



When the G3 network was removed recently it meant that my little mobile no longer worked and I needed to purchase another phone. I decided that I might as well go for a smart phone. My son purchased one for me, spent two hours part-setting it up, said that there was more that needed doing and left me to try it out. I settled down on the settee with the little 70 page instruction book, intending to retain as much as I could manage to remember. When I opened the booklet, 60 pages were in languages other than English. It said how to unbox it, insert the SIM card and charge it. It included safety instruction, care and maintenance and copyright, but, guess what – **NO INSTRUCTIONS** on how to actually use it. How **SMART** is that???

I had to resort to pressing the various icons to see what happened. Sometimes there were pings or beeps and sometimes I did not know how to get back to the start again.



Ping Beep  *Beep Ping*



When I had my first phone it took about 5 seconds to set it up. No instruction booklet was needed; all I had to do was to plug it in and poke my finger in the little round holes in the dial to make a call. Much smarter! I would think that my generation has probably seen more advances in technology than any other generation. I am afraid that technology changes so fast that some of us Senior Citizens are unable to keep up.

This all took my mind to a verse in the Bible that reads:-

‘Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.’
(Hebrews 13:8)

When Jesus died on the cross 2,000 years ago He made salvation available to us all ever since. Nothing has changed. Cultures change over the centuries with a variety of changes in clothes, transport, leaders, rules and regulations, but Jesus and what He did for us remains exactly the same. There is no new technology concerning what He did. No regular updates are needed. We do not need a SIM card, batteries or charging to access Him; all we need is the same three words that have remained unchanged over the last 2,000 years:- **‘JESUS SAVE ME’**. In today’s world we have mobile phones that are amazing in their variety of uses, electric cars that do not need drivers, aeroplanes that carry hundreds of passengers and tumble washer/dryers that have replaced dolly pegs and mangles. How very perceptive of God to think of a plan of salvation that stays exactly the same regardless of the many advances that have been made in our world over the years. What a simple instruction. Available to all ages and nationalities, not dependent on education or position. How **SMART** is that? Much better than a 70 page instruction book with no instructions! God has made it so easy for us to be able to access Heaven at the end of our earthly lives.

I am not suggesting that it was easy for Jesus to allow Himself to be put to death on the cross. What a terrible decision He had to make, yet He knew that was His destiny; He knew that was the plan of God the Father. **God's unique Plan.** He knew that by that one act He was paying the price for all of our wrongdoing and enabling us to receive the forgiveness of a Heavenly Father. The God who created every one of us loves us so much and has the desire for us all to have a relationship with Himself. He did not want to make it too difficult for us to come to Him but wanted a once-for-all simple plan that would be completely suitable for everyone. Would we be able to think of a better idea? Would we be able to think of a different way of making it available to us? Do you realize that God's plan is absolutely perfect and does not rely on anything else that might be thought of or invented. Of course, that is why He is God! He does not need all of our clever inventions and ideas, He just wants us to say, **"Jesus save me."**

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God does not put a limit on the number of folk who come to Him. Our financial situation is totally irrelevant as it is not necessary to set up a Direct Debit, pay by card or make any other kind of payment. Now that is what I call **SMART!** Jesus has already paid the price that is required. God is unchanging. The best plan that has **EVER** been thought about is unchanging and will remain the same until Jesus returns to the earth.



As I have already mentioned, when I had my first phone, all I had to do was to plug it in. Even though that was such a simple action, had I not lifted the plug and plugged it into the electrical socket, it would have been of no use whatsoever. I had to actively do something to make it work. It is the same with our salvation. The means of access have been provided but we have to actively do something in order to avail ourselves of what God has provided. We have to ask Jesus to come into our lives, to submit our lives to Him in order that God's plan for us can be fulfilled. Simple.

No action = No salvation

Plug into the socket Be SMART

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