

Turning to Jesus Christ

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I strive to agree with Jesus Christ in all things, because He loved me and suffered the punishment of my sins. It is possible that I have been mistaken in some matters. However I trust that He will correct me, if I have misunderstood something. I love His reprimand and His comfort because without them I cannot remain in truth. Thus, if there is something wrong in these writings it is the fault of Erkki Kuisma. Jesus deserves the credit for everything that is right.

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Turn to God!

Life is in Jesus Christ. Therefore turn to Him.

Only through Jesus

Nobody can meet God except via Jesus Christ. Many are speaking about God as their Father, though they don't speak in the Spirit of Jesus. Only Jesus can call God his Father because He is the Only Son of God. We can be God's children or sons only in Jesus Christ and through Him.

You can turn to Jesus as you are, as a sinner and evil. But you can turn to God the Father only as dressed with Jesus. If you try to come near to God the Father in your own name, you will be left without a response. Jesus is the only Mediator between God and men.

Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer for His, not for all people. If you feel yourself to be sinful, pray to Jesus. If you feel to be righteous in Jesus, pray to God the Father. So - if only Jesus was manifested in you, God the Father would get joy from you!

Calls to the conversion

God is waiting for our conversion to Him as the response to His call. Often we also realize that some of our experiences are God's speech to us. Adversities, diseases or accidents can cause us to think about our evil deeds. We understand that they warn us about the coming judgment of God.

God calls us to turn away from evil. The most people have rejected God's call and have not turned to Him but have become angry with Him. God said: *"I overthrew some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; Yet you have not returned to Me, says the LORD."* Am.4:11

God has helped many who have turned to Him in their trouble. He have saved from troubles or healed from diseases. From this many have judged themselves to be in the favor of God, as though without the Mediator. However nobody has ever reached peace with God without a sin offering. When the Almighty helps His enemies who

are in trouble, it doesn't mean that the hostility would be removed. He does good to everybody.

Many don't understand to turn to God to be saved from the judgment of God. They only turn to Him for receiving blessings and help for their worldly needs but not for being saved from their sins. They willingly take advantage of God, but they don't repent their evilness. Therefore they keep their hearts far from Him.

The Gospel calls to turn to God

God the Father gave His only Son as the sin offering for us. Jesus loved His Father and was obedient to His will and carried the judgment of our sins on the cross. For this reason God the Father exalted His dear Son above everything and gave Him all power. Therefore you have to pray to Jesus Christ as one true God. If you don't honor Jesus as God, you don't honor God the Father as one true God.

This message calls you to turn to Jesus. You can come as you are and receive Jesus into your heart as He is. If you are obedient to Jesus, you will not stay as you are. Experience Jesus and you will be changed!

Many have the testimony that they were converted to Christians, but who has the testimony that he was converted to Jesus? The Bible doesn't even know about a conversion to a Christian. Always when the Bible speaks about a conversion, it means turning to God.

"And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord." Ac.11:21 "I declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance." Ac.26:20

The mainstream Christianity has made a pope, priests and pastors to act as mediators to whom people turn. They claim to be mediators between men and the Mediator. If someone of them is a servant of God, he proclaims the conversion to Jesus and not a conversion to himself or to his church.

Jesus is the only Mediator. His own are only signposts to Him - also then when He speaks in His own.

Believed and turned to

Jesus lives in His people. Therefore turning to those who belong to Jesus can also be turning to God. However Jesus doesn't appear in us to everyone who comes to us. That was so also in the case of Jesus when He was on earth. Not everyone who came to Him met God in Him. He said to those Jews who had come to Him: *"You are not willing to come to me that you may have life."* Joh.5:40

Many have believed in Jesus so that they have come only to believers but not to Jesus. In this way they have not received life but only a religion. Woe to them! Why don't they want to come to Jesus?

Jesus did not accept everyone's faith who came to Him. He accepted as His own only those who came to Him drawn by God the Father. However He called Judas Iscariot to be His apostle although He knew that Judas had come to Him from a wrong motive. Those believers who don't see God in Jesus will lose their faith.

A person, who believed in Jesus but turned only to believers, became a convert to Christianity. Instead he became a true Christian, who believed in Jesus and turned to Him.

Why don't they turn?

If you don't want to turn away from your evil thoughts, words and deeds, you also don't want to turn to God. You don't turn to Jesus because you want to sin. However regardless of what you want - He suffered on the cross also the judgment of your sins. - If you watch this vision, your love of sin will die. If you refuse to watch your own sin in the sufferings of Jesus, your love towards sin will remain.

Because most people steadfastly love sin they refuse to adopt the cross work of Jesus to bring eternal life to them. Therefore many believers have started to proclaim worldly blessing given by Jesus instead of His cross work. In this way they believe to smuggle the offence of the cross into the hearts of people.

The sacrifice of God on Golgotha is the heavenly call into eternal life. Worldly gifts of God cannot give us that call. Thus the wisdom, with which these believers try to win souls to Jesus, is not from God. Rather the opposite! Woe to them who believe only for this life. *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."* 1Co.15:19 Judas Iscariot believed in Jesus only in the hope of worldly blessings. Therefore he finally was pitied more than all other people.

