



# THREE CROSSES

A BIBLE STUDY CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Volker Lamaack

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Correction: Myrna Narzo (Philippines)

Illustrations: Volker Lamaack

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**Please return the tests to:**

**Volker Lamaack**

Hamburg

Germany

Mobile, WhatsApp: +49 (0) 1793994457

Signal: +49 (0) 1793994457

E-Mail: [scfs.volker.lamaack@web.de](mailto:scfs.volker.lamaack@web.de)

Facebook: Volker Lamaack

Web-Site: [www.scfs.org](http://www.scfs.org)

**Martin Otto**

Hamburg

Germany

+49 (0) 1793994456

+49 (0) 1793994456

[scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de](mailto:scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de)

Martin Otto

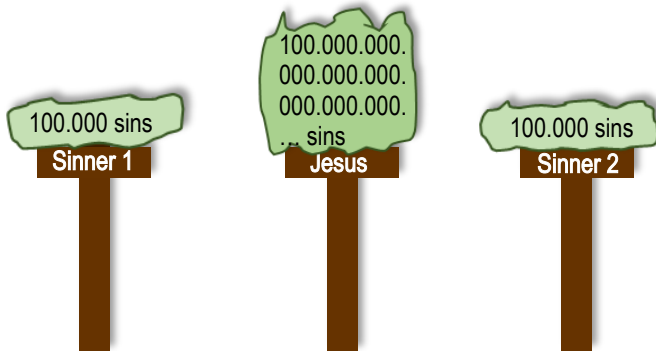
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# HOW DO I REACH MY DESTINATION?

## Chapter 1

## Three crosses

Life on earth is short! But our physical death is not the end. Our soul can't die and will exist forever. A question that troubles many is this: Where will they spend eternity? Just hoping to enter heaven is not enough. We have to be sure of it. God is so kind to give us the answers we need in the Holy Bible. This study course will help you to understand how you reach your destination.



*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 3:16)*

### Why this heavy burden on the shoulders of Jesus?

What happened during the last hours before Jesus died? A deep understanding will enable us to know how God wants to save us from eternal destruction.

Please look at the illustration on above. When our Lord hung on the cross, He carried the sins of all the people who ever lived. We don't know the number because they are simply too many. It begins with the "little" things that we all are capable of. For example, hatred, pride, immoral thoughts, lack of love, lack of patience, etc. And it ends with the cruelty of people like Hitler and Stalin, who killed millions. All the sins that were committed by all generations lay like a heavy burden on the shoulders of Jesus.

Two men were crucified on the cross beside Jesus. We don't know exactly what wrong they did. But unlike Jesus who never sinned, they had committed many criminal acts. Let's imagine that both men had sinned about 100.000 times in their lives, whether in thought, words, or deeds. In the eyes of the people they were hopeless cases.



Now please answer Test No. 1 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

Please give just a short answer, without repeating the questions. For example:

### Test 1

1 - T (True)

2 - F (False)

3 - F

4 - F

...

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

### Test 1

### Three crosses

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1) When we die, our soul leaves the body and continues to exist.  | T | F |
| 2) Many people are troubled by the question of where they will spend eternity.  | T | F |
| 3) The Bible can teach us the way to salvation.   | T | F |
| 4) John 3:16 speaks about God's love for us and His desire to save those who believe in Him.  | T | F |
| 5) When Jesus died on the cross for the guilt of the world, He took the punishment only for small and medium sins. His sacrifice does not apply to very serious wickedness. | T | F |
| 6) God pays attention only to sins that we do through our words and actions. Our thoughts don't matter.   | T | F |
| 7) When Jesus hung on the cross, He felt abandoned by God. However, His Father was still very close to Him, but He didn't think so because of the pain.                     | T | F |
| 8) God left Jesus when He hung on the cross. To be abandoned by God is what hell is all about. This means that Jesus suffered exactly the punishment we deserved: hell.     | T | F |
| 9) One of the two sinners crucified alongside Jesus went to hell because he had done worse crimes in the past than the other sinner.  | T | F |
| 10) Revelation 20:11-15 says that sins which have not been forgiven are recorded in books.  | T | F |

You may say: "Well, that's just fair. This man beside Jesus was a very bad person. But don't compare him with me! Although I have my faults, I am much better. Of course I'm not a criminal!" That brings us to this question: Will better people, as most of us are, have a greater chance of passing the judgment of God? In order to find an answer, let's read Romans 3:12:

*All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.* (Romans 3:12)

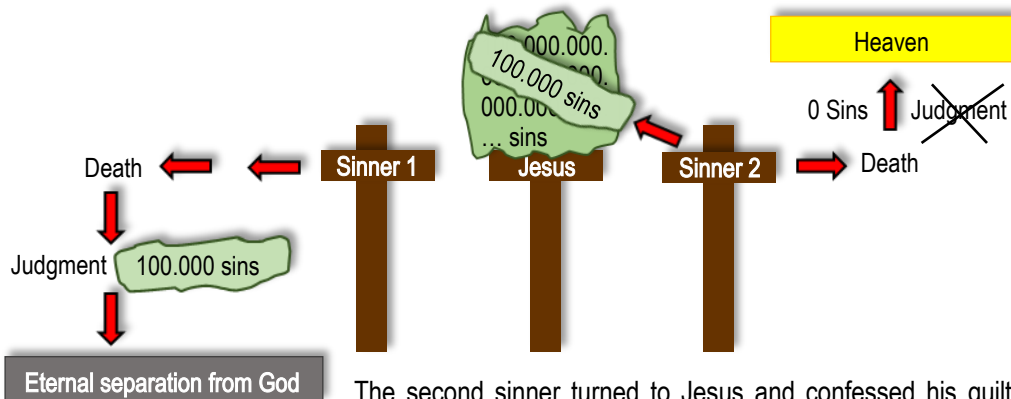
The truth is no one is able to meet God's standard. It is very clear when we read James 2:10:

*Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*

Is that fair? Is it true that if we commit only one sin, we have already broken the whole law of God? The Lord is holy and every sin is against Him. In addition, it's important to remember that all of us have sinned many times. Even those we would call good and religious people.

