

What's a Makeover?

We've all seen these amazing programmes on the television called makeovers. You know the ones – someone is given a hair stylist, a makeup artist and a fashion designer for the day. The guy or girl comes into the studio wearing sweat pants and a T-shirt, then a few hours later they leave looking like a million dollars.

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When you think about makeovers do you think ...

- a. Wow! I want one. I can't wait.
- b. Yuck. Hate the idea. That's just torture!
- c. Daahling. Give me the tweezers and tongs
– I'll give YOU a makeover – you need one!

I think most of you probably said a or b, but if you said c then I'll try and fit you into my diary!

Some people prefer to be let loose with the brushes, others just enjoy the experience. Still others run a mile from anything resembling a lip gloss!

If you were going to be on the receiving end of a makeover what would you expect to happen?
If someone has a makeover should they:

- a. Look worse than they did? (What! You've got to be kidding right?)
- b. Look pretty much the same as they did?
(Well, what would be the point of that?)
- c. Look totally different, absolutely transformed, and in a mind-boggling, eye-popping way – amazing!

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Well, I think if you had been given the undivided attention of three beauty professionals then yes – c is what you should be expecting. The T.V. makeover programmes are all about the change! They want to swap old-fashioned and scruffy for smart and oh so stylish! The guy or gal receiving the makeover should, at the very least, end up being a bit better looking than they were

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originally. So makeovers are about change and trying to change something for the better.

They sometimes call that a transformation.

Though I wonder ... what would happen if one year down the line the T.V. cameras were to make a surprise return visit to the makeover winner? What would they find? Without a stylist and a designer in their house day in day out, would the makeover last? Would the transformation be a permanent one or not?

Picture this: the cameras and journalists are waiting outside. The door opens. Everyone is anxious to see what the winner of last year's makeover looks like, twelve months on. What would you expect to see?

- a. A fashion icon, shiny and spotless and totally on trend.
- b. Smart clothes, not too fashionista, but not too shabby either.
- c. The sweatpants are back!

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a – is perhaps unrealistic.

b – would be nice.

c – well? Yup. It's quite likely, but if it was early on a Saturday morning I might just let them off!

Does Change Last?

You see that's the thing about change or transformation – it doesn't always last. Change can be permanent or it can be temporary. And pretty much any physical transformation is only ever going to be short term. And it's only ever skin deep, as they say.

There is, however, one change or transformation that is permanent – and it's the only one that really matters. It's when God changes you from the inside out. It's a spiritual transformation. There are lots of words that we use for this. You might have heard of some of them:

Conversion Salvation

Sanctification Justification

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Conversion and salvation are two words that are often used when Christians talk about how God changed their lives. Conversion means that you are changed from one thing to another. So, for example, someone might be a fan of one football team and then later on be converted to following another. Perhaps the new team has been winning more games. However, a spiritual conversion is different. It's not just a change of mind on your part; it's God's work. He converts you. He changes you. You're no longer the sinner who focuses on selfishly following your own way. Instead you are someone who believes and trusts in God.

What's Your Status?

Salvation is the result of conversion. Think about salvation as the status of someone who believes that Jesus died to save them from their sin. On social media you are often asked 'What's your status?' So you give a few words that sum up your morning.

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Your dad's status might be: I need a coffee!

Your brother might say: Football is the best!

What would your status be?

Well, your spiritual status is either saved or not saved. Think about that. What is your spiritual status? Have you asked God to save you?

The type of change that God is interested in lasts more than a few weeks or months. The Bible wants to give you a makeover for eternity. For ever.

Salvation is a forever change – when a sinner who disobeys God and deserves to be punished is changed to someone who is free from the guilt and punishment of sin ... all because of Jesus!

What has Jesus got to do with it? Well, get out your Bible – you're going to need it.

A Famous Bible Verse

We're going to talk about Jesus quite a bit in this book ... so, to start off, let's look at a famous Bible verse – John 3:16.

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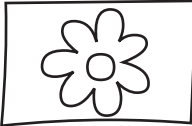
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

This is a quick summary of salvation. It's just twenty-five words and takes you less than a minute to read. But it tells us everything we need to know in a nutshell.