If it is promised becoming a good man, peace of mind, health and economy success, that message people want to hear and willingly receive it. Life of man can be changed by power of many kinds of motives. If worldly success is the motive of turning to Jesus, it gives birth to Judases. If the motive of the turning is to receive peace with God, it gives birth to His own.

God's love, which was manifested on Golgotha, is able to cause you to want to turn away from your evil to God. If only you let the gospel of God come deep enough into your heart, it will wake up your will. It will burst into bloom in your heart like a most beautiful flower that very soon will change to fruit of God's goodness. Then Jesus will live in you and you receive grace to call God your Father.

The Bible version used in references is NKJV

God speaks from His temple

Also today God speaks from His temple. A conversation with God is a right of every person. Listen to the initiative speech of God and answer Him.

The curtain of the temple is open

When Jesus Messiah, the Son of God, died on Golgotha, God tore the curtain of His temple in two from top to bottom and so the Holy of Holies of the temple was opened for everybody. Behind the curtain there was the throne of God from which He had spoken to priests. People had heard the words of God from the mouth of the priests. The torn curtain proves that mediator priests are not needed any more, but everyone can personally go before the throne of grace and hear God speaking.

The earthly temple of God in Jerusalem was only a copy of the heavenly temple. When Jesus had risen from the dead He stepped up to heaven and sat down on the heavenly throne of grace. God allowed the temple of Jerusalem to be destroyed so that people would no longer seek God there but would turn to the heavenly throne of grace.

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Heb.4:16 You will have a share of God's grace when you hear His words to you from the throne of grace.

Jesus is the way to God, but what is the way that leads to Jesus? God draws everybody to Jesus. This is how you can come before the throne of grace. The gospel of Jesus calls you to step directly on the Jesus-Way. There is not a way to Jesus but you can meet Him anywhere and whenever. You can start in the Jesus-Way in every place, because the Throne of grace is in heaven and not on earth. You can reach heaven by speaking the truth in your heart.

"Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the

Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Joh.4:21,23-24

You see that a meeting with God is not bound to a certain place, but to the state of your heart. Are you able to approach to God with your spirit and in truth? Your spirit must hear when God speaks to you from His throne of grace so that you could enter the Covenant with Him. You don't live by the words that come out from the mouth of a mediator priest, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

The living temple of God

Now those who belong to Jesus are the temple of God on earth. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* 1Co.3:16 *"For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people'."* 2Co.6:16

Jesus said that He will come to those who believe in Him and dwell in them. *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'"* Joh.14:23

Proud people think that God can only dwell under a golden dome. They cannot understand that God would live in an unpretentious house. *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."* 2Co.4:7

When we speak about a temple we easily consider it a meeting room. However only the courts of the temple of God were meeting places. The temple of God in Jerusalem was a dwelling place of God. That stone building was the symbol of Jesus. He is the Temple of God. *"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up'. Then the Jews said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple His body."* Joh.2:19-21

Now God hasn't got a temple that would be a building on earth. Why then is the world full of buildings which are called temples of God?

The temples of Antichrist

Tearing up the curtain of the temple of God gave us the access to the throne of God. Now anyone who has confessed one's sins and has repented can kneel down before the invisible throne of grace and can hear the words from the mouth of God which change one's heart. This open access caused another kind of an idea in a certain person. That's great, was the access granted to the throne of God or... even on the throne?

Already on the days of the apostles there appeared people who wanted to build a house for God to demonstrate the change the gospel had caused in the temple of God. They wanted to create outward circumstances for the experience of facing the grace of God. The real motive of their passion for building was to obtain a place where a priest could perform in the place of God.

Temples have been built with two parts according to the example of the Old Covenant: the Holy and the Holy of Holies. These parts are separated from each other with the altar taking the place of the torn curtain. Priests perform their ceremonies in the Holy of Holies and the audience sits on the holy pews. Thus a priest when speaking in the Holy of the Holies is speaking in the place of the throne of God. Instead of Jesus the priest is sitting on the throne of God.

This antichristian performance has run in uncounted churches for centuries. In the same way as the temple of Jerusalem was a pattern of Jesus who was to come, these church buildings are patterns of Antichrist who soon will come.

Do not consider any building a temple of God so that you would not be captured by a lie. Instead recognize the persons who are real temples of God.

Man proclaims himself to be God

If I go to a normal temple, considered Christian, its order is not similar to the reality of my heart. A priest or a preacher is there on the throne and calls people to come before him to face God, but in the temple of my heart Jesus is the centre of everything.

Those who belong to Jesus should speak as one speaking the very words of God, but we should not consider them equal with the words coming from the mouth of God. God appears in His temple, but the temple should not be such a tomfool that he takes glory to himself. We are children of God in Jesus Christ, but only in Him. If you take to yourself glory that belongs to God, it causes you to think too much about yourself. If you don't repent your rebellion, it can finally lead you to proclaim yourself God, a son of God equal with Jesus.