### How did the second sinner react?

Now let's turn to the second sinner beside Jesus. We remember that he was not better than the first one. Nevertheless, he was allowed to enter heaven after his death. How was this possible? Please take a look at the illustration below (on the right side):



The second sinner turned to Jesus and confessed his guilt. He put his faith in Jesus as his Savior and said:

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* (Luke 23:42)

Jesus replied: *"I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."* (Luke 23:43)

## An evil man went to heaven

Please take a close look at the illustration on page 4 again. We can see that the burden of sin has shifted from the shoulders of this man to the shoulders of Jesus. What does this mean? At that very moment, Jesus endured the punishment for the sin of the world. Of course, He did so for the two criminals as well. But while the first sinner rejected Jesus, the second one turned towards Him. At that very moment, the Lord took the sin of that man on Himself. The load on the shoulders of this criminal was completely gone. A few hours later, the second sinner died. Because all his sins were forgiven, he was allowed to enter eternal life. And when judgment day comes, he won't need to fear condemnation anymore. He will have direct access to heaven.



### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

It's not the good people who will go to heaven. Why not? Because no one is good enough in God's eyes. We are all sinners. Only those whose sins have been forgiven will get eternal life.

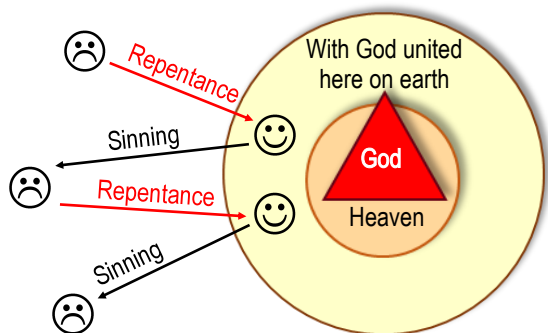
The reason the Son of God came to earth was to die for our sins. In John 1:29, John the Baptist says of Jesus:

*"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

### "In - Out" ... "In - Out" ...?

Maybe you will say: "Well, that makes sense to me. But I see a big problem: The second criminal repented of his sins, received forgiveness and died shortly after. He had no time and no opportunity to sin again. But what about me? Sure, from time to time, I confess my sins to God. But I am not able to stay sinless in future. Does this mean that if I repent, I'm in God's presence; but if I do something wrong, the Lord will throw me out again? Is this a matter of a lifelong 'In - Out' ... 'In - Out'? Where will I be when I'm 'Out' at the moment of my death (see the illustrations below)? This could happen if I unexpectedly die – for example, through a heart attack or in an accident. Am I lost just because I did not have the time to repent?

The circle with the orange colour at the center represents heaven, where God lives. But He is not only there. The Lord is also present on earth. All peoples who live united with God here on earth, belong inside the yellow circle. After death they will spend eternity with God. For them, to die means to simply step from the yellow into the orange circle. Look at what Jesus said in John 11:25-26:



*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."*

You may ask, if it is possible to be constantly "In", in spite of our many failures? Yes, that is true! Although we are not perfect, God has given us the opportunity to certainly spend eternity with Him.

The "In - Out" concept, as shown by the illustration, is **NOT** a biblical teaching!

It may represent our feelings and thoughts. However, we must not rely on them, we must find out what the Bible really teaches. God makes it possible to be constantly "In" by giving us an entirely new position. You will learn what that means in the next chapter.

#### **AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:**

The "In - Out" concept, as shown by the illustration, is NOT a biblical teaching! It may represent our feelings and thoughts. However, we must not rely on them, we must find out what the Bible really teaches.





Now please answer Test No. 2 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1) People who have done a lot of good deeds do not need to fear the last judgment.                              | T | F |
| 2) Romans 3:12 says that nobody is good enough in God's eyes.   | T | F |
| 3) James 2:10 says that God is satisfied with us if we have committed only few sins.                            | T | F |
| 4) If we have committed only one sin, we have broken God's whole law.   | T | F |
| 5) The second sinner asked Jesus to save him, even though he had sinned a lot, but at least has tried his best. | T | F |
| 6) Jesus didn't give His life for the crucified sinner who refused to repent.                                   | T | F |
| 7) The second sinner still needs to fear the last judgment because his salvation is not at all certain.         | T | F |
| 8) It's not the seemingly good people who go to heaven, but those who have honestly repented.                   | T | F |
| 9) Those who repent may come into God's presence, but only if they never sin again.                             | T | F |
| 10) The "In-Out" concept shown in the illustration on page 5 is a true Biblical teaching!                       | T | F |

The Lord offers us to become His children. In the same way a human child belongs forever to his/her father, a child of God will always belong to the heavenly Father.



### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

If someone has become God's child, he/she certainly has eternal life. Although God's children are not sinless, they don't need to fear hell anymore.

Now we need to answer the question on how to get this new position of becoming God's children. Let's turn to John 1:12:

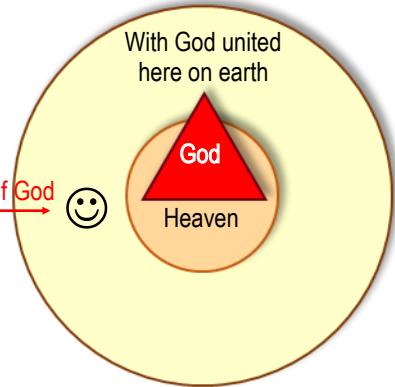
*To all who **received** Him (Jesus), to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*

It is by **receiving** Jesus, by **believing** in Him!



John 1:12

A child of God



We will soon consider the question of exactly how we can become a child of God. But first let's clarify what it means when a child of God gets a completely new position.



