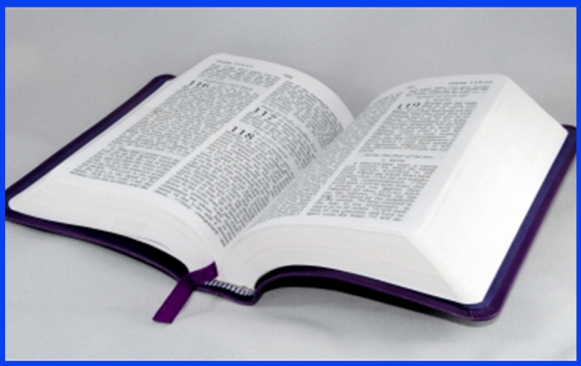
The Bible



as a Guide to Life

Eva Peck

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Introduction

Christians believe that the Holy Scriptures, or the Bible, are the inspired Word of God in written form. The writings can be viewed as divine communication or God's self-disclosure to humanity. The Scriptures identify God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and are an invitation to a close relationship with this transcendent Being. They include information unattainable through science or reason, addressing life's ultimate questions such as the purpose of life and the hereafter.

The Bible is not literally the Word of God – its contents weren't just dictated by God for individuals to write down word for word. Nevertheless, the book expresses, sometimes in metaphor, what God said, did, continues to do, and will yet do in the future.

The ultimate divine revelation was in the coming to earth of Jesus Christ who brought the message of God's Divine Love as the way to salvation and at-onement, or becoming at one, with the Father. In teaching this vital truth, he also exemplified it by his life.

The Bible was written over a period spanning about fifteen hundred years by humans from different walks of life, different time periods, different locations, and in three different languages. It has since been translated into hundreds of modern languages. The writers wrote in their own style, influenced by their background, education, culture, and political situation of the time.

Furthermore, today's Bible is the product of a complex process of document selection, copying, editing, compilation, and translation – all human activities subject to error. As a result, there are intertwining strands of teachings and even contradictions. Because of these factors and the complexity of the canonization process which occurred about three centuries after Jesus' death, the Bible is a set of writings with great diversity. Yet, it is a book that has inspired millions, pointed them to their Creator, and set them on the way to salvation. Without the guidance and inspiration of the Spirit of God within the vast and varied range of human endeavours, such result would be highly unlikely to be achieved by humans alone.

This small book explores the origin of the Bible, its limitations in being both a divinely inspired and a humanly created document, and being a valuable guide to spiritual life showing us how to reach our highest potential.

Evolution of Christianity

Contrary to common beliefs, traditional Christianity as taught by mainstream churches is in many aspects not what was taught by Jesus and the early disciples. Careful study of the Bible will show that several strands of beliefs are intertwining in its pages – some reflecting early teachings and an alternative form of Christianity.

It is a well-documented fact that the New Testament wasn't finalized until the fourth century, which is about 300 years after Jesus' death. At that time, the church was recognized as the official religion and came under the control of the Roman Emperor Constantine with the pope and a hierarchy of clergy under him. Because of different strands of Christian beliefs coexisting side by side, several church councils were called by the emperor for the purpose of enforcing unity.

More often than not, doctrines were established in bitter debates. There was never

just one opinion on such matters as the nature of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. However, the idea that most of the attending clergy agreed with became the official orthodox doctrine sanctioned by the emperor. At the same time, other ideas (equally or more valid) were branded as heresies. As time went on, the popes and cardinals of the state-controlled Roman church also introduced non-biblical, even pagan, ideas, such as the Trinity, celibacy for the clergy, purgatory, indulgences (payment for supposedly shortening time in the purgatory), and others.

While the Bible asserts in many places that Jesus' blood washes away sins, satisfies the demands of an "angry God", and redeems humanity from eternal suffering, even this was not in the original teachings and writings of those whose names are on the books. Having come from Jewish backgrounds, the idea of drinking blood and eating flesh of their saviour would have been utterly abhorrent to the early disciples based on their Old Testament upbringing.

Rather, what happened in the development of the New Testament Scriptures as they stand now

is that those who allegedly reproduced the originals (writings no longer in existence) added and took away ideas according to their own understanding and motives. As a result, false teachings have been introduced. The ecclesiastical writers and editors under the authority of Emperor Constantine, who wanted to use the church for his own political purposes and control, also benefited. Indeed, the clergy gained temporal powers far in excess of those that would have existed under the teachings of the early church.

