

# BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

## E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

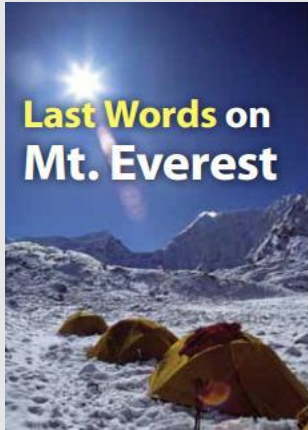
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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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### It was Shriya Shah-Klorfine's lifelong dream to reach the summit of the planet's tallest peak.

For two years she prepared for her climb. Carrying a 20 kg backpack, she ran 19 km a day on trails and hills near her home. She also took karate, cardiovascular exercises and rock climbing seriously.

In 2012, with her lifelong goal in sight, she mortgaged her home to raise money to cover the costs of her expedition. It must have been an exhilarating moment when Shriya reached the summit of Mt. Everest, but tragedy was soon to strike.

The mountain was crowded with climbers, causing delays in the dangerous region known as the 'death zone'. The delay, coupled with a sudden storm and trouble with her oxygen supply, took its toll on the 33-year-old Canadian climber.

On her descent, just 250 metres from Camp Four, Shriya perished. Her last words, "Save me," headlined news stories around the world. She had realized that she wouldn't make it unless someone else was able to save her.

In a spiritual context, those same two words "save me" have great significance.

Totally unrelated to this story, but relevant to people on the spiritual journey of life, this cry for help makes the difference between perishing and being saved spiritually.

Tragically, many well-intentioned people add up the positives in their lives, hoping they outweigh the negatives. They factor in their religion, their acts of charity and their deeds of kindness. Connecting all the dots, their lives seem to be pointing upwards and they are hopeful of reaching the summit – Heaven.

***The reality is no one can successfully reach the summit alone.***

Sin has disqualified and fundamentally compromised the ability of anyone on earth to be accepted by God based on their own ability or their own record.

God's Word is unmistakable. All have sinned and all, without exception, fall below God's standard of righteousness (**Romans 3:23**). Have you realized that spiritually you are perishing because of your sins? **Romans 6:23** says: "The wages of sin is death." If you linger too long in your sins in the 'death zone', you will perish. There is no reason why your story should have a tragic ending. Your immediate response should be: "If that's the reality, then I need to be saved. Lord, save me!" Not only is the Lord **near** to save you from your sins and from going to a lost Hell, but He **wants** to save you; and better still, He is able. Could the Lord Jesus Christ have expressed His love for you in stronger terms than by dying on the cross and taking the punishment that you deserve? Via Magazine



***He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36***



## THE BRAZEN SERPENT

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:14,15)

This is the second "must" in the third chapter of John. If man must be born again in order to see and enter the kingdom of God (v. 7), the Son of Man must be lifted up so that man—who is dead in trespasses and sin, and destitute of eternal life—may receive such life and not perish.

The incident in the wilderness, with Moses lifting up the brazen serpent, foreshadows the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross.

In **Numbers 21:4–9** we see that God had sent fiery serpents into the camp of Israel as a judgment. The bite of these serpents was deadly. But when the people cried "We have sinned," God provided a remedy. He told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it upon a pole. Whenever an Israelite was bitten, if he would look at the brazen serpent, he would live. The condition in the camp of Israel is a picture of the ravages of sin and the wages of sin, which is death (**Romans 6:23**). Because of the fatal poison of sin, man is spiritually dead.

The use of this incident to illustrate the wonderful truth of redemption manifests the heavenly wisdom of our Lord. It also confirms the typical teaching of Old Testament events, that "All these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition" (1 **Corinthians 10:11**).

The brazen serpent lifted up on a pole is the type of Christ in His sacrificial work on the cross.

That serpent was the very image of what was destroying the Israelites, but the brazen serpent had no poisonous fangs. There was no poison in it, and though it bore the likeness of the serpent, it was in fact the source of life.

Thus the Son of God appeared in the form of man, in the likeness of sinful flesh (**Romans 8:3**), but He was without sin; He knew no sin. When He was lifted up on the cross, He was made sin for us, and by the offering of Himself for sin, He put away sin and became the source of our salvation.

Looking up to the brazen serpent, the Israelite saw that the very thing which had put death and ruin upon them was triumphed over and completely conquered. And so as we look to Christ crucified, made a curse, bearing sin, we see sin judged, condemned, triumphed over, robbed of its power and stripped of its strength.

