



# TESTIMONIES / ARTICLES



C.I. George

I was born into a Jacobite family. Since my father was a successful businessman, I had not known the troubles that life consisted of. My family had all the materialistic luxuries to live a good life. My father was very proud man, because of his wealth. But after a while, my father got ripped off his precious business and all his money too. This incident caused him to become depressed and spiritless. And because of this great distress, he began to find peace in alcohol. My father eventually grew into an alcoholic, which urged me to take him to different holy places that would help him to recover.

With my beliefs at that time, I went to many holy places and made sacrifices for fourteen years, trying to get my father out of being an alcoholic. Thus once I went to a church to see the priest and told him about the problems of my father. He told me that I have to attend church without cease for twelve Saturdays and do intercessory prayers and make sacrifices. I did as he suggested for continuous twelve Saturdays; but nothing came out of it. I again went to the priest for help and the priest sent me back with some holy water. He told me that somehow the holy water should get inside my father's belly. Since the water was stirred and prayed upon with the bones of St. George's left hand, it was believed that according to God's word, God would do great wonders. But it also made no difference. After this, the priest asked me to bring a bottle of oil. The oil had to be consumed by my father by the means of any kind of food. When I researched about this oil, I realized that it was mixed with the liquid from the grave of a nun. My father consumed this with godliness; but nothing came out of this either. Since the holy water or the holy oil could not do any good, the priest then asked me to bring a hollow cross, which was to be filled with the remains of some holy ancestors. I went to many places to get this hollow cross. It was then filled and returned as a necklace. My father wore this necklace for three months, but it made no difference. Not only that, he began to drink even more. Even though I did all these things for my father's good, the situation only got worse. Troubles and sorrows increased along with my father's drinking. I lost all hope and was ready to give up.

When all of these things were failed one by one, my Christian belief was also got destroyed gradually. I realized that no one on this earth could save me and therefore I decided to commit suicide. I went to the nearby boat jetty and prepared plans on how to kill myself. I decided that would get into some boat, go down to the toilet and move the wooden plank. The main motor fan of the boat will be underneath. Then jump into the blades of the fan and die piece by piece. With this plan in my mind I was waiting for the next boat.

As I was planning this, a servant of God was traveling on a bus. Suddenly he fell into a nap and during his nap he received a vision from God. He saw that a person was going to kill himself at a boat jetty and that he had to go and tell him the Gospel. He suddenly awoke, and got off the bus and went to the jetty. There he saw the man that appeared in his vision. The servant of God came to me running and handed me a tract and said, "Brother, Jesus is calling,". Overwhelming with anger I yelled at the man, "Go away Satan! Don't even let a person die!" With this I kicked him and threw the tract in the water. Suddenly I felt like something was going on in my body. By that time, the boat I was planning to get into, had already left the jetty. So I sadly returned home. The leg with which I kicked the servant of God started to hurt very severely. I couldn't bear the pain and I had to get admitted in a hospital for help. God was actually starting to visit me and was pulling me back towards Him. The servant of God who had the vision about me came to visit me in the hospital very often. I watched him cry and pray to God and it made me closer to God. God's love slowly began to come into my life. On that bed God taught me that no power of any church or priests or wicked deeds



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that are not in the Word of God will help anyone. For three months I suffered great pain in my body. My doctor, who understood the depth of my pain, gave me sedative medications to make me sleep.

After those three horrible months had passed, I was slightly able to walk. Because the left side of my body was in terrible pain, I was only able to walk like a cripple. When I heard my doctor say that I will never be cured of this disease, I was emotionally struck down. The situation with my father, and the condition of my body brought me to a stage where no one could help me.

I cried and asked God to heal me. "My God, if you can give me a life on this earth, please give me a life where I don't have to depend on anyone," I prayed unto God. As I was praying one night, I felt someone come into my room and start to shake me. When I slowly opened my eyes, I saw a holy light shining on me. I also heard a voice in my ear saying, "I will never leave anyone who believes in me. Believe in me and rise up on your feet." When I tried to rise up by myself, I felt a hand helping me to stand up. Glory to God. At that moment, I submitted myself unto the feet of God and cried unto him. I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior that night and Jesus came into my heart. All my pain and the burdens in my heart disappeared, and my heart was filled with peace. I became a child of God. When my doctor came in the morning, he saw me walking with no pain or problems at all. "How come you are able to walk so well and so quickly," the doctor asked me, amazed. "My God healed me, He appeared to me and blessed me. Please discharge me from the hospital. Let me go back home," I replied back to my doctor. My doctor, who understood the work of the Lord, with astonishment, gave me permission to go back home.