Beside the church in Rome under the jurisdiction of Constantine and his successors, a different strand of Christianity existed in the East (Turkey, Syria and spreading as far as China at one time). These Christians felt that they had retained the original teachings of Jesus and his disciples and called themselves Orthodox. Besides these, numerous other groups, often persecuted by the official church, gathered for worship at different places with their own understanding.

As Christianity spread to various parts of the world, it changed the prevailing culture, but also

adapted itself to it – sometimes absorbing untruths and elements of paganism. In the 15th and 16th century, a few courageous men, aware of the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church, stood up and demanded reform. The best-known are John Huss in Bohemia, Martin Luther in Germany, Ulrich Zwingli in Switzerland, and John (Jean) Calvin, originally from France, who fled to Switzerland from Catholic persecution. But, while they agreed that the church needed change, they significantly differed on what the reformed church should look like.

With time, a sizable Protestant movement developed as a result of the reformation attempt. However, with the Scripture having become available to the lay people, whereas before only the clergy dictated approved dogma, interpretations multiplied. Groups continued to split and there are now thousands of different denominations and sects – each believing that they have the truth and that they interpret the Bible correctly.

What is the answer to this dilemma of almost overwhelming choice and even confusion? I have come to believe that no church is ideal or perfect

(being made of humans, it cannot be). By the same token, no church will teach exactly what each individual believes. Therefore every person needs to find a group where they feel comfortable worshiping and fellowshipping with others of like mind, bearing in mind the above-mentioned limitations.

One key Protestant doctrine in contrast to the Catholic belief is that salvation needs to be worked out by each individual – it is not in the power of the church. Each person is responsible for their own relationship with God and their own salvation. With that in mind, let us all walk with God to the best of our ability, live by the Golden Rule and Jesus' commandment of to love one another as he loved, read widely, and hold onto what sounds true to us – what speaks to our heart and helps us grow in love.

Bible Limitations

Many believe that the Bible is the authentic word of God, written by those whose names appear on the books inside it. This however is not the case.

Firstly, God did not directly inspire each word, but allowed the many and diverse writers over fifteen centuries to express concepts in their own words, reflecting their understanding, background, as well as the culture and political situation of their time. Using a range of literary genres, they compiled legal precepts and histories, recorded their joys, sorrows, frustrations, and praises addressed to God, recounted stories, wrote epic poetry, and verbalized dramatic symbolic dreams and visions. New Testament writers interpreted the Old Testament Scriptures in light of the life of Jesus and their own experiences.

Jesus didn't leave any written records of his teachings and his disciples passed them on by word of mouth as they taught and preached. It was several decades after Jesus' death, when the disciples realized that their master was not

imminently returning, that they started writing down Jesus' teachings as they understood them. By that time, due to limitations of human memory, certain truths may have become distorted. Also writings were tailored to specific readerships as the apostles served different church communities. Therefore, as an example, each of the four biblical gospels portrays Jesus from a different perspective.

In the Old Testament, many events were recorded long after the time they are said to have occurred. Some of the events may have never happened. Tradition, imperfect memory, culture and imagination all played a part in formulating the texts as we now have them.

Further, in the numerous hand copying and recopying of manuscripts, original information was left out and/or other things not in accord with the truth were inserted. In the process, many of the truths that Jesus had taught became veiled through reinterpretation, or simply lost. Even in the epistles of Paul, which theologians claim to be the earliest and closest to the time of Jesus and thus to have more authenticity than the gospels or other epistles, many changes were

made between the times of their writing and when they became a part of the biblical record.

Within one hundred and fifty years, much of Jesus' spiritual teachings had become lost to those reproducing the original writings. This happened because these writers had become less spiritual, and focused more on building the church as an institution than on preserving and rightly developing the great spiritual truths that Jesus brought. The moral precepts became dominant in their writings as they were more easily understood than Jesus' teaching regarding soul development and becoming at one with God through seeking and praying for God's Divine Love.

Even in the canonization process, there were bitter disputes among the Christian fathers as to what should be accepted and what rejected from the emerging "sacred text". Many manuscripts were rejected because they did not agree with what the church officials – who disagreed among themselves – in their human knowledge and reason accepted as God's word.