It has been predicted about Antichrist of the last time: *"The falling away comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."* 2Th.2:3-4

If a believer considers himself God, he sits as God in the temple of God and has showed himself that he is God. Why has this happened? John, the apostle says about antichrists of his days: *"You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us."* 1Jo.2:18-19

Our fellowship with God and with other believers is based on the love that came into us when we experienced God's love in the sacrifice of Golgotha. If God's grace is not sufficient for us, we will fall outside of the fellowship and have a share in the antichristian spirit.

The natural man lives by getting honour, but the man of God lives by getting grace. However every believer has also got the old nature that tries to live and would like to take to itself the glory that belongs to God. If you have mercy on your sinful nature and you don't crucify it together with Jesus, you are in danger of changing into an antichristian. The Christianity pleasing to the human mind will change into antichristianity. When Antichrist of the last days will come amongst the believers who have exalted themselves, it is natural that they will receive him with joy.

The antichristian temple service is performing. Pretending with the gospel of God is dangerous. When the sinful nature is boasting about the gospel of God it makes even the strongest Christian into antichristian. Get out of the temples of Antichrist so that the spirit of lies would not cause you to believe lies about yourself.

Exalting oneself god is a famous religion. A person who considers himself god easily believes that also another person is a god. He has no difficulties to confess that Jesus Christ is god, because he considers many persons god. However it is not possible to believe that the Bible's Jesus is the true God and the true Man without receiving it as the testimony of the Spirit of God.

Everyone who sees the glory of Jesus in the Spirit of God feels himself bad and evil and a lost person. Divinity is far from us, if we compare ourselves with Him who alone is God.

By the action of God or man

The Christian temple service is life in the Holy Spirit. What I do by the action of God that means a service in the temple of God. If only He were to appear abundantly in His own.

"For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ."

2Co.2:17

Do you live by the action of God or by the action of your own calculation? If someone gives Jesus all authority in his life - by the power of God's love - he will experience the action of Jesus in himself. When He appears in you be careful that you don't fall into the antichristianity!

As the serpent was in the paradise so he also is in an assembling congregation making the same kind of proposals. *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."* 2Co.11:3

Jesus loved me and died for me. Because of this love I am submissive to Him. I am willingly obedient to Him and His grace is sufficient for me. As God forbade Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil likewise the gospel of God forbids us to

take for ourselves the glory that belongs to God. If the grace of God is sufficient for us we have remained in the gospel.

Many have received another Jesus than Him about whom is told in the Bible. Therefore they also are boasting about themselves and about their faith. Maybe they themselves have never carried on a conversation with God, but their faith is based on the words of a "great man" of God who performed in the role of God. A divine drama has charmed them.

Many have not regarded the man, Jesus as the true God, although they have believed that Jesus atoned their sins and has risen up. Their faith is not from God but from people.

God has taken the initiative

Nobody asked God to become man, but He took the initiative. The virgin was with child and gave birth to the Son of God. God became man from a sinful woman, Mary. Jesus Christ is not a son of two gods. Only His Father is God.

God has opened a discussion by speaking through His only Son. So what are you going to reply to this opening speech? Who do you say Jesus is? Most people have rejected God's initiative by denying to confess Jesus to be God.

Many reject Jesus of the Bible because they believe that some have distorted the Bible. However the testimony of Jesus is not based only on the testimony of the Bible. Where ever the name of Jesus is mentioned, God Himself, through His Spirit testifies directly to a human heart that "this is my Son, whom I love, listen to Him".

Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men. He is that also for those who have never even seen the Bible. Nobody can come to faith merely based on the testimony of the Bible, but always also the testimony of the Holy Spirit is needed. Instead someone can come to faith merely through the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

Many have believed the testimony that God has given about His Son and opened their heart to Him. The glory and goodness of Jesus called them and they replied to the initiative of God. *"His divine*

power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."

2Pe.1:3

Everybody has seen the glory and the perfect virtue of Jesus, but only few have received the testimony of God about Him. Some have regarded him as a son of godheads, as an angel of God or as a teacher sent by God or as the revelation of God's love. They have distorted the testimony of God about Jesus, because they don't want it to rebuke them for their evilness. They have said as Peter first said: *"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"* Lu.5:8 They have thrown the real Jesus away and received another Jesus.

Denying the judgment of God has produced many religions. Those who initiated them have sought for an answer to the problem of man's evilness. They have experienced a supernatural phenomenon which has caused them to be confident that there is not a judgment of God. Playing God is a desire of the fallen angels. It is natural that they proclaim their own wish that God's judgment would not exist, because they know they have been judged by God. God has prepared the fire of hell for them.

The people, who are captured by another Jesus, believe that finally their evilness will become refined into goodness. They say they believe in Jesus but their Jesus is a lie of fallen angels. Confess that Jesus, Messiah is God and you can accept the judgment of God! Don't escape the judgment, for God of judgment loves you in the Crucified One! He has prepared for you the way out from the judgment!