Suppose someone is the son of a prominent person – for example, John Lennon, one of the four Beatles. This person will share in his wealth, because John Lennon had a lot of money. He will get more attention and respect than other children. This isn't because he has done something special. This could only happen because of his famous father.

Let's take this example to understand why God's children enjoy many benefits. This is not because they are better or deserve it. No, it is simply because they belong to their Father. They have a special position. John Lennon might have been a caring father, or possibly not. But to have God as our Father means having the best one with amazing privilege to enjoy.

## A child of God has a lot of benefits

What are the benefits of God's children? There are plenty! Here are just a few listed:

- 1) They will have eternal life for sure. (John 5:24)

*Jesus said: "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."*

- 2) God will never leave them alone. (Matthew 28:20)

*Jesus said: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- 3) They will experience joy - independent of the circumstances. (John 15:11)

*Jesus said: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

- 4) They will have peace in mind, even if there is trouble around them. (John 14:27)

*Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

- 5) God will answer their prayers according to His wisdom. (John 15:7)

*Jesus said: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

- 6) They belong to Jesus. He broke the power of the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)

*Since God's children have flesh and blood, Jesus too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death that is, the devil.*

- 7) They are given a meaningful and fruitful life. (John 15:5)

*Jesus said: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

- 8) The Lord will provide us with everything we need. (Matthew 6:33)

*Jesus said: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (food, clothing, housing) for will be given to you as well."*

Now please answer Test No. 3 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1) In the same way that human children belong forever to their fathers, children of God will always belong to their heavenly Father. | T | F |
| 2) Although God's children are not sinless, they don't need to fear hell any more.   | T | F |
| 3) Jesus is holy, and we are very sinful. Because of this fact, nobody is allowed to ask the Lord to come into ones life.            | T | F |
| 4) John 1:12 says that it is very difficult to become a child of God.  | T | F |
| 5) A child of God has a lot of wonderful benefits.   | T | F |
| 6) God accepts as His children only people who deserve it.   | T | F |
| 7) If someone is a child of God, the devil has no claim on him.  | T | F |
| 8) The death of Jesus broke the power of him who holds the power of death that is, the devil.  | T | F |
| 9) Nobody will ever live a fruitful life in God's eyes because we are too weak.  | T | F |
| 10) God's children never have any problems.  | T | F |

*Wo all who **received** Him (Jesus), to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*  
(John 1:12)

It's necessary to first **believe** in Jesus and to second **receive** Him in one's heart.

1. **Believing:** It's important to have a proper knowledge of what "believing" means, as many would respond: "Of course, I believe in Jesus. Sure, I have faith in God!" But simply using the words "believe" or "faith" does not necessarily mean having the right understanding. Often it is only a superficial or traditional belief. Many people simply think of some dogmas, which they have learned from childhood, and agree with these. But a closer look reveals:
  - Many have never fully given their lives to Jesus.
  - They don't love Him with all of their hearts.
  - They have never fully surrendered themselves to the Lord.
  - They don't truly feel sorry for their sins.
  - Their lifestyle is not much different from that of unbelievers.

However, Jesus is not interested in traditions. He is not satisfied with a superficial faith. He wants our love, our heart, our devotion and submission to Him.



#### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

Believing in Jesus means to put all hope, confidence and trust in Him alone. He is the Lord and Savior. We must give ourselves to Him with a sincere and honest heart.

## 2. How do we receive Jesus?

We find the answer in Revelation 3:20:

*Jesus said: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (To have fellowship together)*

Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts. He would like to get into our dark and sinful lives, to make them bright. We have to give Him an answer!

- When we say "No", then He stays outside. He respects our will.
- When we say "Later", then He continues to be outside.
- If we are not against Jesus yet don't invite Him in, He still remains excluded from our lives.
- Only when we humbly ask Jesus to come into our hearts will this happen.





### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

Jesus must be invited by prayer to enter! He does not belong to one just because one was born into a Christian family, was baptized, belong to a church or follow religious traditions.

## To become a child of God is a gift



*It is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

When we think of the second sinner at the cross, we learn the following: Although he was a bad man, he was immediately given salvation, as he turned to Jesus. This leads us to an important truth:

God does not save a sinful man, because

- he has already changed his life, or
- he has proven that he has gotten better, or
- he is worth it, or because
- he has done certain religious activities.

God saves a sinner only when he does exactly what the second man at the cross did:

- he repented of his sins, he humbly asked for forgiveness,
- he turned with his whole heart to Jesus and believed in Him,
- and he asked to get eternal life.

Please notice again Ephesians 2:8-9 above, because this is one of the key passages in the Bible. Here we learn that one can only be saved by grace. But what is grace?



### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

When it comes to salvation by grace, it's about receiving a gift, and not about doing something.

## What is grace and what not?

Is it mercy or grace, just like when you're earning your salary?

No, definitely not! If you have worked hard, then you must also get your money. This often happens in most human relationships: you do something and you get something back in return.



However, this becomes a problem when we apply this principle to our relationship with God. It is wrong to think this way:

"I push myself to keep God's commandments. In return, God blesses me here on earth and gives me eternal life later."

Why is this idea wrong? Even though we are able to do good actions, we are not good enough to get access to heaven.

- We sin through thoughts, words and actions.
- We sin when we do good, but with wrong motives.
- We sin when we do good in order to be honored for it.
- We sin if we have an opportunity do good but fail doing it.

We are sinners and deserve hell! The truth is that we need a Saviour! That God sent Jesus to become our Redeemer is grace, which we don't deserve!