Because of the many changes to the original texts, that themselves were written quite some

time after the events they describe, the authenticity of the Bible cannot be established as the word of God, as it contains many statements contrary to God's truths and Jesus' teachings. One of the greatest errors is the teaching about God's plan of salvation through the vicarious atonement, which was influenced by Judaism. It substitutes Jesus' sacrifice for animal sacrifices, and projects the image of God as understood by the Jews onto the Father of all humanity. The Jewish God, to be appeased and satisfactorily worshipped, demanded blood, and so the God that Jesus declared became understood as one who demanded the sacrificial blood of His dearly beloved son.

However, despite the fact that the present biblical writings contain many things which the original authors did not write, and that it is not always easy to separate truth from falsehood, the Bible does contain many truths, and certainly enough to enable humans to reach the Kingdom of Heaven. Indeed, in a later revelation, Jesus stated that apart from it, there is nothing in existence that can supply important spiritual truths as much as the Bible.

Power of the Bible

Despite the Bible being a flawed source of truth (as inevitably are all humanly created works), it is a fact that through its message, people from all levels of society in various parts of the world have been led from darkness to light, received a new perspective on life, and became transformed.

The Bible contains much that shows us how to attain moral perfection – which was one of the objects of Jesus' teachings on earth, though not the main one. Applying moral truths in one's life brings one closer to harmony with God's laws that is necessary for regeneration and attaining perfection. This in itself will go a long way to reduce suffering and produce happiness.

As a person progresses in their regeneration, they will find it easier to learn by soul perceptions the great truth of the new birth though acquiring God's Divine Love. Once they understand and apply this truth, they will be on the way to fulfil their ultimate human potential to have their soul transformed from just the

divine image into divine substance and to become immortal divine angels.

The inspiration of the Holy Scriptures is attested to by the fulfilment of prophecies; confirmation by history, archaeology, and science; and above all, by the changed lives of countless individuals.

God-given guidance is affirmed in the pages of the Bible itself. Phrases such as "the word of the Lord came to me" appear numerous times and indicate that some of the Old Testament writers knew that they were commissioned by God to write what they did. New Testament writers affirmed the inspiration of the Old Testament writings – the only Scriptures they had – referring to them as the words of God pertaining to historical and prehistoric realities.

Jesus himself affirmed the inspiration of the Old Testament. He personally identified with the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel regarding the "new heart" (Jeremiah 24:7; Ezekiel 36:26-28), and saw in them his own mission. He quoted various passages showing how they were fulfilled in him as the prophesied Messiah (for example, Luke 4:16-21; 24:13-35).

Ultimately, each person has to determine for themselves what is truth. We all have a free will to decide what path to follow in our earthly pilgrimage. No amount of reasoning or argument can prove the authority, inspiration, and trustworthiness of the biblical Scriptures, or even the existence of a Creator God. Each of us must test for ourselves whether the claims of the Bible are true, whether the God mentioned therein answers prayers, and whether the Holy Scriptures is relevant in today's world. These are all matters of faith based on personal experience.

Those who desire to learn more about God and to have Him change their life can ask Him to do so. The evidence strongly suggests that their earnest petition will be supernaturally and encouragingly answered.

Keys to Bible Understanding

This chapter deals with seven keys for interpreting the Bible, outlined by Dr Rocco Errico in Let There Be Light: The Seven Keys. If Bible students are aware of these principles, they will likely arrive at a more accurate understanding of biblical texts. The keys are:

Original Language

The original language of the New Testament times was Aramaic. Related to Hebrew, around 700 BCE, this was the language of three powerful imperial nations – Assyria, Babylon (Chaldea), and Persia (today's Iran). Aramaic was also spoken in Palestine during the life of Jesus, remaining the religious and commercial language throughout the Near East until the 7th century CE. It is still spoken in various parts of the world.

In the 20th century, Dr George Lamsa and Dr Rocco Errico, Lamsa's student and successor, felt called to focus on the importance of Aramaic

to New Testament studies. Dr Lamsa translated the Bible afresh, using ancient Aramaic texts rather than the Greek texts used for the King James Bible. He came up with 10,000 to 12,000 major differences between his English rendering of the Bible (published in 1933) and the King James Version.