Conversations with God

If you humble yourself and confess your evilness and accept the judgment you deserve - in the light of the Son of God - God will show you Jesus crucified for the sake of your sins. You know, there is a big difference, whether you hear it from me or if God lets the eyes of your spirit to see it. This revelation cannot be without speaking to you deeply, if you know that man, Jesus is God. When facing this great sacrifice love for God is poured into your cleansed heart. For the sake of this love you give Jesus all power in your life. Jesus replies to it by coming to you and making home with you.

The speeches of this dialog were: 1) the testimony of God, which He gave you about Jesus, 2) you replied to God by regarding Jesus as the true man and the true God, 3) the goodness of Jesus rebuked your evilness, 4) you confessed your evilness, 5) God showed you His work on the cross, 6) you believed it and asked for mercy from the throne of grace, 7) God replied by giving you His love, 8) you replied by giving yourself totally to God. At the end of this conversation Jesus came to you and made His home with you. After this you can have closer conversations concerning other things.

The conversation where God is the originator is a better conversation than a dialog where a man is the originator, because these eight first speeches can lead you to the conversation with God which continues for ever. Jesus says to those who belong to Him: *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain."* Joh.15:16

An originator makes a choice. So reply to the initiative of God, if you want to be a chosen one. Sometimes He replies also to our initiatives, but thus He wants us to stop and listen to His initiative. The antichristian spirit wants you to be the originator concerning your relationship with God preventing you to be chosen by God.

God wants the saved people to bear fruit. - And do not say that it would be against the salvation by grace! - The life of the Son of God is the fruit that God, the Father is lovingly expecting from His children. When the Spirit of God urges you to crucify your old thoughts and to change the attitudes of your mind, you will gladly give a positive answer, if you love Jesus.

If you cannot be satisfied with the grace of God in Jesus, it can be because you have not received Jesus as the true God. Maybe your conversation with God started from the fourth speech of the previously described dialog when you suffered from accusations of your conscience. The antichristian spirit wants to hide the fact that Jesus is the true God so that the gospel would not have too great an impact on us.

"By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that

does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist." 1Jo.4:2-3

Proclaiming the divinity of Jesus is replaced with preaching the law as the impact of the antichristian spirit. If we regard ourselves evil when we see the divinity of Jesus, His work on the cross and His resurrection touch our heart in a very different way than if it is a sermon of the law that reveals our wickedness. It is in this way because in Him there is the greater righteousness than in the law.

If we have received the testimony of God concerning the divinity of Jesus, the events of Golgotha touch our spirit deeper. If we receive Jesus as our Redeemer only because the law wounded our heart, we experience peace that doesn't change our heart. Thus we notice that preaching the law and the gospel is one way of hiding the divinity of Jesus. Preaching only Jesus is preaching all man needs. Grace and truth have been given in Him. He is the full gospel.

So let us not abuse God's love, but let's answer to His initiative. Whatever is the point where we are walking on the way of God, listening to His speech keeps us alive. *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

Mt.4:4

God, who started the dialog with us, doesn't discontinue it. He is a faithful companion in making a conversation. You too, don't stop the dialog, but answer Him.

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Religious conversions and rebirth

What is the content of your religious conversion? It can be very dissimilar between different people. What should the content be so that it would gain the acceptance of God? Bible's Jesus claims that He gives the saving experience which is more than all the religious conversions. Without it you are deceiving yourself with your current religion and you are not a true believer. Be born again!

Religious conversion

The content of a religious conversion can be very different. In one case it means the experience which gives the faith that God exists. In another case it affects the decision to become a good person who obtains God's favour. In the third case it means the experience that causes falling in love with God because you experienced His love first.. Who is the true believer in the meaning that he has the acceptance of God?

To be born again

Bible's Jesus claims that He gives the saving experience which is more than all the religious conversions. He doesn't consider saved a person who believes in the existence of God and who does good works, because He said to Nicodemus, who was a devout Jew: *"I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."* John 3:3

The birth is the beginning of every human life. Jesus proclaims that man needs a new beginning for his life, which is as fundamental experience as being born.

So He doesn't say that being born would be the same as rebirth, but He speaks about the spiritual birth. He doesn't teach the reincarnation, where it is believed that a person wanders from one body to another.

The most of the religious people get angry with Jesus when they notice that Jesus doesn't consider them true believers. Nicodemus didn't become angry, but he was attentive because he realized that he lacked something essential.

To be born of the Spirit

Nothing can be born without parents. Jesus describes the spiritual birth as follows: *"I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."* John 3:5-6 Jesus doesn't speak about the birth of natural descent, but brings forth the revolutionary message: Your spirit can get a new birth.

He says that God's Water and Spirit are as though your parents of whom you were born and became a child of God. *"Yet to all who received Jesus, to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* John 1:12-13

How can this be?

Nicodemus was wondering how it is possible to be born again. He didn't know the promise of God concerning the new birth, though he knew very well what was written in the Torah. Maybe it offended his religious pride when Jesus said to him: "You are Israel's teacher and do you not understand these things!" Maybe Nicodemus blushed but he didn't snap at Jesus: "Come on Jesus, I have read the Torah for over 30 years, I know better than you what it is written there."