1. Human beings need rescuing. If left to ourselves, we would perish. We are sinners. We are guilty.

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Without God's power and forgiveness we are lost.



Mini Fact: What is 'perish'?

Well, you'll know this if you've been rooting around

at the back of the fridge. Mouldy cucumber, smelly milk ... these have perished. They were meant to be eaten, but now they can't be. There comes a point when a sinner's life has perished. After death there is judgment and unforgiven sinners do not go to heaven; there is no eternal life – it is the opposite. Salvation and forgiveness are only available this side of death and eternity. Destruction and death are the only alternative to God's love and forgiveness. Sinners will perish without God's forgiveness.



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2. Remember that although God hates sin, God loves sinners. His love is so great that he gave his only Son (Jesus) to be born into this world, to live a sinless life and then to take the punishment instead of sinners.

3. Those who believe in Jesus Christ, in the power of his death and resurrection, will not be punished for their sin but given everlasting life.

It's About You

You may not have realised this, but John 3:16 is a verse for you. When it refers to the world it's referring to you (and me). All have sinned – every single human being who has ever lived, except for Jesus. So if you are one of those sinners who has not yet trusted in Jesus Christ, or if you are one of those sinners who has – you are one of 'the world'.

If you haven't trusted in Jesus Christ, there is another word that describes you, and that is 'lost'. Someone who goes for a mountain trek without a map and a compass is usually thoroughly lost



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by the end of the day. Dogs, mountaineers and helicopters will probably be involved! When you are lost you need to be rescued. And someone who is without God's forgiveness is spiritually lost. The rescue plan required is God's rescue plan – Jesus. That rescue plan took place on the cross when Jesus died in the place of sinners. That is the story of salvation, and the story of salvation continues in you, if you turn away from sin and trust in Jesus.

Mirror, Mirror on the Page

So, it's a fact; you need a spiritual transformation – a Bible makeover. Day by day, God wants you to be more like Jesus. And one of the best places to start a Bible makeover is – ta da – in the Bible of course!

Just as every person needs a mirror before they start their make up, you need to read God's Word so you can get the basics sorted. The Bible gives you all the information you need to see what you

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are really like inside. And that's the important part of you – the part that really matters – your soul. Your soul either loves God or it doesn't. It either believes in God and what he says or it doesn't. And the soul that loves and believes in God is beautiful. Truly and eternally beautiful.

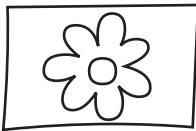
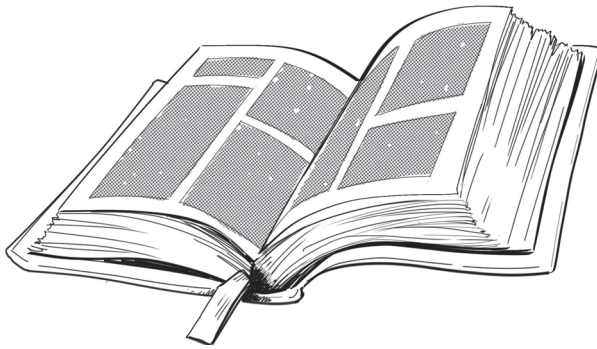
Left on its own, your soul isn't beautiful because it is devoted to itself and its evil desires. You need a spiritual makeover because without that you are lost. But here's a thing – you might get the wrong end of the stick with that word 'lost'. It doesn't mean that God has mislaid you or doesn't know where you are. He knows everything about you! You can't hide anything from the all-knowing God. But when you are spiritually lost, it means that you don't know where you are and that you don't know you need God. When you are lost it's because *you've* messed up – not God.

Now the only one who can help you in this terrible situation is God. There is only one way

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for your soul to be truly transformed and that is through God's power and God's Word. Reading the Bible, thinking about it, praying to God that he will help you understand it and follow it are important areas in your spiritual life.

But why is a spiritual transformation even necessary? Well, the next chapter will go into that.



Read More: Romans 3:23;

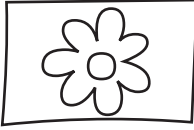
Luke 1: 30-33; Romans 8:32-34;

Luke 23: 44-47; Luke 24:1-12;

Acts 10: 34-43; Isaiah 59:1-2;

Ezekiel 18:4; Ephesians 2:4-5.

