throughout eternity.

From your parents and ancestors, you inherited the gift of life and the privilege of having been made in the likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-28).

Your expectant mother gave you what you needed as you grew toward the day of your birth.

Your body was continuously cleansed.

Before you were born, you could not see or understand this world or what you would become in it.

Imagine any pre-born baby saying:

"I don't believe there is a Mom."

"I wonder if there is a Mom."

"I live for the here and now."

"I think this womb is all there is."

"I think I will keep coming back here, maybe in different forms."

"I will have no problems once I am out of this place."

"I wonder if there is life after leaving here?"

Remember, you were born into this world for which you were being prepared.

Life in this Fallen World represents your dignity as a person made in the likeness of God to last forever. This is expressed through your personality, intelligence, spiritual nature, creativity, and conscience to know right from wrong (Genesis 1-3).

Life in this Fallen World also represents your suffering, such as: broken relationships, bad thoughts and behavior, guilt, shame, misery, pain, sickness and death.

What gives you true meaning and hope?

We all have eternity in our hearts and desire some form of paradise.

What do you think will happen to you when your life in this world ends?

Where, how and with whom will you last forever?

Like the pre-born baby we imagined earlier, we often ignore, deny and disobey the invisible God who created and sustains us (Acts 17:22-34).

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Sin is disobeying or breaking God’s Law as summarized in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-7).

Sin and death Came into the world as a result of the first sin of our original ancestor, Adam. Sin and Death spread to the whole human race descended from him by ordinary reproduction (Romans 5:12-21).

“Apart from God’s mercy, we are all spiritually dead in sin, alienated from God, enslaved to the devil, and in danger of Hell” (Ephesians 2:1-3).

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

God himself came to Earth as the God-man Jesus Christ. He is the last Adam and died to save sinners from their sin, guilt, and eternal punishment (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 45-49).

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him” (John 3:16-17)

Good News! Jesus Christ is the one and only Savior sent by God to save sinners:

Jesus fulfilled Old Testament teaching that identifies the Savior.

Jesus was born of a virgin.

Jesus did miracles and taught that He is God.

Jesus did the will of God perfectly and never sinned.

Jesus died on the cross as the holy, sinless sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and give us peace with God.

Jesus rose bodily from the dead and was seen by hundreds of people.

Jesus ascended visibly and physically into Heaven and will return to earth.

(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts 1, I Corinthians 15)

The joys of having Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord include:

Forgiveness: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

Salvation: “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you shall be saved...for whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:9, 13).

Eternal Life: “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” “This is eternal life that they know

you. the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 3:36, 17:3, 11:25f).

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

May these words express to God your faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life.

Heavenly Father:

I have sinned in thought, word and deed, and deserve to be punished forever by you. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for sinners, and to rise again from the dead to save us. I ask you to forgive me of all my sins and credit me with the perfect righteousness of the Savior.

Help me learn the Bible. I want to know and serve Jesus, my Savior and Lord, with other Christians through a Bible-based church. Amen.

Your Name:

Date:

Remember the physical dynamic of the mother nourishing her pre-born baby to grow in preparation for birth into this world. The spiritual dynamic is similar as God gives spiritual life and nourishes the Christian on his or her journey to Heaven.

“That which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3-6).

Saving faith in Jesus Christ serves as your spiritual umbilical cord until you arrive in heaven.

Be nourished by God through the Bible in prayer pray to grow in Christ. God’s Spirit empowers Christians to overcome sin, death, and the grave. Glorify and enjoy God. By faith, stay connected to Jesus Christ for ETERNAL LIFE (Romans 5, 8, 12; 1 Corinthians 15).

Richard Fisher served as a hospice chaplain and offers hope to the living and the dying.

See www.youlastforever.com to learn more.

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