Surely Nicodemus had read the next passage: *"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."* Ezek. 36:25-27 Nicodemus should have been able to associate this passage with the words of Jesus. Jesus gave him such a good clue when He spoke about being born of "water and the Spirit".

Clean water for the cleaning of your spirit

Who got the idea that Jesus would have spoken to Nicodemus about the baptismal water? How could it be possible that baptismal water could wash the spirit of anybody? A person, who loves more the

outward piety than the inward purity, has invented the miraculous white magic of the sacrament of the baptism. Only words of God can purify the spirit of man. Moses compares God's words with rain: *"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."* Deut.32:2

Jesus tells to Nicodemus also the content of God's words which are used to purify our spirit when we are born of the Spirit of God: *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone, who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:14-16

The joyful message that tells about the crucified and risen Jesus is the water, which is sprinkled on your spirit. Is it going like water off a duck's back? Often the problem lays there that the message doesn't touch the spirit of a listener. It is listened only intellectually or emotionally, but the mind is not opened for the real meaning of the message.

Internalize the gospel

God had sent snakes to bite the Israeli, because they had rebelled against God. Numbers 21:9. According to God's command Moses made the bronze snake and put it up on a pole. The persons bitten by snakes who looked at the bronze snake stayed alive. The healing power didn't come from the bronze snake but from God. He gave his mercy to man who looked at the snake on the top of the pole. The real deed of man was not the looking but the submission. When he was looking at it he obeyed God and confessed that he deserved the punishment which God had ordered to him. On the top of the pole had to be the picture of a snake, because snakes were the punishment that God had ordered to them.

All of us we have rebelled against God and therefore our spirit is agonizing. Now Jesus has been lifted up through the gospel so that people could look at Him. In His crucifixion you see the punishment you deserve! Or do you want to see that snake?

If I look at Jesus and see Him crucified for the sake of mysins, I will be cleansed from all my impurities and get a new spirit. Is your

relationship with God based on this experience? If not, you are not saved, whatever your other experiences or doctrines.

How do you know that you have internalized the gospel deeply enough? The example given by Jesus tells it. The poison of a snake doesn't affect any more in your spirit. You are not any more rebelling against God but you confess: "Jesus Christ is my Lord and my God."

A false salvation as an obstacle to the salvation

The bronze snake is a good example of how things given by God so easily are changed to superstition in the hands of men. Later the Israeli worshipped that bronze snake as an idol. A crucifix is the same kind of magic thing for many Christians. However God has been able to use a crucifix to clarify the gospel in the case of some persons. The same danger is in the gospel meetings when the decision to give life to Jesus is expressed with lifting up a hand or coming to penitent form before the audience. These actions cleanse nobody, but in the case of some persons God has received these actions as the expression of the submission where a person confesses that Jesus died also for his sins. These situations are changed to the source of a false salvation then when people believe that they have become believers through them, though they didn't internalize the gospel through them.

Often people have closed their heart to the gospel for just the reason that they have a religious experience which causes them to think that they are already inside the God's kingdom.

God considers them illegitimate children whom He doesn't acknowledge. Woe them! They are so close, but still outside.

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you - unless, of course, you fail the test?" 2Cor.13:5

What does Jesus mean to you? Test your heart! Do you detect their protests against God or Jesus? If you find spirit of rebellion humble yourself to confess your sins and look at Jesus who has suffered the punishment you deserved. Love and punishment face on the cross.

What is the origin of your faith?

Your own goodness and righteousness produce a faith of your own. God's goodness and righteousness in Jesus Christ give you the faith of the Son of God.

One's own faith

Most people sometimes turn to God in their practical problems. Almost everyone accepts His help. Also I started to utter the Lord's Prayer every evening when I was a little boy because I was afraid of the dark. In mortal danger many cry to God for help. One's own faith is putting one's trust in God in ways which have their origin in man himself.

One's own righteousness means serving God on one's own initiative. *"I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."* Ro.10:2-3

Who doesn't know Jesus Christ doesn't know the righteousness of God. Those, who put their trust in their own goodness don't see God's goodness in Jesus. Blinded by their own righteousness many think they are good also in the eyes of God and thus accepted by God. Many are so proud of their faith on their own initiative that they are completely deaf to the initiative of God.

God must be the initiator in the relationship between God and man. Only what is born of God is good enough for Him. Nobody asked God to become man and atone our sins. He did it on His own initiative. The gospel is His invitation for us. In there we face the initiative of God.

God has taken the initiative in calling you to His fellowship in Jesus Christ. God's righteousness and goodness have been proclaimed to us in His Son. Only a human being like Jesus is good enough for God. Nobody is able to be as righteous as God in one's own power. Jesus died for you, because in the eyes of God you are not righteous but unrighteous. By His death Jesus nullified your righteousness and offers God's righteousness to you in His resurrection.

