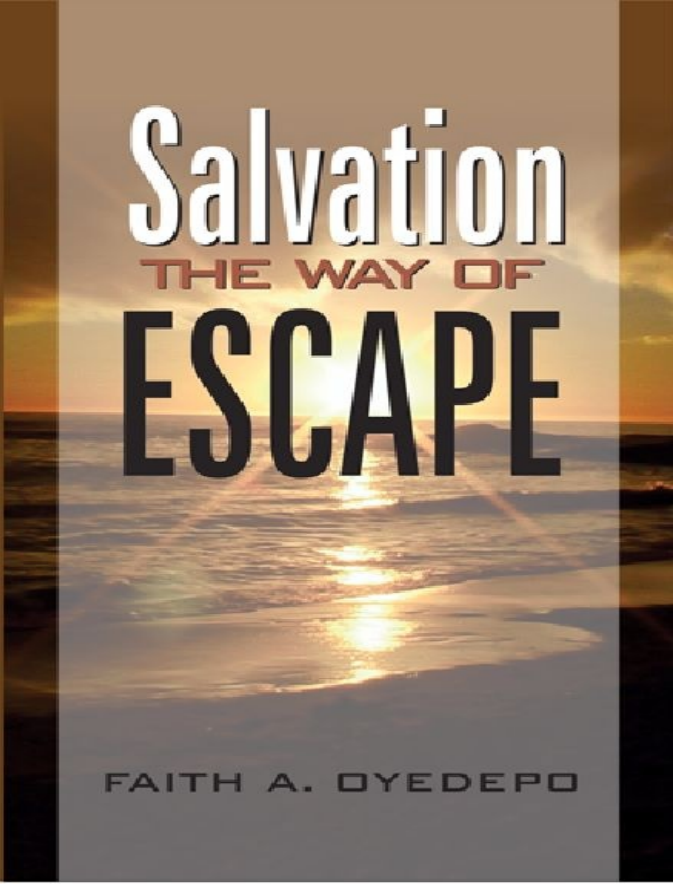


The background of the cover is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water's surface. A path, possibly a beach or a road, leads from the foreground towards the horizon, disappearing into the distance. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the water is calm, mirroring the colors of the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Salvation

THE WAY OF

ESCAPE

FAITH A. DYEDEPO

SALVATION: THE WAY OF ESCAPE

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All Scripture quotations are from the
King James Version of the Bible,
except otherwise stated.

INTRODUCTION

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Hebrews 2:3

Salvation is a gift from God, made available only to those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It means to be born again. Salvation is a definite, unmistakable experience that takes place in someone's life, just like the experience of marriage.

Being born again is a spiritual rebirth. You become a new creature.

When you are born again, you become a Christian. You take on the nature of God, your heavenly Father-the nature of life.

This experience is the only way of escape for man, bringing him into a personal relationship with a loving God and establishing his eternal freedom.

“Escape from what?,” you may ask.

Escape from the horror and penalty of sin! This explains why the scripture clearly declared:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Right now, my questions to you are: Have you experienced salvation?

Are you born again? Have you experienced a spiritual rebirth? These are the most important questions of life! Actually, your answers to them determine your joy or sorrow for eternity.

The good news is: You hold in your hands a book that will clearly show you how to experience salvation and escape the horror and penalty of sin, thereby leading you to a life of fulfillment and abundance of blessings.

This book is a package of things which *was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life* (1John 1:1).

May you be transformed as you
read!

Chapter 1

CHOOSE LIFE!

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Deuteronomy 30:19

Life is full of choices! Little wonder then, that man is a creature of choice. You have a free will. You cannot live life without making choices. The truth is: you either make one or someone will choose for you.

Your life is a product of your choices!

Please be aware: every choice that you make in life has an end result. The choice between life and death is a decision that must be made, while you still have breath in you. It cannot be made in the grave because your choice, today, determines where you will spend eternity.

“How do I choose life?,” you may ask. By choosing salvation!

“But, how do I choose salvation?,” you may ask. That is exactly what this book is all about! It will show you how to choose salvation, in clear terms, thereby escaping the corruption that is in the world. Finally, that will enable you to enjoy eternity with Christ. So, open your heart as you read on. By

faith, let every word find a place in your heart as a good ground.

What is Salvation?

