

A Bottle of Taylor's Port Wine

The Joe Rose Story

(Discipleship Lesson 1)

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

When I was fourteen years old, I stole a bottle of Taylor's port wine from my grandmother's bar, drank it in my bedroom, and then passed out on the floor. My drinking soon progressed to marijuana, and when I was fifteen years old, I tried hash, acid, and many other drugs. Getting drunk and high was my way of gaining acceptance. I knew I could always find somebody to be with and party with if I was getting stoned or wasted. Besides, I liked the way it felt getting buzzed.

I'd get up on the weekend and have to ask one of my friends where we had been the night before because I had blacked out much of the evening. I continued this lifestyle through my twenties, and in 1986, after sixteen years of "just a couple more beers," a failed marriage, and job burnout, I was tired of life and considered suicide.

Is your life a mess too?

Are you unhappy with what's going on in your life right now?

Are you saying, "This is stupid, why am I even reading this?"

Would you like to just take a pill and wake up on the other side?

If you answered "No" to these questions—don't read any further.

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, please continue reading.

I met a man named Brooks, who told me how God had helped him many years ago to overcome personal failures in his life. He asked me if I was saved. I asked, "Saved from what?" He then asked me if I believed in heaven. I answered, "Yes." He asked, "Are you going there and why?" I answered, "Yes, because I am basically a good person and never killed anyone."

He explained to me that the problems I was facing in my life were only symptoms of a greater problem. This greater problem was that I was a sinner and not in touch with God. I was spiritually dead and, as a result, I kept making mistake after mistake in my life. Brooks explained that Jesus says I need to be born again and come into friendship with Him. Accepting Jesus as my Savior, and repenting from my sins, is the only way I will get to heaven (John 14:6; 3:3 "[6] Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." [3] Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God").

I thought that he was a fanatic, and I would leave in a couple of days (I was staying with him while looking for a place of my own). But the more he talked, the more I realized that the things I saw as my problems were really only symptoms of a greater problem—**THAT I NEEDED JESUS IN MY LIFE.** I needed to be born again. I decided to call on Jesus, and accept Him as my Lord and Savior, and then I was born again.

Once I called on Jesus as my Savior, a funny thing happened. God removed the desire for alcohol and drugs from my life. I felt like I had been a slave to drugs and alcohol for seventeen years, and now, because of Jesus, I was free from this bondage. I have lived in this freedom for eleven years.

Friend, if you have problems in your life that are stopping you from moving forward, if you are considering suicide, if you are burned out in your job, marriage, of life in general, please consider calling on Jesus, and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior.

He desires for you to receive God's forgiveness and eternal life with Him.

All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved
(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. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [13] For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved").

A Bottle of Taylor's Port Wine The Joe Rose Story (Discipleship Questions)

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

1. What was the question that Brooks asked Joe?

2. Why did Joe think he was going to heaven?

3. Was his thinking correct? _____ Why or why not?

4. What did Brooks say was Joe's real problem?

5. Brooks told Joe that the only way to get to heaven was by (underline one)

- a. Keeping the Ten Commandments.
- b. Accepting Jesus as his Savior and repenting of his sins.
- c. Not committing adultery.
- d. Going to church.

6. Read Acts 8:18-22. *“And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, [19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. [20] But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. [21] Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. [22] Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”* What two things was Simon the sorcerer told to do about his sins?

1. _____

2. _____

7. Joe realized that he needed Jesus in his life. How does 1 John 5:11-12 describe this? *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*

8. Do you have Christ living within you? _____

9. Read Romans 8:9. *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”* What does Romans 8:9 say that you must have in order to be a true Christian?

10. Read Acts 11:18. *“When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* When the Apostle Peter told the Jewish Christians that the Gentiles had received God’s Spirit, what did they conclude had happened to these Gentiles?

11. What do you think it means to “repent”?

12. Read Luke 18:13. *“And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.”* How was repentance expressed by the publican (tax collector) in Luke 18:13?

13. Read Acts 10:48. *“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”* After a person repents and puts faith in Christ to save them, what should be the next step that they take?

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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. What was the question that Brooks asked Joe? **He asked him if he was saved.**
2. Why did Joe think he was going to heaven?
Because he thought he was basically good and never killed anyone.
3. Was his thinking correct? **No.** Why or why not?
Because to stand before God you must be righteous and we've all sinned and come short of the glory of God. By receiving the good news of the gospel, we come to see that God gives us His own righteousness as a gift. See Romans 5:17.
4. What did Brooks say was Joe's real problem?
That he was a sinner, spiritually dead and not in touch with God.
5. Brooks told Joe that the only way to get to heaven was by (underline one)
 - a. Keeping the Ten Commandments.
 - b. Accepting Jesus as his Savior and repenting of his sins.**
 - c. Not committing adultery.
 - d. Going to church.
6. Read Acts 8:18-22. What two things was Simon the sorcerer told to do about his sins?
 1. Repent, i.e. turn from his wickedness
 - 2. Ask God for forgiveness.**
7. Joe realized that he needed Jesus in his life. How does 1 John 5:11-12 describe this?
Spiritual life is in Jesus. To have Jesus in your life is to have spiritual life (be in touch with God); to not have Jesus is to be spiritually dead (separated from God's life).
8. Do you have Christ living within you? _____
9. Read Romans 8:9. What does Romans 8:9 say that you must have in order to be a true Christian?
The Spirit of Christ living in you.
10. Read Acts 11:18. When the Apostle Peter told the Jewish Christians that the Gentiles had received God's Spirit, what did they conclude had happened to these Gentiles?
That God had granted them repentance resulting in their receiving eternal life.

11. What do you think it means to “repent”?
To turn or return to God. To have a change of heart that results in following God and asking for His forgiveness and mercy.
12. Read Luke 18:13. How was repentance expressed by the publican (tax collector) in Luke 18:13?
It was expressed by crying from his heart, “God be merciful to me a sinner.”
13. Read Acts 10:48. After a person repents and puts faith in Christ to save them, what should be the next step that they take? **They should be baptized.**

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