Many are so eager to bring their own goodness before God that they have rejected His initiative. However some have received Jesus as their own Savior, but only to use Him for repairing the shortcomings of their own goodness. Their faith in the gospel has not given them a new heart but only feelings of mercy in the weakness of their own faith. They believe in the gospel but they have not the faith of the gospel. They believe in Jesus but they have not the faith of Jesus. Some even believe to be new born Christians although there is no new creation in them.

No-one is saved by one's own faith but by the faith of Jesus that one gains by hearing God's gospel. Pay attention to how you hear! *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* Ro.10:17 Certainly it can be said to be your faith after you have gained to own it. If you have obtained this precious faith, take care of living according to it so that you would not lose it. Peter, the apostle wrote about this faith *"to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ."* 2 Pe.1:1

The faith that saves us is God's gift to us. It is received by hearing. Live in the faith of the Son of God and not in your own. Deny your own goodness and righteousness so that the goodness and the righteousness of Jesus could appear in you.

The gospel gives you a new origin

Jesus Christ gives you the saving faith in the word of the truth of the gospel. Therefore the angel said to Cornelius about Peter who would preach to him the gospel: *"who will tell you words by which you will be saved."* Ac.11:14

Peter told to Cornelius about the crucified and risen Jesus who is the promised Messiah. The gospel is the seed of the new life. It gives birth to children of God. *"You having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."* 1 Pe.1:23 Cornelius and his relatives came to the faith easily, immediately after they had heard the gospel. Their own righteousness didn't prevent them from hearing the gospel the way it should be heard in order to be saved.

The seed of the gospel is planted into the heart of a hearer. If it germinates there the hearer came to the faith. Paul had been planting the seed of the gospel into the hearts of the believers of Corinth. Therefore he said as follows: *"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."* 1 Co.4:15

Man's own faith tries to displace the faith of the gospel and own righteousness wants to displace God's righteousness. Believers have often disgraced God's gospel with their deeds. *"Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."* Php.1:27 Paul fought for the faith of the gospel against those with their own faith.

Nicodemus was a good man who believed in God. However, Jesus said that he needed a new origin for his life. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* Joh.3:3,5 Throughout the Bible words uttered in the Holy Spirit are compared with water. By being born of water of the gospel given by the Holy Spirit we enter the kingdom of God which is the same as to become a member of the Church of God.

Jesus offered Nicodemus the water He mentioned to drink by telling him God's gospel. *"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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."* Joh.3:13-16

Thus Jesus gave Nicodemus the word of the truth of the gospel in the Holy Spirit so that by drinking it he could be born again. Jesus promises that the words He gives us beget a fountain of eternal life in our heart. *"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a*

fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." Joh.4:14 The new creation in us is the fountain that wells forth God's life. Before you became obedient to the gospel you - as a new creation didn't exist.

God's words heard in the Holy Spirit are an extremely wonderful thing! God's Spirit is like wind blowing on dead hearts and making them alive. His words are like water purifying from sin and begetting a new creation.

The faith of Jesus

When hearing of the gospel of the crucified Jesus who was risen from the dead you experience it causes faith in you. It is not your own but God's faith. If you seize the word of the truth of the gospel with the faith you got, the faith of Jesus will settle in you.

After you believed the gospel God considers you as good as Jesus. You gained God's righteousness as a gift. What do you do with your own any more? *"The righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."*

Ro.3:22-24

The gift of righteousness and the own righteousness are at war with each other in the thoughts of the believers. We have to get rid of the thoughts of our own righteousness so that Christ would live in us, as promised. Paul says that the own righteousness is the reason for believers to fall in sin. *"But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor."* Ga.2:17-18

The destroyed own righteousness can be built up again. Many believers have begun to fight against sin by trusting their own goodness. Instead they should have purged out the thoughts and attitudes of their own righteousness that is "to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires". Many don't do this, not even after they fell in sin, but only beg for a good conscience.

Nullifying our own goodness is the key issue so that Jesus could live in us. However, many believe in Jesus only to get forgiveness

of their sins but stick to their own goodness. Actually this is the only problem among the believers of Jesus, because those others will be resolved as a result of letting Jesus live in His own.

Giving up one's own goodness makes one "great" in the kingdom of heaven. When the disciples asked Jesus "who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven", He called a little child to Him and replied: *"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* Mt.18:3-4 This little child proved to believe Jesus by coming to Him when He called. Whether it is a child or an adult we can know him having the faith only if we notice him obeying Jesus.

Jesus doesn't say that children would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven but those adults who humble themselves to be as dependent on God as little children are dependent on their parents. The own righteousness is lofty adulthood which considers the righteousness of Jesus childish idealism. An adult who has submitted himself to the righteousness of God is "one of these little ones" who believe in Jesus.

The faith of the Son of God wants to destroy the faith originated from man. Oh, how much believers have opposed to the death of their own righteousness!

Own goodness is rubbish!

