

**THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE . . .  
SO IS SHARING IT.**

In the pages that follow, you are going to learn the simplest gospel presentation available to believers today. The genius of this presentation is that it all revolves around one key verse:

**ROMANS 6:23.**

Once you've learned this verse, you will never forget how to share the gospel. So, let's get started.

First of all, have them open their Bible to **ROMANS 6:23**. (I've always found it better to use their Bible because it puts them more at ease.)

Ask them to read the verse aloud to you. Once they've read it, have them read it again while you write down the verse on the top of a blank sheet of paper.

**FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH  
BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE  
IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. (Romans 6:23)**

WAGES

Draw a box around the word WAGES, write it on the left side of the paper and put a box around it there, too!

Ask them what they think of when they hear the word WAGES. (Let them answer.)

If they struggle with an answer, help them by illustrating it for them. (i.e., Suppose you worked at McDonald's or IBM. You came in at 8 and left at 5 each day and worked hard for an entire week. On Friday they give you a little piece of paper in an envelope. What's that called? A paycheck. That paycheck represents your wages. It's what you've earned. It's what you deserve.)

"How would you feel if they refused to pay you the wages you had earned and deserved? Everybody knows that it's only right that a person gets what he deserves.

The Bible teaches us that we earn wages from God for the way we have lived our lives."

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WAGES

SIN

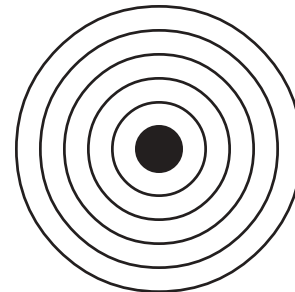
Next, draw a box around SIN in the verse at the top of your page and put another box under WAGES with the word SIN in it.

Ask them what they think of when they hear the word SIN. (Let them answer.)

Ask them, "How good a life do you think a person would have to live in order to get into Heaven?"

Ask them if they've always lived a life like that. (What you're trying to do is help them see that even by their own definition they fall short of living a life good enough to get into Heaven.)

Draw a target on the left side of your page.



Explain to them that the Bible word for sin means to "miss the mark."

Draw several arrows, some close and some far away from the mark.

Explain to them that the arrows closest to the mark represent people who've lived exceptionally good lives. The arrows farther away could represent people who've lied, cheated, stolen something, etc., and the arrows that are the farthest away could represent someone who had robbed a bank, murdered someone, etc.

"The point is, all of them 'miss the mark!' And that's what the Bible says SIN is. It is 'missing the mark.'

When we SIN it causes a separation between us and God.”

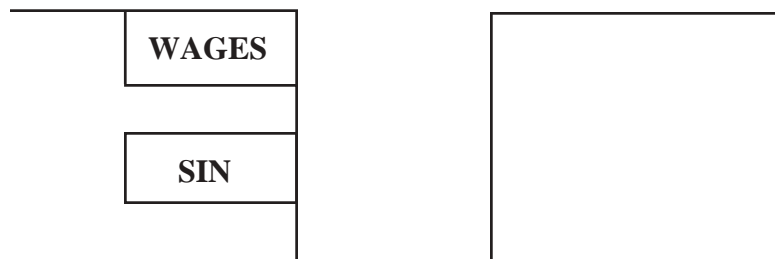
Draw a cliff on the left hand side of your paper with water and a boat.



Tell them that three guys were going to try to jump off this cliff and catch the boat. Show the first one just barely making it off the cliff; the second one gets a little farther and the third one comes within just a few feet of the boat. But, the important point is that all of them “MISSED THE BOAT.” It doesn’t matter how hard we try, our SIN keeps us from being all that God wants us to be and it separates us from God.

Ask them if God has ever seemed far away from them. When they answer yes, draw the lines on both sides of your paper and explain to them that sin separates us from God. Even our best efforts cause us to “miss the mark” or “miss the boat.”

