

Dear Friend,

From time to time we see folks who, when asked, "Have you asked for God's salvation through Jesus?" they say "yes, every day," or something similar. Let us go back to the beginning of time when God made man.

He made Adam and then made his helpmate, Eve. They were sinless and had daily fellowship with God. Then one day the tempter, Satan, came by and deceived Eve who took of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She also gave to Adam and he ate of it. Now, God had commanded Adam not to do that but he did anyway. He should have said "No, Eve, though you did this, I will not, for God commanded me not to." Then God would have dealt with Eve. But Adam sinned against God and as a result of that, sin passed upon all. God came down and found Adam and Eve hiding, covered by aprons of fig leaves. Their sin and their guilt could not be covered by themselves, could it? God knew what they had done and He knows what we have done in our lifetime. God shed the blood of animals to make a covering for Adam and Eve. The shed blood and the coats were His way of supplying for Adam and Eve's need before Him. *He established the fact that sin requires a blood sacrifice*. (Leviticus 17:10-12) (Hebrews 9:22) Throughout the Bible we see that requirement upheld. Cain offered vegetables but a nice cucumber or tasty tomato cannot cover sin; it cannot wash away our sins. His brother offered a lamb and that was pleasing to God. Cain should have traded some of his prized veggies for one of Abel's flock and then offered that to God. God rebuked Cain and instead of repenting he got mad (Genesis 4:6-7a) and went out and killed Abel! Of course, Cain was cursed for his unrepentant spirit and his wicked act. The rest of Cain's days on earth were spent in miserable circumstances and it appears that he never did get right with God and is in hell today.

The Old Testament records that Moses commanded the people to make a blood sacrifice on the night of their deliverance from Egypt. (Exodus 12:3-7) The blood was to be placed on the doorposts while the meat was to be eaten in entirety by the families. When the death angel passed over that night he saw the blood and those who obeyed were saved from an awful fate, the death of all the firstborn. God got them out of Egyptian bondage that night.

When God commanded that there be blood sacrifices in the Temple, He ordered that they be spotless; having no blemish, no flaws, not even a healed, broken leg. (Leviticus 1:3) Do you know why? It was because He was going to send His own Son to be the final sacrifice. His Son was God, is God, and will always be God. But He was coming to make not only a covering for sin but atonement, a payment-*in-full* for sin that the others only looked forward to. Yes, Jesus paid it all! God tells us to come to Him with all our sin and guilt in the name of Jesus, *believing* that Jesus' blood can wash away our sins. (Hebrews 9:11-15) He says that whoever comes to Him in that way, *by faith*, He will in no cast out. (John 6:37) This is all He requires. Go to God in faith confessing your sin; receiving Jesus as your Saviour and trust Him. Once you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour you are free from the penalty of sin. It may have some consequences on earth but never again will it be on your account in Heaven.

From that day forward you must learn the ways of God by learning and obeying God's Word.

Learn of Him by being in the Bible; memorize scripture. Go to church services where these things are taught. (Hebrews 10:25) If possible, meet to read and pray with another Christian. That is going to be a real blessing! Tell others of Jesus' salvation. If you sin in any way get it right with God. (I John 1:9) A truly born again believer is saved from the penalty of eternal damnation but he is not yet in a glorified body so there is a daily struggle going on in you. (Romans 7:15-21)

Expect opposition from the devil but don't try to fight with your own power. As a Christian your warfare is spiritual and your armor is the Word of God, Prayer, and Faith in your God, Assurance of your salvation and the Holy Spirit who comes to dwell in you the moment you are saved. Be of good cheer, you are in the world but God has overcome the world.

We trust that this helps you to understand true salvation and the walk of the believer. We trust that your life will be more peaceful and secure in Christ.

In His service,