Use of Idioms

The Bible uses over a thousand idioms. An idiom is a peculiar expression of speech that says one thing but means something different. Therefore if idioms are not understood in their original intent, they can be mistranslated. If translated literally, their meanings are more than likely misconstrued.

Mysticism

Over forty percent of the Bible is based on mysticism, including dreams, visions, voices, revelations, acts of healing, clairaudience (inner hearing), and clairvoyance (inner sight). Astounding appearances of God and angels (messengers) usually occurred in people's minds

while they were asleep or in a trance – an altered state of consciousness.

Biblical prophets received spiritual ideas and illumination through dreams and visions. Whenever God and humans, angels and humans, or God and angels are conversing, it is likely to be a dream, vision, or revelation. “Angel” in Aramaic means “counsellor”, “messenger”, or as a metaphor “God’s thought”. The early Christian church therefore grew out of a spiritual movement of inner impressions, inner voices, dreams, visions, and revelations.

Semitic Culture of the Near East

To correctly interpret biblical passages, the Semitic culture of the Near East has to be taken into account.

Semitic Psychology

In biblical studies, it is important to understand the Near East psychology. A country’s customs and manners usually derive from its national consciousness and traditional thinking.

For example, Semites value friendships and relationships more highly than they do the observance of time. Family ties, including distant relatives, are very strong. Therefore Jesus in his teachings largely focused on love. While one cannot make anyone practice love, Jesus understood that only love from each individual soul can heal hatreds and resentments. The kind of love he spoke of was much more than a human sentiment, but rather a deep care and concern for others.

Love is a powerful antidote to human ills and the only remedy for mental, physical, and spiritual maladies. Hatred and vengeance only breed more of the same, but love nourishes and encourages the finest in human beings.

Biblical Symbolism

The symbolism of the Near East falls into three categories – parables, metaphors, and poetic philosophy.

A *parable* is verbal imagery which portrays an event or teaching. Its main purpose is to convey

an impression rather than to construct definitions or establish dogmas.

The use of *metaphors* is what makes a language colourful. In translation it is important to understand when an expression is a metaphor and not literal. For example:

In 75% of the cases, the New Testament uses the term "devil" to refer to someone as crazy or insane and is not referring to a supernatural creature.

"Christ" is a title, not a proper name. Jesus was the Anointed or the Christ because his ordination was from God. Jesus' followers, the Christians, too were anointed or "christed" by God to carry out a unique mission for humankind by walking in their master's footsteps.

Amplification

Amplification or embellishment of stories is a common Near Eastern practice. Semites enjoy putting "colour" into a situation rather than describing an event with detailed accuracy. Hence to glorify an idea or event,

many Bible passages contain exaggerated speech and amplified story details. In the West, we expect precise details, but in the Near East, the exact specifics do not matter.

"Word of God" as a Metaphor

Because of the limitations of language and the incompatibility between language as a human phenomenon and God as divine spirit, some have suggested exploring the term "Word of God" as also metaphorical. This allows many concepts to have both a literal and metaphorical meaning, and to be interpreted at several levels. It makes room for imagination to search for depths of meaning beyond the literal. As a result, it enables a range of interpretations and insights, which are also influenced by the understanding, experiences, and prejudices that readers bring to their Bible reading and study. The Holy Scriptures then remain a living text for people everywhere, as well as becoming like a treasure chest with endless possibilities of new discoveries (See Matthew 13:52).

Main Message of the Bible

The Bible from start to finish deals with God's relationship with humanity – from God-initiated human origins to the fulfilling of an incredible potential of becoming at one with God and thus immortal divine angels – though not God. After "the Fall", or the rebellion against God by the first humans, this potential for immortality was taken away. Old Testament prophets, however, pointed to the coming of a messianic figure – one "anointed" or specially commissioned by God who would be the saviour of humanity. This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ (his name means "anointed saviour"). He brought the good news (gospel) that God was again offering to humans what the first parents had forfeited – the possibility to obtain immortality. In the Garden of Eden, this was symbolized by the Tree of Life.