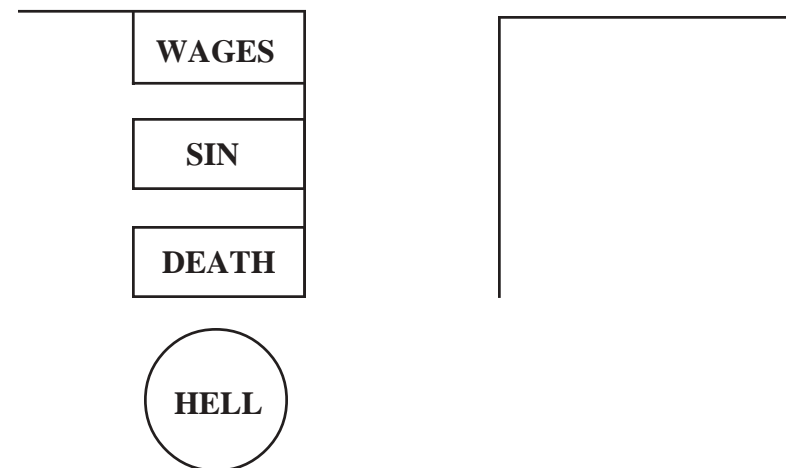
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Next, draw a box around the word DEATH, and put it in a box below SIN. Ask them what they think of when they hear the word DEATH.

The Bible says that the WAGES of our SIN is DEATH. That means if we get what we deserve, if we get what’s coming to us, we’ll die and the Bible says that if we die in our SINS, we’ll go to HELL. Draw a circle below DEATH and put the word HELL in it.

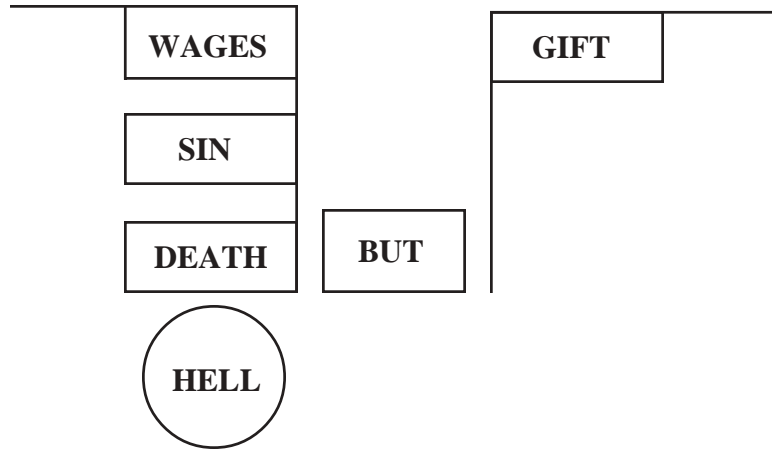


“Do you realize that you don’t have to do anything to qualify to go to HELL?

You already qualify because SIN separates us from God.

And if we die in our SINS, the Bible says we’ll spend an eternity in HELL . . . separated from God.”

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Now, draw a box around the word BUT and place it in a box between the two sides.

“Here is one of the most important words in this verse because it means there’s an alternative. We don’t have to die in our sins and spend an eternity in Hell.

Would you like to know what that alternative is?”

Draw a box around the word GIFT and write it in a box on the right side. Ask them what they think of when they hear the word GIFT.

“A GIFT is not something you deserve, nor is it something you work for. It is something that someone else purchases for you and gives to you. It’s a GIFT.