Now please answer Test No. 4 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1) Only if the following three things happen can you become a child of God:<br>You have to believe in Jesus, you have to receive Him and you have to keep the 10 commandments perfectly, without any failure. | T | F |
| 2) God is satisfied if we have a traditional faith and grow up in a Christian background.   | T | F |
| 3) Jesus wants our love, heart, devotion and submission to Him.   | T | F |
| 4) Believing in Jesus means to put all our hope, confidence and trust in Him alone.   | T | F |
| 5) If Jesus knocks on the door of our heart, we must invite Him in.<br>Those who don't do so cannot become children of God.   | T | F |
| 6) Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we can be proud of ourselves when we have become children of God.  | T | F |
| 7) When it comes to salvation, it's about receiving a gift, and not about doing something.  | T | F |
| 8) God saves only those sinners who have become better than they used to be in the past.  | T | F |
| 9) Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches that we can be saved only through faith in God's grace.  | T | F |
| 10) That God sent Jesus to become our Redeemer is because of His grace, which we don't deserve!   | T | F |





It is, of course, very important that we keep God's law. The illustration on the left shows Moses, to whom God had given the Ten Commandments. The Lord requires us to take them seriously. However, we are not good enough to save ourselves by our own righteousness. Remember James 2:10: one sin makes us guilty, already making us breakers of the complete law of God.

### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

First, we must accept salvation as a free gift. As a result we get a deep desire to keep the commandments of God.



*A person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.*

(Galatians 2:16)

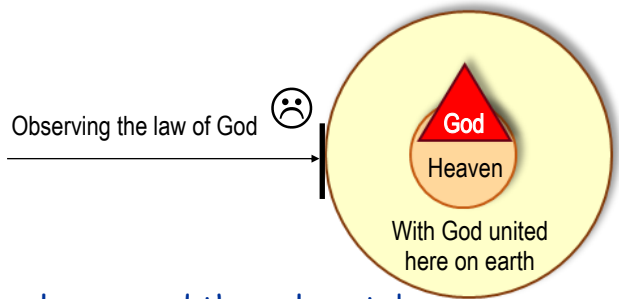
### Six questions – six answers

- Question: Should we keep God's commandments? Does it matter?  
 Answer: Yes, it does matter a lot!
- Question: Will we be saved by keeping God's commandments?  
 Answer: No, we won't!
- Question: Why can't we save ourselves by keeping the law of the Lord?  
 Answer: Because we are not good enough!
- Question: How then do we receive eternal life if we can't get it by keeping the law?  
 Answer: It is through faith in God's grace. It's a free gift.
- Question: Do we keep our eternal life by keeping God's laws?  
 Answer: No! Eternal life is, and remains a gift.
- Question: Why should we keep God's laws after we are saved?  
 Answer: Because we are grateful to Jesus and we want to glorify the Lord. A child of God loves Him and finds pleasure in living a fruitful life.

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.*

(Romans 3:23-24 and 28)

Observing the law of God is really important. But we don't become children of God by doing it. The entrance is still blocked!



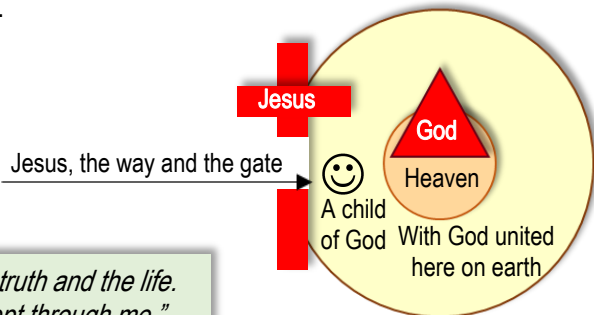
## Jesus, the only way and the only gate!

How do we receive eternal life?

- Not by our good deeds and religion (even though they are important)
- Not through any church (even though churches are important)
- Not through religious leader (even though we need them)
- Not by baptism, communion or by religious activities (even though they are very important)

What is mentioned above is significant. However, salvation is possible only through Jesus Christ! We should turn to Him directly.

*Jesus said: "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."*  
(John 10:9)



*Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*  
(John 14:6)

### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

There's absolutely no other way into the presence of the Father, except through Jesus!



## A spiritual birth into a new life with Jesus

*God saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*  
(Titus 3:5)

Titus 3:5 speaks of a new birth, which is given by the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual birth. Again the Bible points out that no man can do this. It's God's work in us.



**AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:**

Through a natural birth we became children of our parents. Through a spiritual birth, we become God's children.

Now please answer Test No. 5 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1) It is important to keep God's commandments.  | T | F |
| 2) First, we must accept salvation as a gift. As a result, we get a deep desire to keep God's commandments.   | T | F |
| 3) Galatians 2:16 says that we can be justified by trying our best to obey the law of God.                    | T | F |
| 4) After we are saved, keeping the 10 commandments is of little importance.                                   | T | F |
| 5) Keeping God's commandments is important, but it doesn't make us children of God.                           | T | F |
| 6) Salvation is possible only through Jesus Christ! We should turn to Him directly.                           | T | F |
| 7) There are many ways to heaven, depending on one's belief.  | T | F |
| 8) Titus 3:5 speaks of a new birth, which is given by the Holy Spirit.  | T | F |
| 9) Through natural birth we became children of our parents. Through spiritual birth we become God's children. | T | F |
| 10) We experience a new spiritual birth only if we change our religion.                                       | T | F |

How do we become a child of God? How do we get eternal life?

- We must turn to Jesus with all of our heart and put our faith, hope and trust in Him alone.
- We need to open our heart to Jesus and invite Him to enter.
- We must surrender our whole life to Jesus. We need to be willing to follow and obey Him.
- We must confess our sins direct to Jesus and repent!

### Why?

- Because of our sins, we are separated from God.
- Because of our sins, we have to fear judgment.
- Because of our sins, we are in the danger of eternal separation from God.

The second man on the cross confessed to Jesus that he is a sinner. The Lord forgave him everything and promised him eternal life. What an amazing proof of God's grace!

*I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*  
(1.John 2:1-2)

The Lord does not want us to sin. Of course, it's important that we obey Him. But the Lord knows our human weakness. Jesus Christ is our defender! Let's always turn to Him!

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*  
(John 1:9)

It's amazing to see that even a very bad person, like the second man on the cross, can receive complete forgiveness. In the same way, Jesus offers forgiveness to each of us if we earnestly repent. But a superficial confession that does not come from heart is meaningless.

**AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:**  
Someone who makes an honest repentance will receive complete forgiveness – regardless of what he has done wrong.



## Are you ready to invite Jesus Christ?

God is calling you! He wants you to receive Jesus into your heart. The Lord doesn't expect from you the guarantee of a perfect life in future, only a sincere heart. He did everything for you. Are you prepared to let Jesus into your heart? Please read the following questions. Then give your personal answer after each one by underlining either "YES" or "NO".

Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus is the only way to salvation? YES NO

Do you believe that no church, religion, another person or not even your religious activities are the gate to God, but Jesus alone? YES NO

Do you truly feel sorry about your sins? Are you honestly willing to repent and turn away from them? YES NO

Are you willing to invite Jesus into your heart in order to receive spiritual life through the Holy Ghost? YES NO

Are you willing to give all areas of your life to Jesus? Are you willing to follow and obey Jesus and become His disciple? YES NO

If you answered "NO" to at least one question, then you're probably not yet fully prepared to receive Jesus. In this case, carry on reading this Bible course. You can also order another Bible study correspondence course for free. This will help you getting a deeper understanding about Jesus and the way to salvation. You'll find information about ordering good books and Bible courses at the end of this booklet.

## A prayer that changes your life

If you have answered "YES" to all questions, you now have the opportunity, if you wish, to invite Jesus into your heart. You can use your own words, or you may follow this prayer:

Dear God, I'm coming to you. I have lived for a long time without you. I have been in control of my life, and have done many things which were not according to how you would have liked it. I am guilty! Here you should mention specific sins you can think of. I'm sorry for my guilt. Please forgive me. I ask you to set me free from the bondage of sin and the devil. I want to belong to you alone.

Dear Lord Jesus, I am counting on you. Thank you that you have given your life for my sins. Please come into my heart through your Holy Spirit. I want to become God's child. I want you to be with me always.

I ask you to be my guide from now on. Please go before me, and show me the way I should go. Change me where you think I need to be transformed. I am willing to obey you. Thank you for everything you did for me. Glory, praise and worship are to you alone. Amen!

If you have prayed this prayer from your heart, surely you're now a child of God! Jesus lives through the Holy Spirit in you! Your sins are forgiven! You will belong to Him forever! If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, please sign here:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart, you are now a child of God and belong to His family. Remember John 1:12-13: *All who received Jesus, who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God.*

This is the most important decision you have ever made. It will last into eternity and is a reason for great joy. In Luke 15:10 it is written: *There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

In the same way that you remember your physical birthday, it is good not to forget the date of your spiritual one. Though you are still here on earth, you are now on God's side. Death will be just the gate for you to change from this life with Jesus to eternal life in heaven with Him.

Regardless of whether you have invited Jesus into your life or not, continue studying this Bible course. And when you've finished, it would be good to continue with the next one.

Now please answer Test No. 6 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1) If we want to become children of God, we must turn to Jesus wholeheartedly by putting our faith, hope and trust in Him alone. | T | F |
| 2) If we want to become children of God, we must open the door of our heart to Jesus and invite Him to come in.                  | T | F |
| 3) If we want to become children of God, we must repent of our sins honestly.  | T | F |
| 4) If we want to become children of God, we must surrender our whole life to Jesus and must be willing to follow and obey Him.   | T | F |
| 5) God does not want His children to sin. If it happens again, Jesus's sacrifice on the cross will not count for us any more.    | T | F |
| 6) For those who have received Jesus into their lives, He becomes their defender in case of committing a sin again.              | T | F |
| 7) If we honestly confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.                        | T | F |
| 8) It's amazing to see that even a very bad person, as the second man on the cross was, can receive complete forgiveness.        | T | F |
| 9) A superficial confession that does not come from the heart, is enough in the eyes of God.                                     | T | F |
| 10) Someone who makes an honest repentance will receive complete forgiveness – regardless of what he has done wrong.             | T | F |



How it is possible to know for sure that a person who has received Christ, is saved? The answer is very simple. It is because salvation does not depend on what you have achieved, but on what Christ has done for you. What you do will never last, but what Jesus has done will endure forever. He did everything for your salvation, and you have received it like a wonderful present. Base your new life on the promises of the Bible. Religions can't give any assurance of salvation, but the gospel can. Read the following verses, which prove that those who are in Christ are saved for sure:

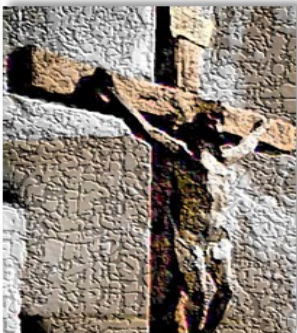
*Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me **has eternal life** and will **not be condemned**; he **has crossed over from death to life**."*  
(John 5:24)

*Since we have now been justified by His blood, **how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him**. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, **how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!*** (Romans 5:9-10)

*There is **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.* (Romans 8:1)

*I am convinced that neither **death nor life**, neither **angels nor demons**, neither the **present nor the future**, nor **any powers**, neither **height nor depth**, nor **anything else in all creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:38-39)

*This is the testimony: God **has given** us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son **has life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know that you have eternal life**.* (1 John 5:11-13)



#### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

The price that Jesus paid on the cross was much too high. God would not have allowed His suffering, if a complete redemption would not have been achieved.