Salvation is a definite experience that takes place in one's life, when such one accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It means to be saved and to enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:1-7). It means to be born again.

Being born again is a spiritual rebirth. When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you become a new creature (2Corinthians 5:17)

When you are born again, you become a Christian. You are reborn

from sin and death to righteousness and new life. You take on the nature of God your heavenly Father, which is the nature of life. With this, you overcome the nature of sin and satan, which is death (John 8:44)

I want you to realize that salvation is a matter of faith, not of works alone. It cannot be earned through good deeds, church attendance or service to the church. It cannot be attained without the life of Christ inside.

It is necessary to clearly state here that salvation is possible only through a Saviour, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; Matthew 1:21; Romans 6:23). So, it is not possible to be born again without Jesus Christ!

Interestingly, salvation is for “whosoever will” (John 3: 16-17; Romans 10:13).

In the beginning, Adam was created pure and placed in the Garden of Eden to manage it. But he was deceived by Satan and he fell into sin. God chased him out to face the consequences of sin, which are hardship and death. The entire human race, therefore, became partakers of this horror of sin (Romans 3:23; 5:12).

Man became separated from God and consequently became spiritually dead!

But the original intention of God for man is not death (spiritual death). Therefore, He had to make a way of

escape, by sending His only begotten Son, in the person of Jesus Christ, to come and die on the cross, so as to save mankind from sin. This redemptive privilege extends to you.

The Bible says:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:16-17

So, your only way of escape is to repent of your sins by confessing and leaving them; and then believe in the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, the

only way of salvation.

Choose life by choosing to be saved, by choosing the way of Jesus and calling on Him for salvation!

Why The Need For Salvation?

a) All men (including you) have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:23.

b) Sin brings separation between man and God.

...your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you ...

Isaiah 59:2.

c) The sentence of sin is death!

For the wages of sin is death; ...

Romans 6:23.

d) Jesus Christ already paid the price for sin on your behalf. He died in your place and for your sins, so that you can be forgiven and receive that new life!

...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

I Corinthians 15:3(b).

e) There is only one way to reach God – Jesus Christ is that way! In order to get to heaven, you must be born again! Without salvation, you cannot get to heaven. For you to experience eternal life in heaven, you need salvation; and Jesus is the only way.

I am the way and the truth and the

life, no one comes to the father (God) except through me.

John 14:6

f) Everyone is required to make a personal decision to receive and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; no one can do it on behalf of another.

But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 1:12.

g) Until you experience salvation, you have no assurance of tomorrow! Please be aware that mercy is being offered to you only before the grave. So, don't wait until it is too late! On the other side of the grave, judgment

alone will be offered.

This explains why the scripture says in Hebrews 9:27:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

God hates sin! Adam was the crown of God's creation. God made Adam in His own very image and put His breath in him; He cherished the cool of the day's fellowship with him. However, the day Adam sinned by obeying the devil, he lost the privilege he had with God. Because God cannot behold sin, He had to send Adam away from Eden. Since then, man inherited the nature of sin which God hates.

God was not pleased to see man in

this deplorable state; so, He designed a plan of redemption and reconciliation for man. God's salvation plan for man and how to appropriate it is clearly presented by Apostle Paul in the following scripture:

... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:9

Therefore, the good news is: you can be reconciled to God, if you will by faith, simply obey what the above scripture says. Then, you also will begin to enjoy the kind of fellowship that Adam enjoyed before the fall, and

even better!

CHAPTER 2

WHAT MUST I DO?

...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:30

God understands, respects, accepts and responds to sincere human questions! In the above scripture, the jailer discovered that he was not saved and needed to know the way out, so he could escape eternal damnation.

So, he asked Paul and Silas: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” He was shown how. In the same vein, you need to discover practical steps you need to take, so as to be saved.

The truth is: if you don't want to

miss your destination, you must learn to ask for direction!

Steps To Salvation

Acknowledge That You Are A Sinner

First, you must realize and acknowledge that you are a sinner, and that you cannot save yourself. You inherited sin from the first Adam; so, your good works, being raised in Church, being born of Christian parents, etc., alone never free you from being a sinner!

For all have sinned, and come

short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:23

You are included in the “all” that have sinned.

Consequently, you were to be condemned to death. This death includes eternal separation from God in Hell. ***For the wages (payment) of sin is death*** (Romans 6:23).