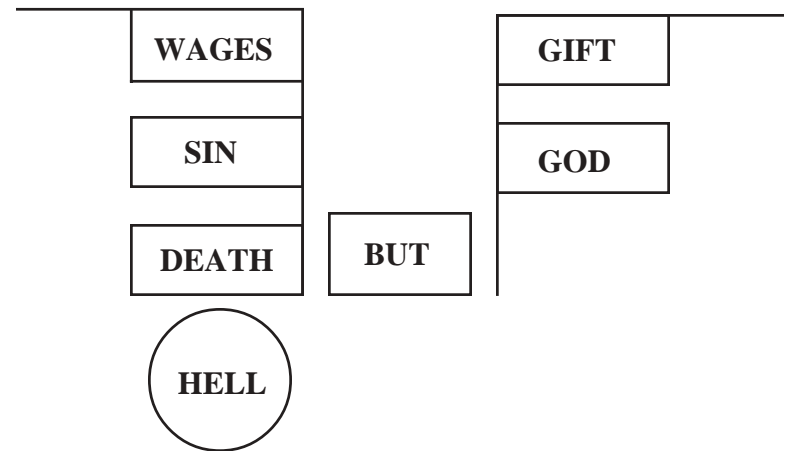
If I were able to give you the keys to a brand new LINCOLN CONTINENTAL would you take them? If I were able to give you a check for ONE MILLION DOLLARS would you take it? Sure you would, and I would, too!

How would you feel if you bought your best friend a GIFT and before they accepted it they tried to pay you for it? (It wouldn’t be a GIFT if they had to do something to earn or deserve it.)

Some people try to pay God back by living a good moral life, attending church services, or doing all kinds of good things. What they don’t realize is that you don’t do anything for a GIFT, you just receive it.”

“What’s the difference between a GIFT and WAGES?” (Point at GIFT and then over at WAGES. Keep showing them the contrast between each side of the page from here on.)

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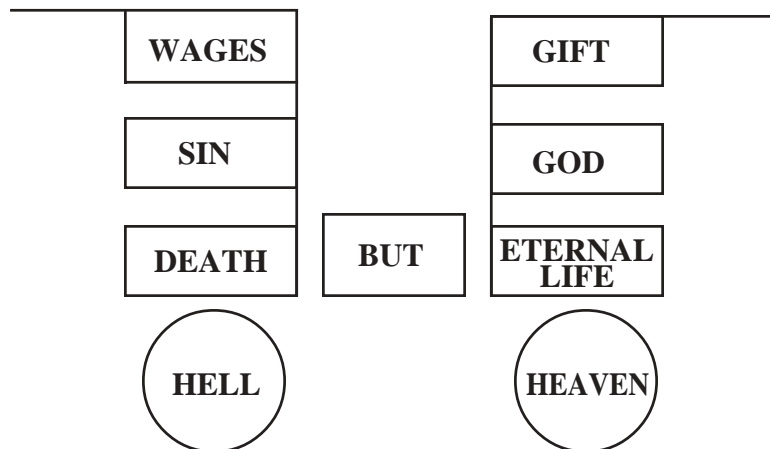
Draw a box around GOD and write it on the right side of the page under GIFT. Ask them what they think of when they hear the word GOD. Ask them what the difference is between SIN and GOD. Explain to them that all of us have sinned but God is absolutely perfect and holy. He has never sinned.

“God is the One who wants to give us this GIFT. I’m not the one giving it to you. The church isn’t giving it to you. Only God can give you this gift because He’s the One who paid for it.”

Take your pen or pencil and say to them, “If I were to give you this pen (or pencil), at what point would it become yours?” (When you take it.)

“God wants to give us this GIFT, but it doesn’t become ours until we take it.”

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Draw a box around ETERNAL LIFE and write it on the right side of the page in a box under GOD.

“What do you think of when you hear the words ETERNAL LIFE?” Be sure to point to the left side of the page and show the contrast between DEATH and ETERNAL LIFE.

“ETERNAL means forever and the Bible teaches that if we have ETERNAL LIFE we can live in HEAVEN forever.” (Draw a circle under ETERNAL LIFE and write the word HEAVEN in it.)

Did you know the Bible teaches that if we accept this free gift from God, we can have eternal life and live in Heaven forever?