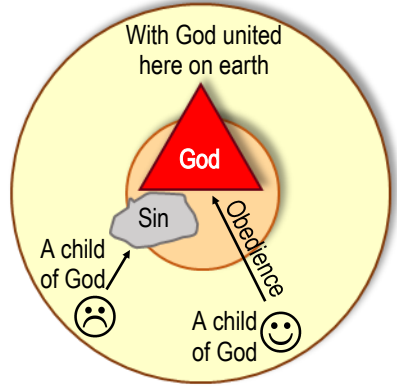


## What happens if you sin again?

What happens if you commit sins again in the future? Remember what you read before:

**God doesn't expect a perfect life from us, but a sincere heart!**

Look at the illustration on the right. There you can see two children of God within the yellow circle. Both are in God's presence. While one obeys the Lord, the other one commits a sin because of human weakness. It's important to note that both of them are still in God's area. Both still have eternal life for sure. Of course, God doesn't want us to sin. If it happens, there's something like a cloud between God and us. Our relationship doesn't seem to be as close as it was before. Later, when we recognize our sin and repent, He forgives us and our relationship is fully restored.



Think of a normal family. Supposing that in a certain situation a girl disobeys her mother. What does this mean? Will the parents throw her out? No! The girl remains a member of the family. Will the parents stop loving their daughter? Not at all! When she rebels, they will give her even more attention in order to bring her back on the right track.

It is true that a rebellious girl disturbs the peaceful relationship with her parents. Yes, we can compare it to a cloud between them. It's necessary to talk to the girl and perhaps even to discipline her. But one thing is certain: the child remains part of the family. And if she begs for pardon, the parents will be more than happy to forgive!

### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

A child of God who sins still belongs to God's family. The Lord will not cast the child out from His presence. Sin is like a cloud between God and His child, affecting the peace and harmony. But a sincere repentance will restore the relationship.



Now please answer Test No. 7 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1) Whoever hears the word of Jesus and believes Him has eternal life.  | T | F |
| 2) A child of God should like obeying the Lord because of loving Him.  | T | F |
| 3) A child of God who sins still belongs to His family, but the relationship to the Lord is disturbed.   | T | F |
| 4) When a child rebels, the parents will give it even more attention in order to bring it back on the right track.   | T | F |
| 5) Sin is like a cloud between God and His child, affecting its peace and harmony. But a sincere repentance will restore the relationship.                   | T | F |
| 6) Religions can't give assurance of salvation, but the Gospel is able to do so.   | T | F |
| 7) John 5:24 confirms only twice that salvation is 100% sure.  | T | F |
| 8) Romans 8:1 says that children of God will be punished after death if they sin again.  | T | F |
| 9) God doesn't expect a perfect life from us, but a sincere heart!   | T | F |
| 10) The price that Jesus paid on the cross was much too high. God would not have allowed His suffering if we would have the opportunity to redeem ourselves. | T | F |

Just as a house needs a foundation, our salvation does as well. We will now consider four different foundations for our salvation in Christ. Three of them are insufficient and would not be a good foundation. We can only trust in one of them.



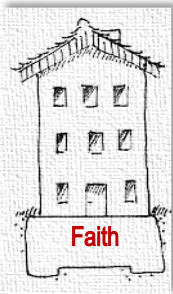
### 1. Feelings:

When we have invited Jesus into our lives, we usually feel good. However, our feelings are uncertain. Emotions are subject to ups and downs. Different personality types have distinct kinds of feelings. Even simple disturbances can negatively influence how we feel. To feel nice and close to the Lord is wonderful. However, feelings are not a reliable foundation for the assurance of our salvation. The Bible never promises us that God's children will always feel excellent.

### 2. Experiences

God wants Christians to have spiritual experiences. These are important and helpful in several ways. But they don't give a suitable foundation for assurance of our salvation. Why?

- We simply forget many of our positive experiences.
- With the passage of time, the good experiences fade and lose their significance.
- Events that enriched us ten years ago will not necessarily help us dealing with present doubts. This is perfectly normal.
- Every Christian knows periods when there are not many experiences with the Lord. This does not mean that the Lord is no longer present, or we have lost our salvation. God could for example test our faith.



### 3. Faith

The Bible emphasizes again and again that it's necessary to believe in God, to have faith in Him. However we also have to hold on and trust what else God has said in His word. Although faith in God is important, it cannot be the foundation for assurance of our salvation. Why?

- Sometimes our faith staggers or wavers.
- Sometimes our faith is weak.
- Sometimes we are put to the test so that we grow spiritually.

Does this mean that we have lost our salvation? Certainly not! Once, when the disciples were dominated by lack of faith and doubts, Jesus did not push them to have more faith. Amazingly, He emphasized that faith, though as small as a mustard seed, is big enough to move mountains. Please read Matthew 17:20:

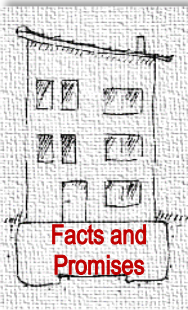
*Jesus said: "I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Now please answer Test No. 8 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1) Feelings are not a reliable foundation for the assurance of our salvation.            | T | F |
| 2) Our feelings are not uncertain and never subject to ups and downs.                    | T | F |
| 3) To feel nice and close to the Lord is wonderful.                                      | T | F |
| 4) We will never forget any good experience with the Lord.                               | T | F |
| 5) Spiritual experiences are a suitable foundation for assurance of our salvation.       | T | F |
| 6) Every Christian knows periods when there are not many experiences with the Lord.      | T | F |
| 7) If faith becomes weak, salvation is lost immediately.                                 | T | F |
| 8) Sometimes our faith is put to the test so that we grow spiritually and become mature. | T | F |
| 9) Jesus expects our faith to be always very strong.                                     | T | F |
| 10) Jesus said that faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains.                 | T | F |



#### 4. Facts and Promises

Anything that comes from us – our feelings, our experiences, our faith – is unable to impart lasting assurance of salvation. Only the Word of God, through the participation of the Holy Spirit, is able to do this. We find plenty of wonderful promises in the Bible. Please notice below some of them given in the Scripture. They are based on facts, that Jesus has achieved for us by His death and resurrection.