In the past I had gone to many holy places and temples like Kadamattethu Kathanar's church, Vellar Padathu mother church and to many other saints. But, none of them were able to help me. Only the Living God was able to see me through. Many servants of God continuously came to my house to pray for me and to give me good advice. When I was told of the Holy Baptism, I obeyed it. Many of my friends and relatives stood against taking baptism. But the Spirit of the Lord had told me never to stand against the Word of God. So I followed the Lord and went for it.

After I took baptism, there was a change in my life and in my family. My father came to the Lord soon. The Lord saved my father from his constant drinking. My mother and my only brother also came forward to serve the Lord. They all got baptized and are now living for God. How great, how faithful is our God! God gave us not just the heavenly blessings, but also the blessings on the earth.

After my wedding, I was able to come to America. I am now living in Richmond, VA serving the Lord with my wife and children. I am now testifying to you, from my experience, that the Lord will never leave anyone who trusts in him. Only Jesus is able to build up anybody's life that is devastated and broken. I have a humble request. Do not run after worldly pleasures and the foolish things and waste your life.

The people born of the sins of Adam, the first father, were born as sinners. Jesus, who died on the cross and rose on the third day, is there for them as their deliver. When you hear the gospel through different ways, do not refuse it. Accept Jesus today. If you do it, heavenly blessings will be upon you. You will live with peace, happiness, and hope for the rest of your life. Accept Jesus Christ into your heart as your personal Savior right now. He is the answer to all your problems and He is your Savior. I pray that the God Almighty will help you to reach this decision. I hope that this testimony of my life will help you in your spiritual life. May God bless you abundantly.

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## GPS for LIFE

The navigation equipment based on the Global Positioning System (GPS) is one of the greatest and most useful technological achievements of our day. It functions with the help of a network of 24 satellites launched by the US Department of Defense. The navigation equipment installed in our vehicles captures continuous signals transmitted by these satellites. These signals help the equipment to determine the exact position of the vehicle. The equipment is initially fed the information about the starting place of our journey and our destination. The software within the equipment calculates the distance and begins to give us directions. As we move forward, we get advance information about the turns we need to take at every intersection. It has made our driving easy. Everyone who has used the GPS navigation system would admire its power and its usefulness.

When we are confronted with problems in our life or when we reach a juncture of our life where we are required to take major decisions to move forward, we would desire such a system which could guide us and give directions to what to do next and what decision to take and at which time. How wonderful it would be, if we could get such a wonderful GPS system for our life!

Is there a GPS of that kind? Can we get one? Certainly, the answer is 'Yes'. If we study the Bible carefully we can understand that God has really provided such a GPS to all individuals. There is such a system within us which can guide us and show us the right directions, to take the right decision at the right time. But the sad thing is that most of us are not aware of it or do not exercise it properly.

Here are some verses from the Bible which talk about God's provision for us:

Isaiah 48:17: *"I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go".*

Isaiah 30:21: *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it".*

Psalms 32:8: *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you".*

John 16:13: *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth".*

Continuing further with the GPS analogy, let us find out where God has positioned His satellites and where to obtain the maps and the routes.

The big and powerful satellite is God Himself. The signal comes through the Holy Spirit sent by God for our guidance. Our heart is the receiver. Bible, God's written Word is the map. God created us with a definite plan and a definite route to go – the only route that we should go.

Dear friend, if you are not able to receive the signals from God, then you should examine and find out what has gone wrong with your God-given GPS system.

The problem is that you have lost your communication with God. How do you remedy the situation?



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First of all, the system should be turned on. You should have an earnest desire in your heart to know God's specific plan about you and also a willingness to obey the directions you get from God. It turns the system on. The Bible says in Matthew 7:7, "*Seek and you will find*".

Secondly, you should understand that GPS will not work in underground tunnels or in the shadow of huge buildings. If there is any major hindrance between the equipment and the satellite, then the equipment cannot receive signals. What could be the major hindrance between you and God? The Bible says that it is sin.

Isaiah 59: 1-2: "*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*".

What is sin? Sin is any kind of violation of God's laws, including the Ten Commandments. Man inherited sinful nature from Adam and Eve who disobeyed God and ate of the tree of knowledge. Even those who have not murdered or committed adultery will find themselves convicted of lying or of worshipping false idols. So, every person has committed sin in one way or the other.

Romans 3:23: "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*".