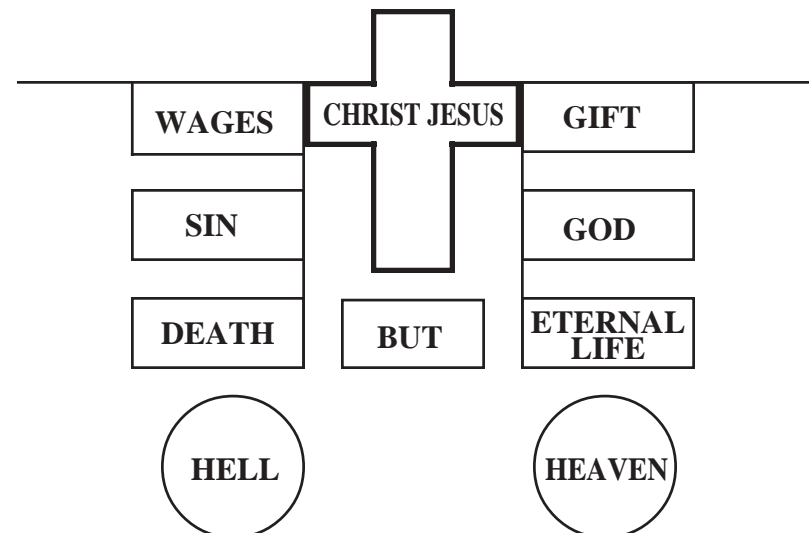
Point to the contrast between DEATH and HELL on the left and ETERNAL LIFE and HEAVEN on the right.

“Anyone with an I.Q. above plant life would want to be on the right side, wouldn’t they? (Point to the right side of the page and the word HEAVEN.)

So, how can somebody receive this free GIFT from God? This verse tells us.”

Draw a box around the words CHRIST JESUS. Draw a cross between the two sides and write the words CHRIST JESUS inside the cross.

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“This verse says that this GIFT is **IN** CHRIST JESUS. God makes the offer of this free GIFT to us through JESUS CHRIST. But we must be **IN** CHRIST JESUS. How do we do that?”

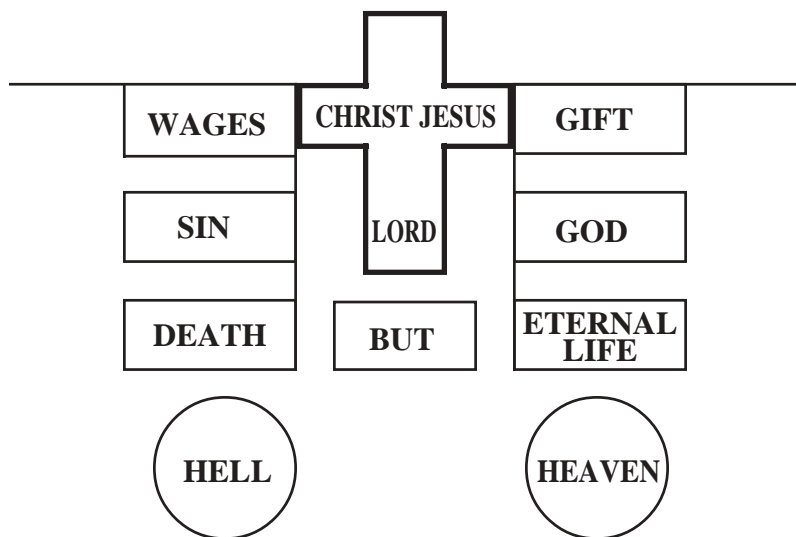
Point to a chair in the room that they are not sitting in. Ask them if they believe that chair can hold them up. Once they agree, ask them why that chair is not presently holding them up. They will probably answer, “Because I’m not sitting in it.”

“That’s exactly right. And being in JESUS CHRIST is as simple as someone placing their complete trust in Him.

Just as we trust the chair to hold us up by sitting in it, we also trust in JESUS CHRIST by giving ourselves completely to Him.

How do we do that? By allowing Him to be LORD of our lives. Do you know what the word LORD means?” (Draw a box around the word LORD and write the word LORD in the bottom part of the cross.)

