

6 SALVATION ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUSTRATIONS TO MAKE THE GOSPEL CLEAR

1. THE CHAIR

Do you believe this chair exists? - Yes.

Do you believe it will hold you if you sit in it? - Yes.

It is not holding you now. How could you possibly show that it exists and could hold you?

Answer: I could sit in it.

Neither of us is trusting this chair to hold us because neither of us is sitting in it. Right?

I heard somebody say something interesting. Let the chair represent Jesus Christ. For a long time I believed He existed and could help me, but I did not have eternal life because I was trusting in my own good works to save me.

Many people who believe that Jesus exists are not trusting in Him totally for their salvation.

If I put my hands on the seat and put some of my weight on it am I proving that I am trusting the chair to hold me? -No

If I just sit gently on the arm I am not actually showing that I am confident this chair will trust me, am I? - No.

Of course not, I am trusting partly in the chair and partly in the floor where my feet stand.

In the same way I can know all about Jesus Christ and still be trusting in something else to take care of my sin. But when I believe completely in Him for my salvation it is like sitting in this chair and letting it take my full weight.

2. DIFFERENT WAYS TO EXPRESS OUR FAITH

Have you ever asked God for help?

Listen. . .

When you trusted in the Lord during tough financial times you were trusting Him for money. When you trusted Him through times of sickness you were trusting Him for health. We can also trust Him for wisdom in decision making. We can trust Him for safety during travel. He is pleased with all of these times we trust Him.

Many people trust in God for these temporary matters, but fail to trust Him in spiritual matters. Trusting Him for salvation means understanding that He sent His Son to die for all the rotten, sinful, terrible things we've said, done, and thought.

3. SIN 99% FORGOTTEN / THREE SINS A DAY

I don't keep track of everything bad I did last month, do you?

Listen. . .

Specialists say we forget 99% of the things we've done that we feel are wrong. Suppose we put a small rock in the backyard for every sin we commit next month. If we only put 3 rocks a day out there, we would have a very small pile by the end of the week. And if we put a stone for every crummy thought or bad attitude, every resentment or grudge, every unkind word or look, and every dishonest moment, we would stack up 1,000 chunks of granite each year, wouldn't we? All we have to do is multiply that pile of rocks by the number of birthday candles we had on our last cake, and we'd begin to remember how many times we've displeased our kind Heavenly Father.

4. OMELET WITH BAD EGGS

How great an omelet could you make for the family if you took a dozen eggs but only one of them was rotten?

Since God says that those of us who have told lies will not enter heaven [Rev 21.27]. I don't know about you, but it will be impossible for me to get there. I'm ashamed of those lies, but God's requirements must be met. He makes the laws and the standard He has set is perfection.

5. A BOOK OF MY SINS

Have you ever heard that God keeps track of every good thing we've ever done?
Listen for his answer.

Let's imagine that what I hold in my right hand is a minutely detailed account of my life. It seems God has a book like this in heaven for each of us [Rev 20.12]. It includes every thing I have ever done, every word I've ever spoken, and every thought that has ever crossed my mind. When we stand before Him "the hidden things of darkness will be revealed" [I Cor 4.5], and I'll be ashamed. If I am judged by the things written down, I will be condemned. The punishment for all that sin will send me to hell forever.

But imagine my other hand represents Jesus Christ. The Bible states, **He died for bad people, not good people**. He already paid for all those wicked things I've thought. The punishment for those sins has been placed on Him. If I take this detailed record of my sins out of my right hand and place it in my left hand, it shows what happened when the Father placed the sins of the world on Jesus when He was dying on the Cross.

When we stop trusting in our good works and decide to trust Jesus as our Savior, our sin is placed on Him and His perfection is placed on our record. [II Cor 5.21]. Of course, that is not fair. It isn't fair that somebody else pays for my sin.

6. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BELIEVE FACTS

The Bible says that the demons believe in God [James 2.19]. An intellectual assent to the historicity of these events doesn't save us from hell. We must believe that what He did on the Cross was meant to pay for all the rotten, lousy things we've done in our lives. If we don't see ourselves as wicked people, we cannot have eternal life.