

*But to him who does not work but believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. – Romans 4:5*

A pastor was in his study one day when a man appeared at his door. After serving five years in prison, this man had been released from jail. Unfortunately, he had already been implicated in a robbery that carried with it a maximum sentence of fifteen years.

The man told the pastor that he wanted to *go straight* but couldn't. He went on to say that while listening to a radio broadcast one Sunday morning, he had heard the speaker affirm that change doesn't come by trying harder but by accepting in faith that we have been made new people in Christ because He died on the cross for our sins.

Because he was in prison, he contacted the chaplain and told him that he wanted to become a Christian. The chaplain was at a loss for words. Instead of telling the prisoner to accept by faith Christ's redemptive work, the chaplain said, "Make up your mind to do better and things will change."

The man tried and tried to change his ways but each time he failed. In desperation, had had come to the pastor's office with the simple message, "Help me!"

The pastor shared the message of what Christ had done for him on the cross and then said, "Let us together accept this salvation as a gift." They both knelt down and prayed and a great peace came over the man. God touched him and began the process of changing his life.

Question: God is the key to unlock and heal the many hurts and pains in our lives. But there are so many hurting people in the world. What can we do?