While, based on ancient prophecies, the Jews expected a Messiah's coming, they were hoping for a conqueror who would free Judea from Roman domination and set up an earthly kingdom where they would be the dominant

nation. Although Jesus came as a king, he stressed that his kingdom was not of this world. Rather, he proclaimed the kingdom of God – a Celestial Kingdom of Divine Love.

The anointing that Jesus received involved having in his heart and soul the presence of the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit. This was a fulfilment of the Old Testament "new heart" prophecies by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Jesus was the first to receive this gift, but thereafter it would be available to all who asked for it with sincere and heartfelt prayer (see the next chapter for examples of prayers for the Divine Love). Thus Jesus was the first of many brethren to become a true child of God (Romans 8:29), by having the Divine Love from the Father transform his soul from just divine image into divine substance (Romans 5:5).

The message of the Divine Love that Jesus brought became lost in the copying and rewriting of the present biblical texts, but traces of it are clearly seen throughout the New Testament, in the same way that traces of other early Christian teachings are apparent.

Indeed, the New Testament gospels and other writings contain several intertwining messages. This is the result of historical events being perceived and recorded by various individuals, as well as follow-up reinterpretations and editing by later writers and editors whose thinking and prejudices found their way into the texts as well. This chapter outlines the two key threads dealing with the salvation of humankind – namely the *message of Jesus* versus a later *message about Jesus*.

Jesus' Teaching

The main aspects of Jesus' message deal with the availability of Divine Love (imparted by the Holy Spirit) as follows:

1. God is love (1 John 4:8, 16). This love (Greek *agape*) transcends the natural human love, which at its best can include unconditional acceptance and lofty deeds.
2. God's love was displayed by sending Jesus (1 John 4:9) and through him the message that the Divine Love and nature is again available to humans as a gift for the asking. This was

also the message that God's kingdom was near (Matthew 4:17). Through acquiring the Divine Love, by which the individual will would align with divine will, the way to God's kingdom (the Celestial Spheres) was open (Matthew 7:21).

3. Jesus, as the Messiah (Christ or anointed), was the first to experience the new birth that he taught about. He manifested the Divine Love, received through the Holy Spirit, and set an example of a life motivated by this love (Matthew 11:29). While his countrymen expected him to establish an earthly kingdom and overthrow the Romans, Jesus taught that his kingdom was not visible in the ordinary sense. Yet, the kingdom was *among them* – through his person, and could be *within them* – by receiving the Divine Love in their souls as he had (Luke 17:21 – the Greek word can have both meanings).
4. Those who in their soul desire the gift of the Divine Love and sincerely pray for it will receive it and have their soul transformed from divine image into divine substance. This is the new birth – being born again of

imperishable seed or being born of God (John 1:13; 3:3, 5; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 4:7).

5. Jesus practiced and taught love for one another (1 John 3:11). The apostle John, who among the disciples was spiritually the closest to Jesus, later showed how if we truly love one another and walk as Jesus did, God lives in us and we in Him, and His love is made complete in us (1 John 2:5-6; 4:12, 16). The Divine Love transforming our souls gives us the knowledge of our unity with the Father (John 17:20-26).
6. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of power, love and self-control (Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:7). Jesus and his disciples manifested the gift of the Divine Love by the power to heal (e.g. Matthew 4:23; 12:15; 14:14).
7. Jesus used parables to help his listeners understand the preciousness of this powerful, yet invisible gift, comparing it to a treasure or a pearl of great value worth all that one has (Matthew 13:44-46). He also showed its power to transform through the parables of the mustard seed and yeast in a

batch of dough (Matthew 13:31-32). He taught that the Father is more willing to grant this gift to His children than earthly parents enjoy giving good gifts to their offspring (Luke 11:13).

8. The gift of the Divine Love is referred to in the New Testament as
    - Gift of grace (2 Corinthians 9:15)
    - Salvation by grace (not because of good deeds), through the washing of rebirth / new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)
    - Participation in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)
    - God's glory (in the form of divine nature); it unites those who possess it and through their lives makes God known to those who don't (John 17:20-26)
    - Experiencing the fullness of God (Eph. 3:19)
    - Power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20)
    - Power of God for salvation and righteousness of God by faith (Romans 1:16-17)

