

The price God paid so that I could be changed

The Need

- What is the condition of my heart ?
- Do I really, deep down, like who I have become ?
- How many masks do I still wear to conceal who I really am on the inside ?
- Would I like to change or be changed ?
- Have I tried to change myself but failed ?
- Do I know that I myself cannot change the real me ?
- We can change the appearance can't we, we can change the mask, but self somehow is unable to genuinely change self for the better.

The answer

- Only God can change the real me – my heart or my spirit. He wants to, He waits to, He longs to.
- God's method of change is always the same, it never varies, it is always through His words. He takes a few words from His written word (the Bible) and causes them, whether we read them or hear them, to lovingly come alive personally to us. As we truly believe those words they enter into our hearts. As these words of God and God's Spirit who gives the words life, remain in our hearts they transform us, they change us, they literally make us into better more godly people.
- The Bible calls this process of change, sanctification. It is exclusively by God's word and of His Spirit. The process could also be called Christification, because Jesus Christ is God's living Word. As more of His living words enter into and remain in our hearts they produce more of Christ in us – this is the mystery of the Gospel.

- This mysterious process of being progressively conformed by living words into the image of Jesus Christ has only been made possible by one single event in human history.

The price God paid

- God caused His word to become a human being named Jesus Christ. This word of God, now manifest as flesh and blood, led a sinless life. In the will of God and as the greatest act of love the world has ever seen, God permitted wicked men, inspired by evil spirits, to unjustly accuse His Son and deliver Him up to death, the death of the cross. While He was on the cross, God gathered up each and every sin of the whole human race, the very sins that have separated each person from God, and placed them on and judged His son for them.
- The sinless word of God was thus made to be sin for the whole world and tasted death, the consequence of sin which is separation from God, for every man. But because this precious Lamb of God was Himself without sin death could not hold him and on the third day He arose. He arose victorious having borne each man's sin, having paid the price of death or separation from God for each man's sin and having conquered that death or separation from God by being made alive again.
- Jesus Christ, God's living word, the victor over sin and its consequence, separation from God, now represents the only bridge that exists between man and God. When any man or woman hears for the first time and receives God's anointed word into their heart they become a child of God, a citizen of God's kingdom, being spiritually born again as a Christian. A Christian, because Jesus Christ God's word has now entered into them.
- Whenever that Christian receives more of God's living words into their hearts then more of Christ dwells in them and they become more Christlike. By hearing and receiving each morsel of scripture made alive by God's Spirit a person continues to be cleansed from all sin and loudly proclaims the Lord's death. That death, as a result of which alone, the glorious process of being changed through hearing and receiving God's living words was made available to humanity.