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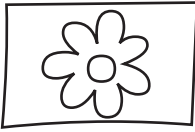


Think About Jesus: You've just read some verses from Isaiah chapter 59.

These tell us that sin separates us from God. But further on in the chapter we read in verse 20: *A Redeemer will come ... to those who turn from transgression.* This redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ. To redeem something means that it is bought back. God, who is our creator, has bought or brought back sinners to himself by forgiving their sins. It is through his Son's sacrifice that our sin has been forgiven.



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Makeover Tip: The essential thing to realise is that you can't do this makeover yourself. We human

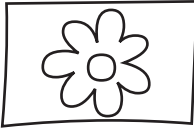
beings aren't able to change our spiritual life and we aren't even willing to do it. On our own we love sin and do not love God. But God demands holiness (perfect obedience). He hates sin. We can't obey God by ourselves. Who is to blame for this horrific situation? Well – we are!

Adam and Eve may have been the first people to sin, but we all choose to continue to sin day in, day out. We're responsible for our own problems.

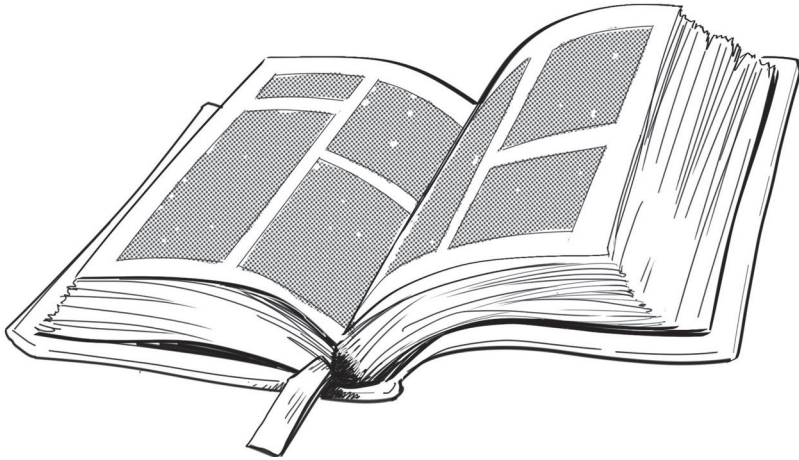
Just because you were born a sinner and can't obey God doesn't give you an excuse to just keep on sinning, doing what you want and not what God wants. God has given you choices. Sinners still have the choice to read God's Word, to listen to the Bible being read, to go to church, but often they choose other things instead of God. You need to cry out to God for help so that

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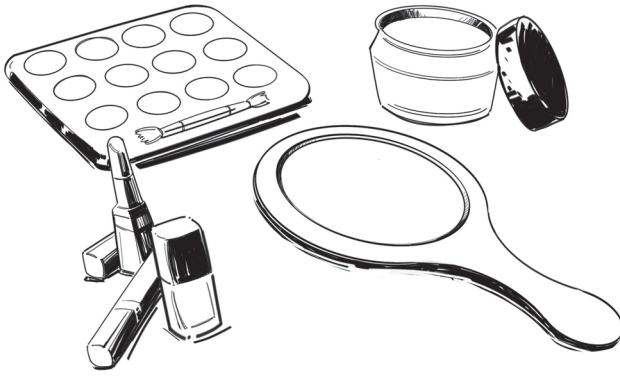
he will make you really concerned about your sin. Beg him for help. Sin is a disease and it is deadly. Only God can break its power over you.



Wonderful Women: We're going to focus on a few different Bible women in these sections. But for now the woman or girl I'm going to mention here is you – you are wonderful. Maybe you realise that already. 'I'm great. An all rounder. Nothing phases me.' Fab! But did you know that you are wonderful



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because God made you? And he made you to love him. That should be your function. Your chief aim in life. God made humanity to love and honour him, but sin has spoiled it all. God has the answer though. You must come to him. Talk to God and ask him to help you believe in him, to trust in him and love him. Bring your sin to him and ask him for forgiveness. Because of what Jesus did by dying in the place of sinners, forgiveness is free. Don't forget though, it cost Jesus dearly. He gave his life, he took sin's guilt so that his people could live guilt-free for ever.