



When God shows up ...
a city can be saved.

ONLY ONE EXPLANATION

The city of Birmingham, Alabama, became known as “Bombingham,” after suffering over fifty bombings since 1947, due to racial tension.

Martin Luther King called Birmingham “the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States.”

On June 11, 1963, Governor George Wallace stood in the doorway of The University of Alabama, vowing that the school would never integrate.

Amid much controversy, Alabama football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant invited USC’s fully integrated team to play in Birmingham on September 12, 1970.

Tandy Gerelds, the head coach at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham at the height of the segregation and bussing battle, reflects, “If you’d have asked me in 1973 if I believed in miracles, I’d a-said, ‘Absolutely not.’ I’d a-told you that it’s a brutal world out there and my only comfort in it is that I am the master of my own fate. I’m the captain of my soul. Some people call what happened here in Birmingham a miracle. And there is only one explanation; only one way any of this could have happened.”

We humans are contradictory creatures when you consider we want so desperately to believe in something or someone bigger than ourselves, yet are so doubting and distrusting all at the same time. Literally, walking contradictions.

The one thing no one can argue or debate is a life God has forever changed. Living proof is hard to explain away when, as Coach Gerelds declared, there is “only one explanation.”

When anyone asked the apostle Paul to explain what happened in his life he might have also said, “There is only one way any of this could have happened.” When Paul was still Saul, he was not only the master of his own fate, but had taken it upon himself to decide the fate of many others as well. Imagine Ananias’ crisis of belief when God told him to go find Saul of Tarsus—the murderer of Christians—to pray for him and his healing.

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to those who are not Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized (Acts 9:15–18 NCV).

It’s funny how we don’t believe in miracles, until we experience one; how we question if God is real, until we cannot possibly deny His presence; and how we believe we are the master of our own fate, until we are backed into a corner with no answers.

If today your soul feels there has to be a deeper purpose to life, here’s the good news: You long for truth, you have a sense of something more—because there is! Reading these words is not

just random chance. Consider it your miracle. Today, you can meet the Jesus of the Revolution, the real Captain of your soul.

Christ didn't wait for you to come to Him. He died for your sin—disobedience to God—so that you wouldn't have to. He offers a home in His heaven, so the relationship you start today can continue forever. He is your “only One Explanation.”

Are you ready for a new beginning? Consider praying this prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for my sin, rising again to defeat death and hell, and for entering into my life to live forever. I surrender to You now. I give my heart, mind, gifts, and talents for You to use as You see fit, from this day forward. Make my life all You want it to be—my “only one Way.”



If you prayed that prayer, in your journal tell God your deepest thoughts in this important moment. Next, tell someone you know about your decision.

If you have prayed a prayer of salvation before, in your journal write down how you came to know Christ. Recalling your moment of salvation can be the fresh start of a new revival for you.