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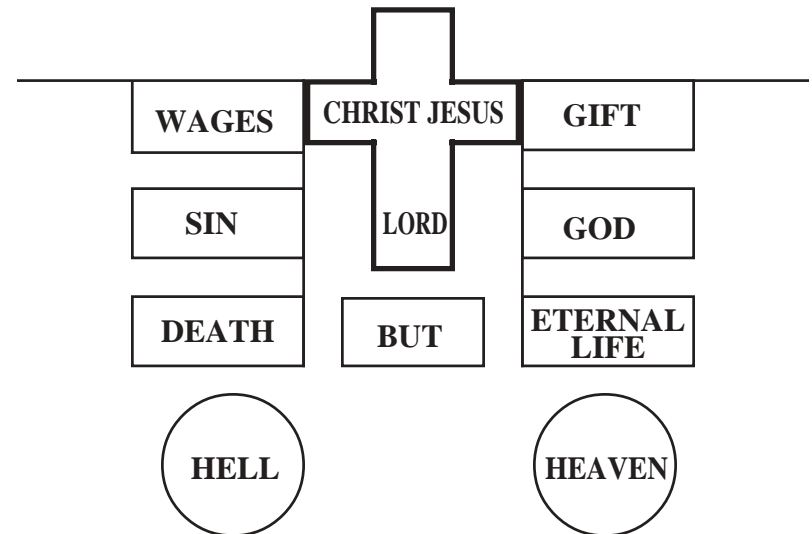


If they don’t understand what LORD means, you can illustrate it for them with the landlord illustration. (i.e., Do you know what a landlord is? It’s someone who owns and controls your apartment, condominium or house. He calls the shots. Jesus is more than a landlord, He’s a life-Lord. When Jesus is Lord of our lives it means He calls the shots.) We make Jesus Lord by doing two important things.”

Write the word CONFESS on the top of the left hand side of the cross and put a number 1 by it. “The word for CONFESS in the Bible means to ‘say the same thing.’ God wants us to say the same thing that He says about JESUS. He wants us to confess Him as Savior and Lord.”

Show them Romans 10:9-10. Have them read it.

“The Bible says we need to CONFESS Jesus as Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead and we can be saved.



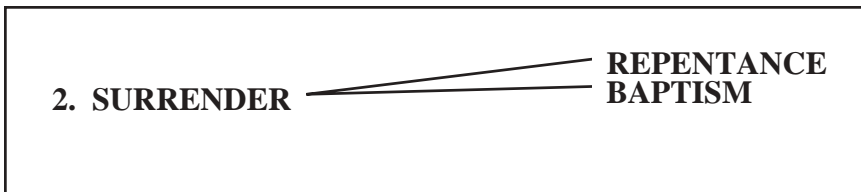
There’s a second thing we must do if we want to be **IN** Christ and be saved.” (Write the word SURRENDER on the top right hand side of the cross and put a number 2 by it.)

“What does it mean to surrender?” (Let them answer.) Point to a door and say, “Suppose someone came through that door and threatened your life and suppose we were able to wrestle him to the floor. We notice that he has all kinds of weapons on him but he says he wants to surrender. Would it be surrender if he had an oozie, grenades, knives, and a bazooka and said, ‘I’ll surrender, but I’m going to keep this oozie, these grenades, knives, and my bazooka?’ Of course not.

You don’t surrender and yet hang on to all that stuff. That would be partial surrender. Surrender means you give up. Completely. Totally. With nothing held back.

**PARTIAL SURRENDER IS NO SURRENDER AT ALL.**” (This is a key statement you want to make following each of the four things under SURRENDER.)

“There are four things involved in SURRENDER. The first is REPENTANCE.” (Write the word REPENTANCE out to the right of SURRENDER.)



“Repentance means to have a change of life. It’s a complete turnaround. Instead of living for yourself and following the ways of the world, you want to REPENT of your sins, follow the Lord and live for Him; and it includes every area of your life. Remember: **PARTIAL SURRENDER IS NO SURRENDER AT ALL.**

The second thing involved in SURRENDER is BAPTISM.” (Write the word BAPTISM out to the right of SURRENDER.)