- God's light shining in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God (2 Corinthians. 4:6)
- Source of life and immortality (2 Timothy 1:10)
- Love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5)
- Love that surpasses all other gifts as well as knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:1-3; Ephesians 3:18-19)
- Being rooted and established in love (Ephesians 3:17)
- Gift of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of grace (Luke 11:13; Acts 10:45; Hebrews 10:29)
- Streams of living waters — the received Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39; 20:22) Note: God is metaphorically called the spring of living water (Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13)
- Living water permanently quenching [spiritual] thirst and becoming a spring welling up to eternal life (John 4:10-14)
- Spirit in our inner being (heart or soul) (Ephesians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:14), motivating us to do what is right (Romans 7:22)

- Spirit of love and other God-like qualities that transcend the law (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Spirit in our hearts as a deposit for our glorious future in God's kingdom (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- Spirit which makes us children of the Father and at one with Him, as well as heirs of divine glory (Romans 8:9, 14-17)
- Anointing (1 John 2:20-27; 2 Corinthians 1:21)
- Christ (the anointing that came with Jesus) dwelling in our hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:17)
- Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)
- Being in Christ and becoming a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15)
- Conversion through having the door of faith opened by God (Acts 14:27; 15:3)
- Being transformed and made new by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23)

- Putting on the new self to be like God in righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24)
- Walking in the Spirit (Galatians. 5:16, 25)
- Loving one another as a result of God-given love, through which we know God and are born of God (1 John 4:7-8)

In addition to the above, many biblical references to the *Holy Spirit can be seen as synonymous with God's Divine Love* in that the Spirit, like the Divine Love, is a means of conversion, new life, new heart, becoming a new creature, salvation, and resurrection to immortality.

Another "Gospel"

In addition to the *message about the Divine Love that Jesus preached*, the gospel books and other New Testament writings contain a "gospel" *about Jesus* and emphasizing *his death by crucifixion which paid the penalty for our sins*. In contrast to Jesus' own message, this one was introduced by others who subsequently tried

to make sense of and explain the "impermissible" death of the Messiah. Jesus as the Messiah was expected to overthrow the Romans, not be killed by them – despite the fact that Jesus stressed that his kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). His unexpected death then became interpreted as a part of God's plan in providing a sacrifice for sin and a vicarious atonement.

In keeping with the interpretation of Jesus' death, authors and editors of New Testament books reframed the narratives of his life to conform to these ideas. Words were placed in Jesus' mouth, and Hebrew Scriptures were misquoted or quoted out of context to substantiate the concept of Jesus as a fulfilment of the Old Testament Passover "sacrificial lamb".

The conflict between the two messages or "gospels" is that on the one hand, God's love and salvation is a gift from a loving and merciful Father, while on the other hand, the gift first had to be paid for as a ransom to satisfy a wrathful God. These ideas are also incompatible in that Jesus (when perceived as God, which he is not) would have had to pay for his own gift with his

life or pay for the Father's gift – in which case it would have been a gift from Jesus, not the Father. Yet Jesus teaches that the gift of salvation is given by God (John 4:10). In addition, God owns everything and can bestow gifts and absolve debts (Luke 15:21-24) – without requiring a sacrifice.

When Jesus travelled from town to town preaching, his message always dealt with present matters, not with his future death as a payment for sin. Rather the kingdom of God and the new birth were available in the present (John 3:1-8; Luke 4:21). Therefore, the often-quoted verse of John 3:16 stating that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" would read better as "God so loved the world that he gave us *his Divine Love, that whoever receives it* shall not perish but have eternal life."

In summary, there is no efficacy in Jesus' blood to save or pay for human sins and reconcile people to the Father. Those who believe in Jesus' death as a means of their salvation may be neglecting the one vital requirement for salvation, and that is the new birth through soul

transformation by the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit. As Jesus tried to tell Nicodemus, this and this only saves humans from their sins and fits them to enter the kingdom of God -- which is also the kingdom of Jesus, for he is the Prince of that kingdom, and the master and ruler thereof.

Prayer for Divine Love

The following are example prayers for the receipt of the Divine Love. None of them have to be prayed verbatim, but they can give ideas how to approach the Father who is always happy when His children ask for His Holy Spirit which imparts the Divine Love (Luke 11:13).

It is important to be consistent and continue to pray for the Divine Love, as soul transformation doesn't happen all at once, but is a process.

