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God's Amazing Offer and Man's Needful Response

God, in the three Persons of the Trinity, accomplished what man could not...the offer of salvation. God the Father planned in eternity past that Jesus Christ, His Beloved Son, would temporarily set aside the use of the attributes of His Deity and become a man on planet Earth. He would take on the physical attributes of mankind with all its human characteristics, except for man's sinful nature. He did not inherit a sinful nature from Adam, as we have, because the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit supplied the genetic material and Mary and she conceived.

To accomplish this offer of salvation, The Second Person, Jesus Christ, in His humanity would be required and would succeed in keeping the Law, despite the fact that He would be tempted in all the ways that man is tempted. He would do that by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit which is the same power that believers have been given upon salvation in this age. We know from Scripture that Jesus hungered and thirsted as any man (Matthew 4) and that He experienced human emotions (John 11:35). Yet throughout His life He remained spotless, the only perfect Person in all of human history. Jesus Christ knew what His sacrifice would cost by virtue of His omniscience. He knew all the pain and humiliation that would need to occur. He dreaded what He needed to do, just as every one of us would dread such a physically and emotionally painful experience. He knew that the agony of the Cross would be more painful than any crucifixion ever done by Rome to a human being because as the God-Man, no matter how much He was beaten and tortured, He must be the One to give up His spirit. That could not be done until He had accomplished His eternal purpose. His life could not be taken from Him. No man ever had experienced that degree of punishment in the process of physical death. He pleaded in the Garden of Gethsemane with His Father, *"If you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22: 42). *"And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground"* (Luke 22: 44). He went obediently to the Cross because of His incredible love for His Father and for us. He endured being separated spiritually from His Father with Whom He had eternal fellowship. He *"for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame."* He then *"sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Hebrews 12:2). His mission was accomplished, that of providing propitiation, satisfaction of the Justice of His Father, for the entire world.

Of all three methods of perception: empiricism, rationalism and faith, it is faith that takes no effort. Most of what children learn is learned by faith (*confidence in the authority of their parents, teachers and other adults.*) All

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that is needed to receive salvation is simple faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. All one needs to do is respond to God's gracious and amazing offer, that is, exercise his/her free will to place faith in Christ alone. The effort was accomplished by the Object of faith. The work was done by the God-Head. God, the Father planned it, God, the Son executed the plan and God, the Holy Spirit reveals it to us. Both God's offer and man's needful response are contained in the most well-known verse of the Bible: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life"*(John 3:16).

Dr. Joseph Strauss is a 1967 graduate of the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic (now NYCC) and has been a member of the CCA since 1991. In addition to having had a private practice, he has served as a professor, lecturer, and author of more than 20 books on the subject of chiropractic. He lives in Blandon, PA.