Paul says that we have gained something according to the flesh, when we have done something good from our own motives and in our own strength. *"What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God."* Ro.4:1-2 Abraham could boast about his good deeds before people. However before God they were worthless. The motives of the deeds give them their value. If the motives are not from God, the deeds are worthless before God, although they would be valuable and useful for men.

Pride of own goodness and boasting about it is poison. It is old leaven that must be purged out. *"Your glorying is not good. Do you*

not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." 1Co.5:6-7

Paul himself had a great temptation to boast about his good background, because what he had gained before he came to the faith was humanly respectable. However he counted loss what he had gained because of the knowledge of Jesus. *"I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ."* Php.3:4-7

Correspondingly many could boast as follows: "I am baptized and I am a Christian of Christians. I have lived according to the Christian values starting from my childhood and have been an eager churchgoer and I have never denied my faith." Who is able to count his loss his flesh-originated Christianity? Before gaining the gift of righteousness there can only be deeds of one's own righteousness.

For the sake of Christ, are you able to count your baptism and your Christian education as rubbish, because they existed before you were born again? All your good deeds you did before you came to the faith and the ones you did in your own righteousness, are you able to consider them dead deeds? Are you able to count as rubbish what the people of this world consider valuable? Yes, you can, if you thirst for the righteousness of God.

Paul wanted to lose everything preventing him from experiencing the righteousness of God. *"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ."* Php.3:8

It is really great grace to be allowed to be Christ's own, but it is even more to gain Christ. One who wants to live and to experience God's righteousness counts one's own righteousness as rubbish.

Gaining Christ means that I am *"found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."* Php.3:9

There was no new creation in you before you came to the faith. You were not a child of God in Christ Jesus, you only were created in the image of God in Adam and in Eve. It is the most essential rule in the life of a believer that he dies to his old nature and lives according to the new nature that is originated from God. *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God."* Ga.6:15-16

The Bible version used in references is NKJV

Holy Covenant

Many only abuse God's love and don't want to live in a covenant with Him. Force your way through deceptions into the spring of God's power and enter the Holy Covenant with Him - to be faithful to the One and Only.

Call to the Holy Covenant

The message about the crucified and up risen Son of God is God's call to the Holy Covenant. He wants to enter into the covenant with you. He proved His love for you when He gave Jesus to suffer your punishment. He is waiting for your personal response to His love.

He accepts only a holy covenant. If you want to receive His love and at the same time to remain loving your idols, you try to enter into an unholy covenant with Him. This kind of unfaithfulness is seen in the relationship of a man and a woman. Many willingly receive love which someone gives, but they don't want to enter a covenant remaining faithful to one only.

Hearing the gospel gives you faith, but for what purpose are you using it? Many have lost the faith they got because they have not used it for entering into the covenant. After you tasted God's love you might have warmed to Him so that you received Jesus as the Saviour in your troubles and as the Redeemer who sets you free from your sins. Did you abandon your love of idols at the same time? Many have not done it, but want to be "loved by all gods".

Accordingly a girl may warm to a proposal of a man and accept him, but at the same time she maintains her relationships with other men, who also have proved their love for her. Your desire to be "loved by all" can make you a harlot.

Spouses who are faithful to each other live in a holy marriage. They belong to each other. In the same way Jesus and those who belong to Him are faithful to each other. If a believer worships something else than Jesus, he has offended against the Holy Covenant. *"The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant."* Isa.24:5

A gospel calling to community faith

Much have been done so that nobody would experience the gospel as a personal call of God. The message about Jesus appears in a church service as a part of a liturgy, a ceremony or a rite. In this way the gospel is used as a call to the fellowship of the church.

When the message is told in a ceremony form of a service, listeners are led to receive the gospel as a community faith. Then the gospel itself needs not touch their inmost being, because a devout atmosphere touches them instead of it. In this way they accept the gospel in theory, but they don't experience its power. A devout ceremony produces a community faith that invalidates the gospel.

Some communities say they evangelize with the Holy Communion. That kind of activity delivers God's call to all people without calling them to give any personal response. This wine has been given all nations to drink. The world has been filled with the message of God's love, but in such a way that it doesn't produce requited love towards God. Instead that only makes people abuse it. This is said in the Bible:

"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her." Re.18:3

Through the ages rulers have persuaded Christians to do wickedly against the Holy Covenant by becoming the worshippers of the state idol. Lust for power is a temptation that has transformed many God's men into servants of the devil. The government and patriotism have been idols which many Christian leaders have not wanted to forsake. Their own unfaithfulness has caused them to give others the same unfaithfulness to drink.

Do not drink "the wine of the wrath". Do not participate in a Communion that is fornication in the eyes of God. Don't allow yourself to get confused by hearing the gospel there. The wrath of God will one day appear from heaven against those who suppress the truth of the gospel with the power of injustice.

Although God made the Old Covenant with one nation, He makes the New Covenant with individuals. When Jesus gave the command

to make disciples of all nations, He commanded to make them of individuals of all nations.

He doesn't make the New Covenant with any nation, because only an individual is able to agree with the terms of this covenant. The New Covenant is too holy to be established with a nation, because it is sealed with the blood of the Son of God. It must touch the heart of a person, into its bottom.