"Prayer Perfect"

The prayer below contains the basic truths given to humankind by Celestial Spirits.

Our Father, who are in heaven, we recognize that You are all holy and loving and merciful, and that we are Your children, and not the subservient, sinful and depraved creatures that our false teachers would have us believe. That we are the greatest of Your creation, and the most wonderful of all Your handiworks, and the

objects of Your great soul's love and tenderest care.

That Your will is that we become at one with You, and partake of Your great Love which You have bestowed upon us through Your mercy and desire that we become, in truth, Your children, through love, and not through the sacrifice and death of any of Your creatures.

We pray that You will open up our souls to the inflowing of Your Love, and that then may come Your Holy Spirit to bring into our souls Your Love in great abundance, until our souls shall be transformed into the very essence of Yourself; and that there may come to us faith — such faith as will cause us to realize that we are truly Your children and one with You in very substance and not in image only.

Let us have such faith as will cause us to know that You are our Father, and the bestower of every good and perfect gift, and that only we, ourselves, can prevent Your love changing us from the mortal to the immortal.

Let us never cease to realize that Your Love is waiting for each and all of us, and that when we

come to You, in faith and earnest aspiration, Your Love will never be withheld from us.

Keep us in the shadow of Your Love every hour and moment of our lives, and help us to overcome all temptations of the flesh, and the influence of the powers of the evil ones, which so constantly surround us and endeavour to turn our thoughts away from You to the pleasures and allurements of this world.

We thank You for Your love and the privilege of receiving it, and we believe that You are our Father — the loving Father who smiles upon us in our weakness, and is always ready to help us and take us to Your arms of love.

We pray this with all the earnestness and longings of our souls, and trusting in Your Love, give You all the glory and honour and love that our finite souls can give. Amen.

Prayers from the Bible

Here are four personally inspiring Bible passages which are prayers of thanksgiving attributed to the apostle Paul (though the exact authorship is not important). They are quoted

from the New International Version of the Bible and are easy to read. I have bolded the parts that particularly speak to me, and have also inserted notes in brackets that parallel information in this book.

Ephesians 1:16-19:

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that **you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** *[prayer for increased soul perceptions]* in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious inheritance** *[Celestial Kingdom]* in the saints, and **his incomparably great power** *[Divine Love that transforms our souls from divine image to divine substance and mortal to immortal]* for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, …

Ephesians 3:16-21

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, *[soul growth and soul perceptions through Divine Love]* so that Christ *[Divine Love]* may dwell in your hearts through faith. *[Divine Love in the soul]* And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, **and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.** *[all aspects of Divine Love].* Now to him who **is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us** *[how awesome!]*, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11

And this is my prayer: **that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and**

depth of insight, *[prayer for growth in Divine Love and soul perceptions]* so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. *[through Divine Love transforming the soul.]*

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-14

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints – the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven** *[again, Divine Love?]* and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood **God's grace in all its truth**. *[Divine Love is a gift of grace]* ...

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and

asking God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding**. *[again, soul perceptions]* And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way**: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully **giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light**. *[Celestial Kingdom reached through Divine Love]* For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he loves**, *[Celestial Kingdom of which Jesus is the Master]* in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *[through praying for and receiving the Divine Love].*

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Further Reading

Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Volume I

Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Volume II

http://new-birth.net/padgetts-messages/what-do-these-messages-say-about-bible/

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About the Author



Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. Having lived and worked in Australia, the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, including teaching English as a foreign language, she has experienced a range of cultures, customs, and environments. She now draws on those experiences in her writing.

Eva has a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, a post-graduate Diploma in Education, and a Master's degree in Theology. Since her retirement from teaching, she has been devoting her time to spiritual pursuits. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual

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Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her cat Whitey. She lost her husband, Alex, and co-author of some of their books in 2025.

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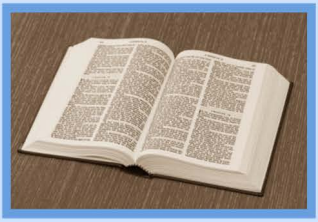
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- *Faces and Forms Across Time – Artwork of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Variations – Art Exhibition of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
- *Floral and Nature Art – Photography of Jindrich Degen,* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
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Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual themes, as well as building and maintaining several websites. Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex.

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