1 John 1:8-10: "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us*".

Sin is further defined in Romans 14:23: "*Whatsoever is not of faith is sin*". In Romans 7:20: "*To know to do right and not do it is sin*". 1 John 5:17: "*All unrighteousness is sin*". So, when you do something that goes against real trust and faith in God, that's sin. When you know to do right and don't do it, that's sin. When you know something pleases God, something God has commanded, and you don't do it, that is sin. All unrighteousness is sin. All sin is lawlessness. Sin in any amount will distance you from God. God wants you to recognize all your sins and be delivered from them. Once your sins are removed from your heart then you will start receiving God's signals.

Anywhere, if any rule is violated, there is punishment. So, there is punishment for every sin you do. What is the punishment? Bible says in Romans 6:23: "*The wages of sin is death*". It is not the physical death, but the second death – the spiritual death in hell. Revelation 21:8 states: "*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*". This is God's law. According to this law, every individual is under the punishment.

Is there a way to escape from this punishment? Can you pay off this punishment by doing some sacrifices or by some good works? No. Bible says that "*All our good works are as filthy rags before God*" (Isaiah 64:6). You cannot please God by your good works. But if someone else can take up your sin and take up the punishment for you, then God can pay off your punishment and set you free.

But who can take up your sin? All the people in this world are sinners and are condemned to death. A person who is already in punishment is in the similar situation as you are in. Such a person cannot take up your punishment. So, you need to find out some other person who has not sinned at all and who is willing to take up all your sins and punishment for you. Can you find someone like that?

God knows that you are helpless. Your parents, spouse, children or a good friend cannot help you in this situation. So, the merciful God, who loved you so much made a way to save you from the eternal punishment. He sent His son Jesus Christ to this earth as a man to take up the punishment of your sin. He was sinless and was willing to take up your sins and its punishment. He lived here and died on the cross for your sin.

John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*".

How can you be delivered from your sin and its punishment?



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Bible says in Acts 3:19: “**repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”.

1 John 1:9: “if we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.

Romans 10:9: “... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”.

1 John 4:15: “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God”.

Ephesians 2:8,9: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast”.

All that you need to do is to admit that you are a sinner. Acknowledge that you are under punishment and your good works cannot save you. Believe that Jesus is God, and that He came to earth as a man and He took up all your sins and died for your sins. And that God the Father raised Him back to life. Repent and confess your sins. Ask Him to forgive you and to cover your sins with His blood. Invite Jesus to come into your heart as your Lord and Savior.

How do you know that God has forgiven your sins? When you really confess your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, then you will experience a new life within you. You will feel that all your sins have been washed away. There will be a great change in you. Your attitude towards life will be changed. You will hate sin and love righteousness. You will find the real meaning and purpose of your life. You will have the desire to know more and more about Jesus. You will know God very closely and will start receiving the signals sent by God. You will then start understanding God’s specific plans for your life.

But you should also be aware that there are other signals that come to your heart which are not from God. How can you differentiate God’s signals from other signals? You know, there are so many different radio signals available in the universe transmitted by different sources. But how does the navigation equipment understand the right signals? The frequency of the signals sent by all the GPS satellites is 1575.42 MHz. The equipment in your vehicle is tuned to receive only the signals with this particular frequency. That is the reason why it is not confused by other signals. You should always be tuned to God’s voice by meditating the word of God and praying to Him. Then you can clearly differentiate God’s signals from other signals coming from all other sources. You will not be confused by any other signals.

The most important piece of information required by your GPS equipment is to know where you are at present. Imagine that you have no GPS with you and you are going to visit your friend in New York. You lost your way somewhere near your destination. What will you do? You will call your friend and ask him to guide you. The first question that your friend will ask you is, “Where are you now?” He needs the name of the road or any landmark that you see near you to find out your current location. It will help your friend to tell you the route to his house. The equipment in your vehicle also needs the same information. The purpose of the satellites is just to tell the equipment the current position of your vehicle. This is what exactly required by God to show you the way, if you are unable to understand His plan for you. You must honestly confess to Him your present condition, the situation you are currently in and your helplessness in finding the way. Then God will definitely tell you how to come out of it and proceed in the right direction.

Dear friend, God has already provided you with a GPS and the switch to turn it on is in your hands. Switch it on, remove the hindrances and listen to the will of God and then God will guide you in the right path. Do not wait for another day. Experience God’s presence and guidance in your life from today onwards.



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## SHORT STORY/ARTICLE

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the Impurities.

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" came the Pastor's reply. "This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor. The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!" "So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork. The best is yet to come." The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

### **My Dear Son**

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When a war broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art." The young man held out this package. "I know



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this ! isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a ! few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting. Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?"

Another voice angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?" Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?" The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!" The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "What about the! paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die for us. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "The son, the son, who'll take the son?" Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything. FOR ! GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH, SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE

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