The Path of Enlightenment
Al's Story
(Discipleship Lesson)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

I once thought of myself as a "seeker," having been raised in one of the Christian "-isms," and having had an experience earlier with God as a child. At the onset of puberty that relationship was promptly shelved. During this phase of sex, drugs, and rock and roll, God would occasionally tap me on the shoulder just to remind me that He was still around. When I finally got tired of my role in the dope scene, I realized that I needed Christ in my life but didn't trust anyone who claimed to represent Jesus, having grown up in full view of their "warts." I began to research the alternative god that seemed to be helping some of my friends. Not only could I know this god but, through meditation and good karma, I could become one with him. I was told that I would not die but merely drop my body and return in a new one to continue on the path of enlightenment, eventually evolving into a god-man, knowing all things.

While visiting a friend one day, I noticed a Bible on the coffee table. Since seekers embrace all paths, I turned to page one and began to read. When I reached Genesis 3:4-5 I read, "[4] And the serpent (the devil) said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." This is exactly what I believed yet Scripture recorded it as coming straight from the mouth of Satan! The Holy Spirit at that moment opened the eyes of my heart and pulled me from the jaws of eternal death. I rejected reincarnation at that moment and began reading the New Testament. Eventually I gave my heart back to Jesus and continue to walk in the new life God has given me as His adopted son (1 Jn. 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not").

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read Romans 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The wages, that is, the pay back, for sin is _____.

2. Read James 2:26. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." What kind of death is described in this verse? _____.

3. Read Ephesians 2:1-3 (especially verse 1). "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." What kind of death is described in these verses? _____.

4. Read Revelation 20:12-15 (especially verse 14). "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." What death is described here? _____.

5. Read John 3:16. "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." What word in John 3:16 best describes the second death or spiritual death? _____.

6. Read John 11:21-25. "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. [22] But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. [23] Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. [24] Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. [25] Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." What two things does Jesus claim to be in John 11:25? _____ and _____.

7. Read John 11:25. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." When a person believes in Christ (entrusts himself to Christ in faith), even if he dies physically, what is he promised? _____.

8. Read Genesis 3:4-5. “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” The same lie that Al believed (in this discipleship lesson), Eve believed also. What was this lie?
   _____.

9. Read John 14:6. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” What is the only way to come to God the Father?
   _____.

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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Compare your answers with the following answers.

1. Read Romans 6:23. The wages, that is, the pay back, for sin is
   Death.

2. Read James 2:26. What kind of death is described in this verse?
   Physical death.

3. Read Ephesians 2:1-3 (especially verse 1). What kind of death is described in these verses?
   Spiritual death, dead in trespasses and sins.

4. Read Revelation 20:12-15 (especially verse 14). What death is described here?
   The second death.

5. Read John 3:16. What word in John 3:16 best describes the second death or spiritual death?
   Perish.

6. Read John 11:21-25. What two things does Jesus claim to be in John 11:25?
   The resurrection and life.

7. Read John 11:25. When a person believes in Christ (entrusts himself to Christ in faith), even if he dies physically, what is he promised?
   That he shall live, that is, He will be resurrected unto eternal life (Jn. 11:24).

8. Read Genesis 3:4-5. The same lie that Al believed (in this discipleship lesson), Eve believed also. What was this lie?
   That they would not die.

9. Read John 14:6. What is the only way to come to God the Father?
   Through Jesus.

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