1. We must acknowledge that we are sinners.

• Everyone is guilty: ROMANS 3:23 — "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,..."

- We all *naturally* follow our own way: ISAIAH 53:6 — "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
- Breaking one of God's law is the same as breaking all His laws.

JAMES 2:10 – "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."

• No one is innocent.

ROMANS 3:10-12 — "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹²They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.'"

2. We must understand the penalty for our sins.

• Death is sin's reward.

ROMANS 6:23 — "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3.

We must confess and repent of our sins.

• God promises to forgive our sins when we confess and turn from them.

1 JOHN **1:8-10** — "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

4.

We must believe that Jesus is the only way of salvation.

- Only Jesus leads us to God. JOHN 14:6 — " Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
- Jesus is the only source for salvation.

ACTS 4:12 — "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

• Christ's death proof of God's love for us. ROMANS 5:8-9 — "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." • Christ never sinned, yet He took the punishment for our sins on the cross to bring us to God.

1 PETER 3:18 — "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, …"

• Belief in Jesus's death and resurrection is essential to our salvation.

ROMANS 10:9-10 — "…That 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. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

5.

We must receive Christ into our lives to obtain forgiveness and eternal life.

• We must be spiritually *reborn*.

JOHN 3:3 — "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

- We are promised salvation by believing in God's Son.
 - **JOHN 3:16-17** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

• Jesus is the open door to salvation.

JOHN 10:9-10 — [Jesus said:] "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

• Jesus waits for an invitation to enter our lives.

REVELATION 3:20 — "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, …"

• We can do nothing good enough to earn or deserve our salvation.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 — "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast."

• God's salvation offered through His Son washes away our sins and brings joy.

TITUS 3:4-7 — "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us**, **through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**, **6whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior**, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

6.

We have assurance of salvation through faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

• We become a child of God by receiving His free gift of salvation.

JOHN 1:11-13 — "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

• We have been given *new* life in Christ. GALATIONS 2:20 — "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

• We have no need to fear condemnation.

ROMANS 8:1-2 — "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."

• Our new life is from GOD and His Word, not mortal man.

1 PETER 1:22-23 — "... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ..."

• God has provided a living, eternal hope.

1 PETER 1:3-5 — "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- The Lord guards our salvation personally! JOHN 10:27-30 — "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
 ²⁸And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰I and My Father are one."
- Our assurance is based upon faith in God's plan of salvation not feelings!

1 JOHN **5:13** — "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

• God has placed the Holy Spirit in our hearts as proof that we belong to Him!

2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22 — "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."

• We have all the rights and privileges that come from being God's children— we are no longer slaves to sin.

GALATIONS 4:6-7 — "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' 'Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

7.

What is God's ultimate purpose in His plan for your life?

• God's ultimate purpose is to conform you to the image of Jesus Christ!

ROMANS 8:28-30 – "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." .

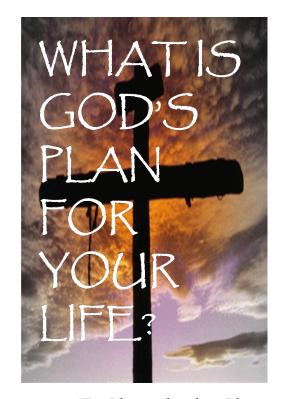
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Salvation is not about "recovery"! In Jesus Christ, you are recovered once and for all!

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"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity." Jeremiah 29:11-14 NIV