- To the one who invites Jesus into his heart, He comes in. (Revelation:3:20)
- To the one who believes in Jesus and receives Him, is given the right to become a child of God. (John 1:12)
- The person who confesses his sins will be forgiven. (*1 John 1:9*)
- The one who hears Jesus' word and believes Him has eternal life. (John 5:24)
- Anyone who comes to Jesus will never be driven away. (John 6:37)
- Those who belong to Jesus will be given the Holy Spirit. He will be their guide and counselor. (John 14:16-17)

#### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

Eternal life is not based on what we do, but on what is freely given to us.



Is that really true? Does the Bible not often emphasize the need for faith? That's right, of course. Without faith, there is no salvation. However, the following should be considered:

The foundation of our salvation was laid long before we began to believe. When around 2000 years ago Jesus died, rose from the dead, sat at the right hand of the Father and sent us the Holy Spirit, it had happened. It is firmly independent of our mood of the day, life and faith crises or any uncertainties connected with our unsteady human nature.

Of course, if salvation is offered as a gift, it is necessary that we accept it. Without this step, it does not belong to us. This is true whether we reject it, or value it but do not accept it. Therefore, faith is necessary in order to receive salvation. In faith, we accept the many gifts of Jesus, for example becoming God's children, the forgiveness of sins, everlasting life... These promises are based on the eternal facts of salvation. In that sense, faith is necessary.

However, we can easily encounter crises in life and faith. There is no faith without moments of doubt. Does this mean that the facts of salvation and Jesus's promises are no longer valid? Is there a danger that we will lose eternal life, when our faith is tempted? Of course not! Why? Because God is faithful! In 2 Timothy 2:13 is written:



*If we are faithless, He remains faithful,  
for He cannot disown Himself.  
(2 Timothy 2:13)*

*„I will declare that your love stands firm  
forever, that you have established your  
faithfulness in heaven itself.  
(Psalm 89:2)*

*God is faithful, who has called  
you into fellowship with His Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
(1 Corinthians 1:9)*

Look again at the illustration on page 28. Here it becomes clear that feelings, experiences with God and our faith are important components of our life-house. However, God's promises, based on the eternal fact of salvation alone are the foundation of our salvation. Therefore, anyone who places ones trust in Jesus can be sure of it. This is also true when the storms of life throw us back and forth like waves. We can rely on it when night surround us, when fears and worries bother us, when we have lost our orientation and even doubts trouble us.

In conclusion we can say:

- Of course faith is necessary!
- Every child of God has experiences with the Lord.
- We can rejoice if we have good feelings.

That's why these three things are part of our life-house. The foundation of our salvation, however, is Jesus. He has created the facts of salvation upon which the many promises of the Bible are firmly based.



Now please answer Test No. 9 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1) Anything that comes from us – our feelings, our experiences, our faith – is unable to impart lasting assurance of salvation. | T | F |
| 2) The Holy Spirit confirms the promises of the Bible in our hearts.  | T | F |
| 3) We find only a few promises in the Bible.  | T | F |
| 4) Anyone who comes to Jesus will never be driven away.   | T | F |
| 5) Eternal life is not based on what we do, but on what is freely given to us.  | T | F |
| 6) The foundation of our salvation was laid long before we began to believe.  | T | F |
| 7) Crises in life never shake our faith.  | T | F |
| 8) The foundation of our salvation is Jesus alone.  | T | F |
| 9) There is a danger that we will lose eternal life, when our faith is tempted.   | T | F |
| 10) If we are faithless, God remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.  | T | F |





Some believe that as Christians we have many boring religious duties to perform. For example, praying and reading the Bible. We must do them so God will be pleased with us. But this isn't true! To read the Bible and to pray means keeping in touch with God our Father. We don't do them to do God a favor, but because these habits are important for us! We need them!

### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

Reading the Bible means to listen to God, because the Bible is the Word of God. To pray means to talk with God. To pray and to read the Bible daily means to stay in close communication with the Lord.



### Plenty of excuses

If you talk with people on why they don't regularly read the Bible and pray, they usually have many excuses. Among these are:

- I am so busy
- I am so tired in the evening
- I am a bit lazy
- I don't understand why I should read daily



But we should stop making excuses. If something is really important to us, we're never too busy, tired or lazy for it, aren't we? Such excuses would only show that our fellowship with God does not mean much to us. Spending daily time with our Father means having a regular appointment with Him. What a great opportunity to know Him better!

### When a relationship dies



Any close relationship, for example, a marriage, will die when the couple no longer talk to each other. In the same way, our relationship with God will suffer if we don't keep in touch with Him on a regular basis.

## How should we pray?

*Jesus said: "When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."*  
(Matthew 6:7-8)

Many people hope it's good to repeat the same prayers over and over again. Is this really true! Think of a good father - child relationship. It is always personal and never formal.

- If you're happy, then thank God.
- If you have a problem, share it with Him.
- Give Him the glory for what He is and what He has done for you.
- In case you're guilty, confess your sins directly to Jesus.
- Think of God's kingdom and pray for growth. Ask God how He can use you for His purposes.

## How to read the Bible?



Start straight away with the New Testament. Read one chapter every day. Bible study correspondence course are an excellent help to understand the Bible better. Next to this one, more study material is available. We will gladly provide whatever you need.

*Lord, when your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.* (Jeremiah 15:16)

Understanding the Bible will not happen by human wisdom but only through the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to enlighten you. He will also help you to live a fruitful life (*Galatians 5:22-23*). And if you have done something wrong, return straight to Jesus. Repent of your sins and receive His complete forgiveness daily. Don't get frustrated with yourself. The Lord is patient with your weaknesses. He will be more than happy to cleanse you daily if your repentance is from heart.

*We have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*  
(Hebrews 4:14-16)

## Fellowship with other believers



*The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*  
(Acts 2:42)

A child of God should belong to a community of Christians. It's about listening to the Word of God and common prayer and fellowship with one another in various ways. We need each other, and it's God's will that we come together. If you need help in finding a lively fellowship, then get in touch with us. Please note the contact details on the next page.

### AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT GIVES LIGHT:

If you want to become spiritually strong and mature, be faithful in:

1. PRAYER
2. READING OF THE BIBLE
3. FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS
4. OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD
5. ON-GOING REPENTANCE OF YOUR SINS
6. SEARCHING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE



Now please answer Test No. 10 and return the results straight to us by e-Mail, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. If you cannot go online now, do so when possible.

If you can't answer a question, please go back and study the lesson again.

State whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1) To read the Bible daily and to pray regularly is not necessary.  | T | F |
| 2) When we read the Bible, we talk to God.  | T | F |
| 3) When we pray, we listen God.   | T | F |
| 4) We do God a favour when we read the Bible.   | T | F |
| 5) The relationship between God and His children should be personal and not formal.                               | T | F |
| 6) God is not interested in our problems.   | T | F |
| 7) To confess our sins only on Sunday is enough.  | T | F |
| 8) Important fruits of the Holy Spirit are recorded in <i>Galatians 5:22-23</i> .                                 | T | F |
| 9) When we approach the throne of God with confidence, we will be treated with undeserved kindness and find help. | T | F |
| 10) A child of God doesn't need much fellowship with other believers.   | T | F |

If you need help, have any questions, would like to receive a Bible study course, get more books (notice the next two page), or would like to find a good fellowship of believers at home, please get in touch with us:

**Volker Lamaack**

Hamburg  
Germany

Mobile, WhatsApp, Signal: +49 (0) 1793994457  
E-Mail: [scfs.volker.lamaack@web.de](mailto:scfs.volker.lamaack@web.de)  
Facebook: Volker Lamaack

**Martin Otto**

Hamburg  
Germany

Mobile, WhatsApp, Signal: +49 (0) 1793994456  
E-Mail: [scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de](mailto:scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de)  
Facebook: Martin Otto

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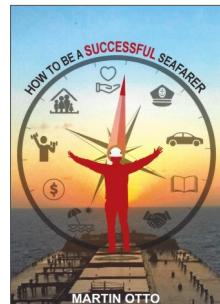
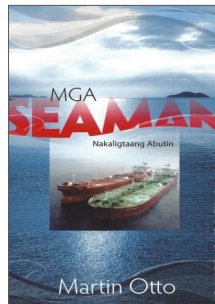
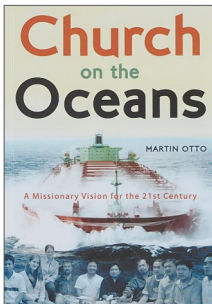
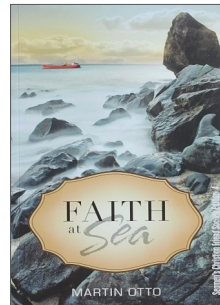
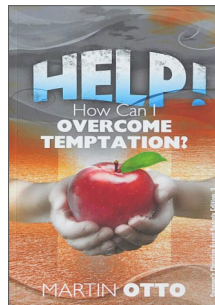
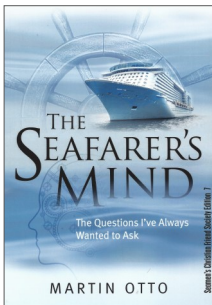
Martin Otto \* Hamburg \* Germany

Mobile, WhatsApp, Signal: +49 (0) 1793994456

E-Mail: [scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de](mailto:scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de)

Facebook: Martin Otto

## Books





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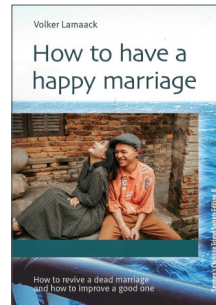
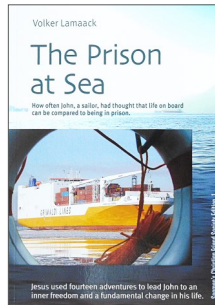
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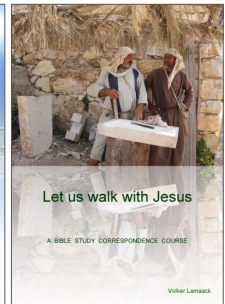
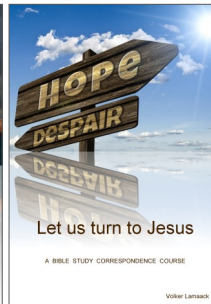
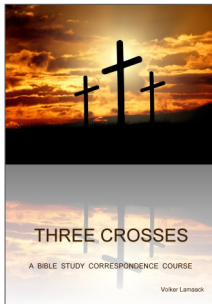
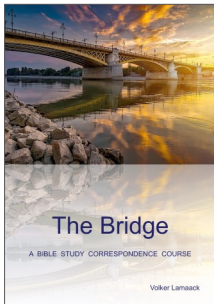
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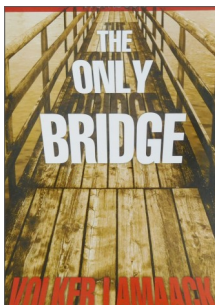
## Books



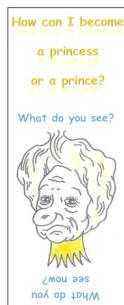
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## Study Material For Bible Groups



## Gospel Flyer



## Gospel Booklet





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**Volker Lamaack**

Hamburg

Germany

**Martin Otto**

Hamburg

Germany

Mobile, WhatsApp: +49 (0) 1793994457

Signal: +49 (0) 1793994457

E-Mail: [scfs.volker.lamaack@web.de](mailto:scfs.volker.lamaack@web.de)

Facebook: Volker Lamaack

Web-Site: [www.scfs.org](http://www.scfs.org)

+49 (0) 1793994456

+49 (0) 1793994456

[scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de](mailto:scfs.martin.otto@gmx.de)

Martin Otto

[www.scfs.org](http://www.scfs.org)

**Volker Lamaack**

- \* Married to Doris
- \* Three children
- \* Since 1991 Missionary for Seamen in the Port of Hamburg, Germany