“Baptism is the outward declaration of an inward reality. Because we have confessed with our mouth that JESUS is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead . . . because we believe JESUS is Who the Bible says He is and that He did what the Bible says He did . . . we want to publicly declare our

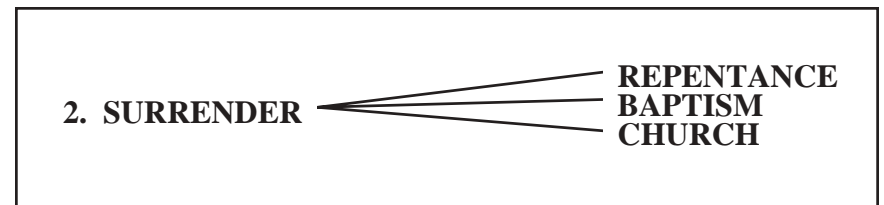
identification with and allegiance to Him. There is no other physical act we can do that identifies us more with Jesus than water baptism. The reason is because it beautifully pictures the DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION of JESUS like nothing else can.” (It may be helpful to show them the difference between sprinkling and immersion. Sprinkling can’t picture death, burial or resurrection; immersion pictures it beautifully. Sprinkling is man’s idea for convenience, total immersion is God’s command and calls for our obedience.)

“Carrying a Bible, wearing a cross, having bumper stickers on our car . . . they’re all good things, but none of them can identify us with JESUS like baptism.

Because baptism is a declaration of what God is doing in our lives in response to our faith, infants are not ready to be baptized. They can’t even say ‘Momma or Daddy’ yet, much less confess JESUS as Lord or believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead. It’s wonderful when parents want to dedicate their children to the Lord. In fact, I wish more parents cared for their kids that way. However, the Bible does not teach that baptizing an infant can impart salvation and it certainly cannot be the infant’s choice to identify with JESUS. That’s something they’ll have to do on their own, later in life, when they understand what they’re doing.

So, SURRENDER involves BAPTISM. If we want Jesus to be Lord of our lives, we need to be baptized. And remember: **PARTIAL SURRENDER IS NO SURRENDER AT ALL.**

The third thing involved in SURRENDER is getting involved in a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching church.” (Write the word CHURCH out to the right of SURRENDER.)



“Why is it so important that we be involved in a Bible-believing, Bible teaching church? It’s essential for three very important reasons:

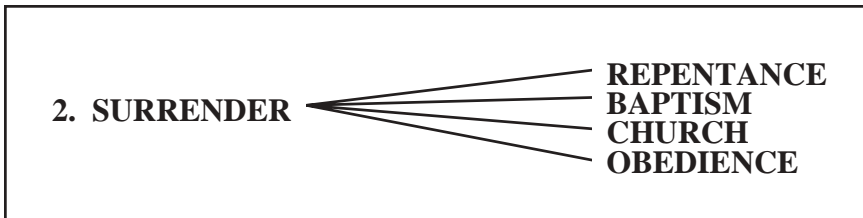
#1 - It helps us develop our **FAITH**. Romans 10:17 says, ‘Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.’ Every time we sit under the teaching and preaching of the Word of God our faith is going to grow. Since the Christian life can only be lived successfully by faith, we are ensuring our success by hearing the Word because each time we hear the Word our faith grows even more.

#2 - Being involved in a good church helps us develop **FRIENDSHIPS**. Some of the greatest friends you’ll ever have you’ll meet in the church. People who will be an encouragement to you. People you can be an encouragement to. People you can laugh, play, cry and pray with.

#3 - Being involved in a church gives us purpose for the **FUTURE**. Being involved in a dynamic, Christ-honoring church is the most exciting place in all the world to be . . . because what we do in and through the ministry of the local church counts for eternity.