But God loved you so much that He gave Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son to bear your sin and take your place in death. Jesus Christ became your substitute! You may not understand how, but it is the truth: God cannot lie!

This explains why the Bible declares:

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5: 21

For your sake, Jesus actually had to shed His blood and die (Leviticus 17: 11; Hebrews 9:22), just so that you can be pardoned and completely set free! This is not just a theological idea! It is a fact. It actually happened. The Bible says:

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Therefore, you are included in the “all” that have sinned and need to be forgiven and restored back to God.

Repent of Your Sins

It is not enough for you to acknowledge that you are a sinner; you need to take steps further: repent of your sins. Be sorry for your sins, confess them and leave them. Turn away from, and never return to them again.

Let me state clearly here that until a man repents, he cannot be saved! So, only someone who has repented can be saved.

Genuine repentance begins and takes root in the heart, and eventually finds expression in every aspect of man's life. Jesus actually came for sinners that will repent of their sins.

Jesus said:

***I came not to call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance.***

Luke 5:32

Jesus is, therefore, calling you today to repentance. Give Him a chance by opening your heart to Him in genuine repentance!

Ask God For Forgiveness

The only prayer of sinners that gets to God is their prayer for forgiveness of sin. In the natural, if someone offends you, the first thing you expect from such a person is for him/her to ask for your forgiveness.

If such a person comes around and starts telling you other things, pretending as if nothing went wrong, how would you feel? Sure enough, you would not take such a person serious and this could forever affect your relationship with him/her.

The Word of God clearly states:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1John 1:8-9

God is faithful! He will forgive and cleanse you completely, if you

genuinely ask Him to.

***Believe, Receive, and Confess the
Lordship of Jesus***

Having asked God for forgiveness, you must believe that He has forgiven you. God made provision for the cleansing of your sin through the Blood of Jesus, before you ever asked Him to.

Believe in the Lord Jesus! “How do I do this?,” you may ask.

Simply believe in Jesus as the One who bore your sins, who died in your place, was buried, and whom God raised from the dead. His resurrection assures that you can claim everlasting

life, when you receive Him (Jesus) as Saviour!

Then, receive and confess Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. You do this by consciously asking Him to come into your heart; you surrender your life to Him. Call on Him to save you.

When you take this step of faith, your spirit is reborn in the likeness of God. At that moment, God recreates you. Then, you will be accepted before God, as if you have never sinned.

The Bible clearly states:

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13

The good news is that: the

“whosoever” includes you! It is reassuring to observe the use of the expression shall be saved: not maybe, nor can; but, shall be saved! Oh what a joy!

Remember:

...with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

So, to be saved, born again and become a Christian, you must follow the specific instructions in the above scripture.

“What instructions?,” you may ask.

You must use your heart and your mouth! You must believe in your heart

first, that the Word of God is true. Then, secondly you must confess it with your mouth.

Jesus is waiting for you to call on Him for the salvation of your soul right now!

CHAPTER 3

NOW, YOUR DECISION!

What other time is better than now, for you to actually take a decision and call on Jesus, receive and confess Him as Lord of your life? Certainly no other time! For:

...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

2Corinthians 6:2.

You have a free will! The choice is yours. God will not force you to receive salvation! This is because you have the right to choose your own destiny.

Salvation requires a conscious decision.

Please be aware: this is the greatest decision of your life. The reason is that whatever decision you make, right now, will ultimately affect your destination eternally. Jesus is patiently waiting for you and saying:

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

This is your finest hour of opportunity! Jesus already paid the sin price for you. Take advantage of it before it is too late. Do not let it pass you by! Your choice is set before you.

Take that step now and you will discover a new order of peace, joy and hope.

I personally made the same decision and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour as a young teenage girl, almost 40 years ago. I am forever grateful to God that I did. Oh, blessed be that glorious day that I took that decision.

I have never had any occasion for regret, rather, it's been getting sweeter by the day! May that be your experience too!

In Luke 18:13, a certain sinner prayed: "God, be merciful to me a sinner."

So, right now you too, wherever

you are, bow your heart to God in true repentance and pray this following simple prayer in faith.

SALVATION PRAYER:

*Oh God, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Your word says: **“whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Acts 2:21). I am calling on you now. I know I am a sinner. Be merciful to me, a sinner!*

I believe that Jesus Christ was my substitute when He died on the cross. I believe that His shed blood, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were for me.

