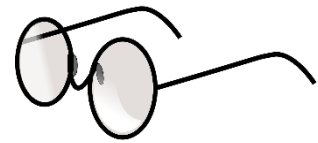
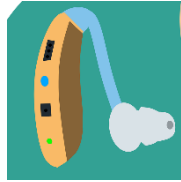


Have you ever spent hours fixing a jig-saw puzzle, only to find that there is one piece missing when you have used up all of the available pieces? We had a game of ludo and if one of the counters was missing we used a button to replace the missing counter. If a card was missing from our very old much-used pack of cards, then we cut a piece of card to the right size and drew on the appropriate picture etc.. A missing piece from a jig-saw puzzle is totally different as there is nothing at all that can be done that will fit into the funny shape that the missing piece should occupy. I am into craft but never even attempted to try and cut a piece of card to fit into that particular spot. The thing is, even if there is only one piece missing then the picture is spoilt and incomplete.



For most parts of our physical bodies stitches or bits of plastic can replace the parts that have been damaged or are not working properly. We have glasses, hearing aids, false teeth, pace-makers, stents and knee and hip replacements. What about the spirit part of us? There is a 'God-spot' inside our spirits that can only be filled satisfactorily by God. Like the missing spot in the jig-saw, no button or piece of card can complete the picture of our lives. If that God-spot is not occupied by God, then we try and obtain a spiritual satisfaction in our lives by attempting to fit something else into that unique shaped spot.



How do we satisfy our deep-down desire for spiritual completeness?

There are many things that are explored in order to try and give us a happiness and peace for which each of us long. Here are some that I can think of and I am sure that you are able to add to the list. Drugs, alcohol,



sex, sport, music, computer games, dancing and gardening. Some of these things (Not all) are fine in themselves, are good as hobbies and give us pleasure for a while, but none of them can fit into that spiritual God-spot that is only intended to be occupied by a relationship with God. None of them give a lasting pleasure no matter how much of our time is absorbed by them.

How is it possible to fill this God-spot?

Well, there is only one way. If we admit that we have done wrong in our lives in some way or other, believe that Jesus died in order that we can be forgiven for those wrongs and accept Him into our lives, then we have begun to occupy that God-spot in our spirits. We may not fully understand how this works, but it is the way that God has made possible for each of us to have a relationship with Him. He is a Holy God so it is only by His forgiveness giving us a 'clean slate' that we are able to come into His presence and be able to communicate with Him.

John 3;16. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.'

Does this one decision by us mean that the God-spot is completely filled and that we can then continue as we were before? I would say not. We have picked up the piece and started to put it into place. With the jig-saw piece we sometimes have to turn it around and move it into a different position in our hands to make it fit. This is the same when we become a Christian; we have to learn how God wants us to be and what He wants us to do. As we pray and read our Bibles each day then we will gradually become the people whom God meant us to be. Other things may be hobbies or interests but will no longer have the central place in our lives that they once had.



When the God-spot in our lives is occupied by God, this gives us a deep-down satisfaction that nothing else can give. God becomes Number 1. I am not saying that everything else has to be abandoned, but that our priorities change, which of course, sometimes means that there can be a major shift as to how we spend our time. We still have our families, jobs and homes to see to – and rightly so – but the importance of their positions changes.



The crazy thing about the God-spot is that many people do not even realise that it is there, but are inevitably trying to fill it anyway with other things. If we fill our bodies with crisps and chocolates, they may taste very nice and in moderation are fine, but they do not replace the nutrition of the fruit and vegetables that we need to be healthy. If God is not in our God-spot then it is being filled up with the equivalent of crisps and chocolates – Nice but rubbish!

If we think about what Jesus did in order that we can receive forgiveness, believe it and accept Him into our lives, then we can start to put that missing piece into place.