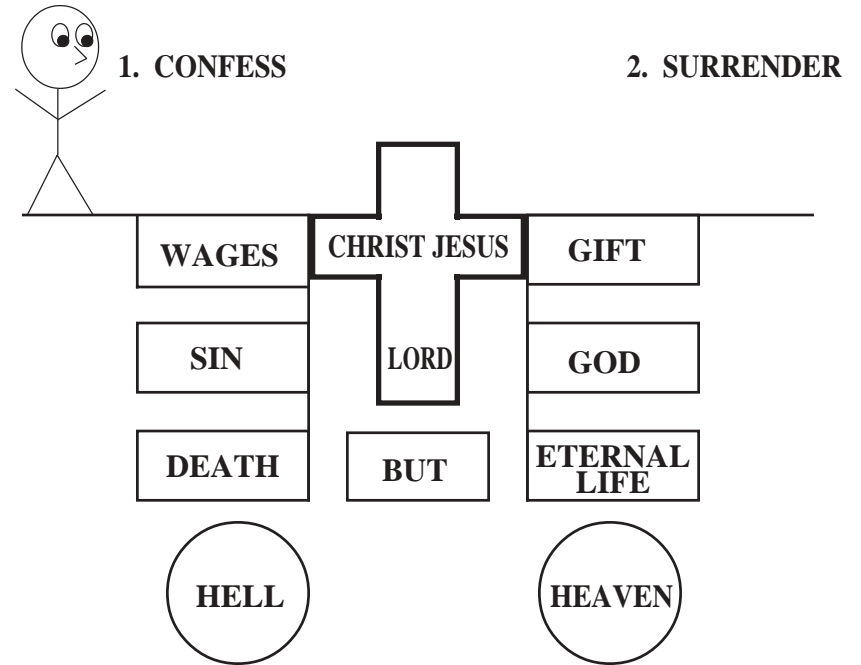
So, **SURRENDER** includes getting involved in a dynamic local church. And remember: **PARTIAL SURRENDER IS NO SURRENDER AT ALL.**

The fourth thing involved in **SURRENDER** is **OBEDIENCE**.” (Write the word **OBEDIENCE** out to the right of **SURRENDER**.)



“Do you know what it means to obey? It means we do what God tells us to do. That’s another reason it’s important to get involved in a church because that’s where we can find out what

God wants us to do. This is not a one-time obedience. This is an every-day obedience where we do our best to live for **JESUS** every day of our lives.”



Draw a man on the left side of the bridge. Ask them, “Suppose this guy wanted to get to the other side. Suppose he wanted to accept God’s free gift of **ETERNAL LIFE**. What would he have to do?” Draw a line from the man to the other side. (If they don’t say **CONFESS** and **SURRENDER** and understand what it means, go back and try to make it clear to them.)

Then ask them, “If you were to draw yourself in this picture, where would you be? Are you where this guy is?” (Point to the guy on the page.) “Or are you way off to the left, clear off the page? Or are you closer?” Let them answer.

“What two things does a person have to do to receive the free gift of **ETERNAL LIFE** which God gives to us in His Son, **JESUS**?” (Hopefully they will say **CONFESS** and **SURRENDER**.)

“Is that something you’d like to do?” (If they answer yes, ask them, “Would you like to CONFESS and SURRENDER to the Lord right now?”)

When they say yes, you should get on your knees (unless you are in a restaurant or some other public place where it would be awkward) and lead them in a simple prayer.

### **What Your Prayer Should Include . . .**

- #1 - Tell them you will lead them in prayer and they can repeat after you. “If I say anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or doesn’t represent how you truly feel, just stop me, okay?”
- #2 - They need to acknowledge their sin and their need to have Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- #3 - They need to CONFESS Jesus as Lord and acknowledge that God raised Him from the dead.
- #4 - They need to ask God to forgive, cleanse and save them.
- #5 - They need to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

\* There is no such thing as a set prayer that people have to pray, but I have found it helpful to have people pray a simple prayer.

\* After I finish leading them in prayer, I usually will thank God for what has just happened and ask God to lead and bless them as they begin their new life in Christ.

After we have prayed, I always share the following Scriptures with them:

**II Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”**

**I John 5:13, “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.”**

Then I go back to the sheet where we talked about SURRENDER and schedule a time for their baptism. If there is any hesitation at all, I simply repeat . . . **“Remember:**

**PARTIAL SURRENDER IS NO SURRENDER AT ALL.”**