Now, I consciously and deliberately receive and confess Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. Jesus, come into my heart now!

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the forgiveness of my sins. I receive the gift of salvation and everlasting life. Now I know that I am born again, I am saved. I am a new creature in Christ. I am a Christian. I am a child of God! Thank You Father, in Jesus' name! Amen.

If you sincerely prayed the above prayer, you are now born again (John 3:3)! From this time onward, Jesus becomes your Lord.

Never be ashamed to tell people that you are now born again. You have a new Lord now and you should be proud of Him.

Please be aware: salvation is of faith! So, never base your salvation on

the way you feel, rather, base it on the Word of God that cannot fail

Remember that:

For as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

John 1:12

And,

...with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

Now, you have experienced salvation! You have escaped eternal damnation! You are now a new creature in Christ Jesus! Your name is

now written in the Book of Life!

Oh, hallelujah! I rejoice with you!
May the grace of God that found you,
keep you till the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ!

Concerning you and your new
status, the Bible says:

***Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a new creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all things are
become new.***

2Corinthians 5:17

Congratulations, and welcome to
the family of God!

CHAPTER 4

BENEFITS OF SALVATION

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 19:29

Salvation is for the benefit of man, and not for God's! You have everything to gain and nothing to lose, by being saved! Your salvation changes your own status, not God's!

The truth is: you will never know what you are missing until you are

saved, born again and in the fold. Most of the benefits of salvation are things that cannot be obtained with material things or money. Briefly, let's examine some of them here:

You Are Restored

After the fall, man lost the envious position he had with God in the beginning. That broken relationship with God is restored and you are reconciled with God through the Blood of Jesus at salvation. You are no longer just God's creature, but now a child of God

This explains why the Bible says:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:12

As a son, you are no more an alien in your father's house, God's kingdom. You are now a son, free to enjoy the father-son relationship!

You Can Hear God's Voice

At salvation, the barrier that sin created between man and God is supernaturally removed. You can hear God's voice as He communes with you, just as a son hears his father. Jesus said in a parable:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:27-28

What a great privilege to be led and guided by God! What a new level of comfort and peace you will begin to enjoy, knowing that He is there to speak to your heart, to lead you and to give you eternal life! In addition, no one can pluck you out of His hand!

**You have access to Supernatural
Blessings**

The Bible says:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Ephesians 1:3

Salvation is the ticket that grants you access to all spiritual blessings! Until you are saved and are into that father-son relationship with God, you cannot partake of these blessings. These include joy, peace, contentment, fulfillment, and many more. But when you are born again, you have your portion sealed and delivered.

Victory Over Satan And The Host Of

Hell

Until you are saved, you are not safe! “From what?,” you may ask. Of course, from the horror of sin, eternal damnation, as well as all the evils planned against you by Satan and all his agents.

After Satan fell, He had man as his main target. In the Book of Revelation, there was a lamentation on the evil that Satan had planned to bring to the earth:

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down,

which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:10

But the good news is that there is a set of people, who are exempted from his evil plans. They are the ones that have the Blood of Jesus as their covering. They are those that are born again, who have accepted the gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Aren't you excited that you are among them? For me, I am glad that I am among! It is also written:

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...

Revelation 12:11

So, one of the benefits of salvation is that you will begin to enjoy, in practical terms, victory over Satan. Jesus already overcame Satan. All you need to do after salvation is to enforce that victory.

You Are Guaranteed To Sit With God In Heaven

While on the cross, Jesus told the thief that was hanged on His right hand side after he asked Jesus to be saved:

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:43

This is a clear picture from the scriptures that heaven is a guarantee for all that will accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and follow Him till the end. The ultimate of life in Christ is to sit with Him in heaven. The Bible says:

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Mark 8:36

Friend, heaven is real and it is for only those that are born again! If you are born again, your place in eternity is guaranteed!

**You Begin to Enjoy Abundance Now
in This Life!**

Abundance of all things is part of the benefits of salvation.

This is why the Bible declares:

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Psalms 34:10

Lack, want, poverty, penury and all forms of insufficiency no longer have power over you after salvation. Rather, you do with them as you please, with your weapon of obedience to the Word of God!

“Are you born again yet?,” I ask you one more time!