As the Israelites looked to the brazen serpent, they experienced God's power over that which brought death: "When he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (**Numbers 21:9**). When we turn our eyes to the cross of Calvary, we behold the power of God in salvation. We see ourselves redeemed from the guilt and power of sin; death is ended and life is given – eternal life.

Notice that the death-stricken Israelite was not saved by: –

- *a natural process of improvement*
- *or by a gradual restoration*
- *but by a sudden supernatural manifestation of divine power.*

How blessedly and fully all this foreshadows and illustrates the Gospel of our salvation!

*Christ died for the ungodly, and believing on Him means salvation from eternal judgment and the gift of eternal life.*

*Romans 5:6; John 5:24*

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BELIEVE?

It is the same thing that the Israelites did when in simple faith they accepted God's Word, believed it to be true, and then looked to the brazen serpent on the pole. This is the way of salvation:

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 45:22).

"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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16–18). Arno C. Gaebelein



## DO **YOU** BELIEVE?

➤ **DO YOU BELIEVE?** I think it impossible to overrate the immense importance of the question before you. Life or death, heaven or hell, blessing or cursing, all hinge and turn upon it. He that believeth on Christ is not condemned. He that believeth not shall be damned. If you believe, you are pardoned, justified, accepted in God's sight, and have a title to everlasting life. If you do not believe, you are perishing daily. Your sins are all upon your head, sinking you down to perdition. Every hour you are so much nearer to hell.

➤ **DO YOU BELIEVE?** It matters nothing what others are doing. The question concerns yourself. The folly of other men is no excuse for yours. The loss of heaven will not be less bitter, because you lose it in company. Look at home. Think of your own soul.

➤ **DO YOU BELIEVE?** It is no answer to say, that "you sometimes hope Christ died for you." The Scriptures never tell us to spend our time in doubts and hesitation on that point. We never read of a single case of one who stood still on that ground. Salvation is never made to turn on the question, whether Christ died for a man or not. The turning-point is always set before us as believing.

➤ **DO YOU BELIEVE?** This is the point to which all must come at last, if they would be saved. It will signify little, when we hang on the brink of the grave, what we have professed, and to what denomination we have belonged. All this will sink into nothing, in comparison with the question of this tract. All will be!

➤ **DO YOU BELIEVE?** This is the common mark of all saved souls. all meet on this common ground, if they are true men. On other matters they are often hopelessly disagreed. But in living by faith on Jesus Christ, they are all one.

➤ **DO YOU BELIEVE?** What reason can you give for unbelief, that will bear examination? Life is short and uncertain. Death is sure. Judgment is inevitable. Sin is exceeding sinful. Hell is an awful reality. Christ alone can save you. There is no other name given under heaven, whereby you can be saved. If not saved, the blame will be on your own head. You will not believe! You will not come to Christ, that He may give you life!

Take warning this day. You must either believe on Christ, or perish everlastingly. Rest not till you can give a satisfactory answer to the question before you. Never be satisfied, till you can say, By the grace of God I do believe. J.C. Ryle Extract



# *LIFE FOR A LOOK!*

There is life for a look at the crucified One,  
There is life at this moment for thee;  
Then look, sinner, look unto Him and be saved,  
Unto Him who was nailed to the tree.

## *Refrain*

*Look! look! look and live!*  
*There is life for a look at the crucified One,*  
*There is life at this moment for thee.*

Oh, why was He there as the bearer of sin,  
If on Jesus thy guilt was not laid?  
Oh, why from His side flowed the sin-cleansing  
blood,  
If His dying thy debt has not paid?

## *Refrain*

It is not thy tears of repentance or prayers,  
But the blood, that atones for the soul;  
On Him, then, who shed it, thou mayest at once  
Thy weight of iniquities roll.

## *Refrain*

Then doubt not thy welcome, since God has  
declared  
There remaineth no more to be done;  
That once in the end of the world He appeared,  
And completed the work He begun.

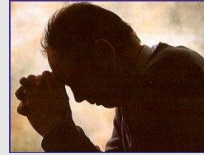
## *Refrain*

Then take with rejoicing from Jesus at once  
The life everlasting He gives;  
And know with assurance thou never canst die,  
Since Jesus, thy righteousness, lives.

## *Refrain*

Amelia M. Hull

## POINT TO PONDER



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*is not condemned*: but he that  
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John 3:18

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