As it is true that the body of the Son of God has been broken into pieces for our sake like a broken bread, in the same way it is true that the New Covenant is made with individuals, who become partakers of Jesus.

A gospel calling to unfaithfulness

If the invalidating of the personal call of the gospel doesn't work with some persons, much has been done also in this case so that the personal experience would not lead to the Holy Covenant with God. The response of a person is wanted to happen on the altar of a church so that it would not be too personal.

Many emphasize the importance of the personal decision and proclaim the gospel as the call to the fellowship with God. However they are not "engaging" their listeners "to the One and Only" unlike Paul.

"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2Co.11:2

While preaching the gospel they say that you need forsake nothing when you become a believer. It is the same as if a man when proposing to a girl would say that you need not forsake your other boyfriends when becoming his own.

If they trusted Jesus' ability to conquer hearts, they would proclaim only Him and not themselves. If Jesus doesn't influence a person and conquer him, we have no right to persuade anyone to become His own.

Woe to the community of the unfaithful, backsliders who have got drunken on God's love! I hope they would become sober and dispel

their drunkenness by forsaking their idols. Woe to the fishers of souls who try to decoy souls to the Kingdom of God with a fraud! If they followed Jesus, He would make them become fishers of men who draw their fellowmen up from the restless sea of nations using the net of truth.

Be saved from the unfaithfulness you were given to drink

God is always calling an individual. Although one million or only two persons would listen to the same speech of the gospel they cannot receive it together with a common decision. Because the call is private the response also must be private. Jesus says: *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me."* Joh.6:37,44-45

Coming to Jesus is not a public thing. Instead following Him is a public issue. When you want to make a covenant with God, don't do it in public. Announce the covenant after you have experienced that it has become effective.

God wants that you "come to the front" to the altar of your heart in secret by people and so only He sees it. It is not enough to God that you dare to come to the altar of a church while the crowd is watching at you. He wants your heart's response to His great sacrifice.

It is a right thing to confess Jesus publicly after getting into the Holy Covenant. Do not go to the front in a church aiming to come to faith, but go home and close the door and be alone there and make the Covenant with God. Of course your heart can make the Covenant with God anywhere, even among a crowd, but don't seek God's confirmation to your covenant publicly.

When you are approaching God on the faith of the Gospel you live the most important moment of your life. The content of that moment has crucial effect on your later progress in the way of God. A church choir swelling around you and the prayers of a preacher may give you so impressive experience that you therefore believed you were born again from above. Because your experience didn't come from the power of the gospel but from the power of the ceremony,

it deceived you. At the same time the ceremony might suppress a quiet voice of the Holy Spirit which would have given you the genuine experience of the salvation.

After praying to God privately you may first experience that nothing happened. However if you don't give up but continue your life thanking God for the gospel, He soon replies you and confirms His Covenant with you. It may happen wherever and whenever.

Pray according to the gospel and let God do His work in your heart. Then your faith is based on God's response you received for the sake of the gospel. You can ask believers to pray for you but reject their "priestly ceremonies". Also do not pray any prayer that others put into your mouth. A sinner's prayer must come out from you voluntarily and genuinely.

A good and brilliant speech of the gospel can charm you so much that you rather reply to the call of the speaker than to the call of God. An impressive meeting drives you easily to commit a covenant with that excellent Christian community as if with God.

Foundation of the Holy Covenant

The message of the cross of Christ can become insignificant in the mind of a listener due to many reasons. Paul knew that a human rhetoric can destroy the effect of the gospel: *"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* 1Co.1:17-18

Notice that Paul means by the invalidation of the message the situation where a listener of the gospel is impressed by another thing than the cross of Jesus.

"My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." 1Co.2:4-5

The message about the death and the resurrection of Jesus is the power of God, but it has an effect in you only if you have internalized it personally. We can enter into the Covenant with

God only and exclusively because He loved us in the sacrifice of Golgotha. Whatever it is that makes the message of the cross of Christ less significant for you, it prevents you to be saved.

Now examine your heart and recognize what you have answered God based on what He did for you on Golgotha. Forget all your other spiritual experiences and your decisions and your altar events. If the death and the resurrection of Jesus have not yet been allowed to lead you to the Holy Covenant with God, you can experience it today.

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Life is in Jesus Christ. Therefore turn to Him.

Also today God speaks from His temple. A conversation with God is a right of every person. Listen to the initiative speech of God and answer Him.

What is the content of your religious conversion? It can be very dissimilar between different people. What should the content be so that it would gain the acceptance of God? Bible's Jesus claims that He gives the saving experience which is more than all the religious conversions. Without it you are deceiving yourself with your current religion and you are not a true believer. Be born again!

Your own goodness and righteousness produce a faith of your own. God's goodness and righteousness in Jesus Christ give you the faith of the Son of God.

Many only abuse God's love and don't want to live in a covenant with Him. Force your way through deceptions into the spring of God's power and enter the Holy Covenant with Him - to be faithful to the One and Only.