



The Gift of Shoes

A True Story . . . How One Friend Told His Dying Friend How to Meet God

Billy, a terminally ill patient with stage 4th bone cancer, was visited by his friend, Jim. Jim had driven a great distance to see Billy. He was much burdened because Billy, to his knowledge, had never accepted Christ as his Savior and would not be prepared to spend eternity with God. Jim spent much time in prayer regarding Billy's salvation, asking God to direct him in how he should witness to him. Jim didn't want to sound too "preachy". Jim also incorporated his church as a supportive prayer-partner.

During Jim's visit, Billy complimented Jim's shoes, and said, "I'd like to have a pair of shoes like that". Unknown to Billy, Jim visited a shoe store and found them to have only one pair of Billy's size in stock. With haste, he made the purchase and rushed back to surprise his friend. Billy's wife tried to pay Jim for the shoes, however, Jim would not accept the money. Looking at Billy, Jim said, "I want you to think of these as your 'Jesus shoes'. You can't earn them. You can't buy them. They are **a free gift**, just like Jesus is. All you have to do is accept them. Likewise, all you have to do is accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. Just invite Jesus in and let Him take care of the rest." Billy, who had always been stubborn and resistant to hearing the Gospel, broke out into a big grin.

Although Billy did not make a profession of faith that day, Jim knew he had gotten through to him. Jim continued to pray that Billy would accept Christ. Four days later Billy did just that, after a niece spent a long time counseling and praying with him about how to be saved. That brought rejoicing in Heaven. Jesus said in Luke 15:10, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

God uses some people to plant the "seed of the Word of God" into a person's life. He will use another to water the seed with further witnessing and counseling. The end result is that it is God who gives the increase.

Less than two weeks later, Billy's suffering was over. He was welcomed to a glorious homecoming in Heaven.

What about you? Have you been misled into believing that you've got to clean up your act before you will be accepted by God and given entrance into Heaven? Jesus did not say you have to clean up your act before He will save you. Quoting John 14:6, "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by Me." If you are truly sorry for the sins you've committed, He will forgive you and then help you to clean up your act.

You might wonder, How do I do that?

By believing. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Also, Acts 16:31, "...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Jesus did more than just die on a cross in our place. He paid our sin debt in full so that we can escape Hell and enjoy eternal life in Heaven. The tomb in which He was buried is empty. He defeated death, Hell and the grave when He arose on the third day. We serve a "RISEN Savior"!

A futuristic event foretold in the Bible, in the book of 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, says, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air."

How to Prepare to Meet God

Nobody is automatically ready to meet God

Romans 3:10, 23 "There is none righteous, no, not one: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

You need to know what God said happened

Romans 5:12, 18 "As by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon **all men**, for that all have sinned: As by the offence of one [Adam] judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of One [Christ] the free gift came upon all men [who believe] unto justification of life."

You must believe that God, in Christ, loves you

Romans 5: 6, 8 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God commendeth His **love** toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

You must know that God's love paid your debt

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

John 3:16a "For God so **love** the world [mankind], that he **gave** His only begotten Son [Jesus Christ]."

You must personally accept God's gift, Christ

John 3:16b "That **whosoever** believeth in [asks, accepts] Him should not perish [be separated from God forever], but **have** everlasting life [be with God forever].

Just ask Him for His saving gift of grace

Romans 10:9, 10, 13 "That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved**. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord **shall be saved**."

What about you? Are you going to be in that number? Or, are you going to spend all of eternity in Hell? Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks. The choice is yours

As a friend, I offered you this true story with the hope that you, too will prepare to meet God.

Call **940.206.5980** and share your decision for Christ today! Or, if you need prayer, we are here for you.

Evanna Hagler © 2012

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