If yes, then all the above listed benefits and much more are yours!

I am a living proof and, therefore, I

can tell you with every sense of responsibility that these benefits are real! What else can make life more fulfilling! Absolutely nothing!

Your life shall never be void of the benefits of salvation!

CHAPTER 5

EVIDENCE OF SALVATION

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Salvation has evidence! When you are born again, certain definite changes take place within you. Salvation eventually culminates in changes in your outer man.

When “all things become new” in your life as the above scripture states,

the evidences cannot be lacking!

When I gave my heart to God and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour almost 40 years ago as a young teenage girl, the real me, my spirit, was reborn.

Consequently, the changes in my spirit brought changes to my mind, body, and indeed every aspect of my life.

Friend, you cannot be saved without something to show.

What are these evidences? Let's briefly enumerate some of them here.

a) The Witness of the Spirit Within

When you are born again and experience salvation, you have a witness within yourself. This is clearly stated in 1John 5:10 thus:

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself...

If there is no witness within you that you are saved, you certainly have not experienced salvation! The Bible even makes this clearer by stating that:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:16

Friend, I ask you: Do you have that witness within you that you are a child of God? If you are born again, you will surely have it. If you do not have this

witness within you, please go back right now to chapter 3 with the title: “Now, Your Decision”, and pray the salvation prayer.

b) The Witness of the Word of God

This witness of the Word of God is the “record” that the Bible refers to in 1 John 5: 10 where it states:

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

When you are born again, you believe the “record” that God gave of

his Son, Jesus Christ.

c) The Witness of a Changed Life!

This is another crucial evidence of salvation. When you are saved, your life will manifest undeniable changes. This will result in the following:

- * Overcoming sin. Sin no longer has dominion over you. Instead, you dominate it (Romans 6:14).

- * Feeding on the Word of God. Constantly, as a way of life; you feed on the Word of God, which is the spiritual food for a new Christian (1 Peter 2: 2)

- * Growth Towards Spiritual

Maturity (Colossians 2: 6-8). Salvation creates in you genuine hunger and thirst for continuous growth, spiritually.

* Witnessing and Winning Others to Christ. When you are saved, there is a strong desire in you to see others experience salvation and escape the horror of eternal damnation (Proverb 11:30).

* Continuous Improvement in your day-to-day life. Life keeps getting better for you in all areas. The Bible says:

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 4:18

When you are genuinely saved, your life never goes down, rather, it keeps going up.

Take a moment right now and sincerely examine your life (1Corinthians 11:31).

Are these evidences of salvation observable in your life? If they are, praise God for your life! But if they are not, you may need to re-dedicate your life to Jesus Christ. To do this, go back to read chapter 3 of this book titled: "Now, Your Decision". When you do this in sincerity, you will experience salvation and your life can never be the same again.

CHAPTER 6

GROW IN CHRIST!

Salvation is a birth into a growing family. Now that you have experienced salvation and are born again, you have escaped the corruption in the world. You are now a new born baby in a new family - the family of God. You must commit yourself to a life of continuous growth in Christ.

To grow spiritually, pay attention to the following:

First, **feed well spiritually**. Just as sure as a new baby needs milk to grow, so also and even much more you as a new born spiritual baby need the Word

of God to grow. God's Word is the formula recommended for the growth of a spiritual baby.

The Bible says:

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1Peter 2:2

- * Read and study your Bible everyday.

- * Join a Bible - believing church.

- * Attend believer's foundation class and be baptized.

- * Read books of anointed men of God that address the issues of concern in your life.

- * Listen to inspiring teachings and messages on tape.

* Attend Christian organized meetings, seminars and conferences.

S e c o n d l y , serve God unreservedly!

Find a place for service in the kingdom of God, in the Church. Be a contributor to the progress of the body of Christ. Be a blessing, not a burden!

Thirdly, **share your faith and new found life with others.** Witness boldly to others about Jesus Christ and never be ashamed of Him, rather, let people that you come across know that you are now a new creature. This will help you grow tremendously.

Now, if you have acted on the truth shared in this book like me, you have experienced salvation and have escaped

eternal damnation! You are born again, you have become a Christian - a new creature in Christ. With these fundamentals, your growth is bound to be continuous!

Again, congratulations and welcome to the ever - winning family, the family of God!