# JESUS' GOSPEL OF GOD'S LOVE

Eva Peck

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Dedicated to our Loving Heavenly Father and my present and future friends in the Divine Love Community.

## Other Books by the Same Author

Divine Reflections in Times and Seasons Divine Reflections in Natural Phenomena Divine Reflections in Living Things Divine Insights from Human Life

Co-author of: Pathway to Life – Through the Holy Scriptures Journey to the Divine Within – Through Silence, Stillness and Simplicity

### **Readers' Comments**

This is the book I've been looking for to share with my Christian friends who are devout students of the Bible. My favorite chapter is Jesus' Life and Message of Salvation as my soul soared with inspiration in the greatness of Jesus' mission on earth as I read it. Eva's balanced, non-denominational understanding is supported by scripture references. Her invitation to experience the silence, stillness and simplicity speaks to me, as does her provoking description of how each individual soul is in a battle between sin and righteousness. Overcoming one's sins and the way to purifying one's soul, finding the greatest Gift of God's Divine Love as Eva has done, is for me, THE most important story worth telling in this world! Eva has done a superb job in describing that the way to personal salvation is through the mighty blessing of receiving the Divine Love, rather than by the vicarious atonement through Jesus' death on the cross.

> ~ Jeanne Fike, Divine Love Sanctuary Foundation, British Columbia, Canada

Eva Peck has given us a gift with her book *Jesus' Gospel of God's Love*. In this articulate, elegantly written book, Eva highlights the central message of the historical

Jesus. She draws on her rich life experiences and her familiarity with many faith traditions and diverse cultures to contextualize the teachings of the Bible in ways that respect its value in transforming the consciousness of many, while recognizing its limitations. Her scholarship allows her to make a clear, seamless argument which reveals that Jesus' ultimate revelation and central teaching is that of God's Love as the way to salvation, the path to God's Kingdom and at-onement with Him. She answers many key spiritual questions and links the principles of quantum physics with spiritual beliefs, showing the compatibility of science with theology. Her book is a great resource both to students of the Bible and those who, like myself, are unfamiliar with its teachings. Her clarity and ease of expression are evidence of Eva's depth of understanding of the subject material. In this book, she shares with us the insights made possible by the spiritual maturity of her own soul. I highly recommend this book!

> ~ Terry Adler, Divine Love Sanctuary Foundation, British Columbia, Canada

Finally there is a book that helps me understand the discrepancies found in the Bible and how to deal with that in my own spiritual journey. The author beautifully describes her spiritual journey as it relates to the Bible and shows how some Bible teachings simply do not make sense when taking into consideration the beliefs of the Hebrew people during the time of Jesus. Furthermore, the author clearly shows that the Bible still contains many wonderful truths which have helped so many people develop a relationship with God. I highly recommend this book to anyone who would like an enlightened understanding of the origin of the Bible and the spiritual treasures that it contains.

> ~ Rev. Dr. Michael Nedbal, Trustee of Foundation Church of Divine Truth, Hawaii, USA

This book is an important document rich in truth. It takes the reader incrementally through a journey of understanding the fundamental concepts which are the building blocks to understanding what Divine Love is. The author does so by effectively weaving biblical and scientific understanding with revelations in the Padgett materials so as to present a viable and comprehensive study of spiritual truth. It is beautifully written and thoughtfully presented. I would heartily recommend this book to anyone be they Christian or otherwise. It presents a powerful alternative to orthodox and outdated Christian thought. It's a firecracker of a book, bound to open the eyes of the most conservative thinker on the subject.

> ~ Al Fike, Divine Love Sanctuary Foundation, British Columbia, Canada

Eva Peck has given the world a gift with the book *Jesus' Gospel of God's Love*. Ms. Peck is a master of biblical knowledge and she puts this knowledge to perfect use as she shows us how important divine revelations received 100 years ago align very well with quotations direct from Scripture. Are there two spiritual paths being presented in the Bible? Is one correct and the other incorrect? Eva Peck discusses these questions, biblical history, and many other spiritual matters in this informative book about Divine Love, Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible and human destiny.

~ Brian M. Holmes, writer and editor, New Jersey, USA

If you're searching for more meaning in your life and a fresh perspective of the Bible, you have found the right book. Eva Peck, with her in-depth knowledge of the Bible and biblical history, will guide you to a hidden treasure that runs through the Bible like a golden thread; hidden but not so to the curious and open minded searcher. This treasure is the greatest gift offered by God in all of His creation. It is His Divine Love. Eva explains how and why this knowledge was hidden after Jesus Christ revealed it to his disciples over 2000 years ago. Seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened. With each turn of the page, Eva opens the door a little more and will set you upon a spiritual journey unlike anything you could have imagined in your wildest dreams. A journey that will take you to the very Kingdom of God and a relationship with your Heavenly Father that will grow so strong that you

will feel Him at the very core of your being, heart and soul. Eva Peck will take your hand and guide you page by page, step by step to this priceless Pearl that Jesus Christ proclaimed – God's peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

~ David Reed, Montana, USA

Eva Peck's interesting and informative book presents a lot of material in such an abbreviated and simplified way that it does not overwhelm the reader. To me, this book can be compared to an artist drawing a picture that is a beautiful masterpiece. Eva's unique background of having belonged to a non-traditional church, coupled with her theological education, as well as writing and editing skills – plus having experienced receiving the Pentecostal shower, has truly equipped her for such a time as this. This book is a perfect example of Eva's ability and spiritual understanding to bridge the gap between the Divine Love community and those coming out of organized religion who can look up to and respect her and her work. I enjoyed the book.

~ Marga McCrady, California, USA

I really like what you wrote. It is a very fast read and is a perfect book for those who are looking beyond the Christian faith for higher truths.

~ Joan Warden, author, California, USA

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## Introduction

We each have unique backgrounds and life experiences shaped to a large degree by when and where we were born, who our parents were, and what circumstances influenced us. These elements have also determined our spiritual journey. This book is in some ways the culmination of my spiritual journey to this point. It shows my latest thinking and what presently resonates with me as the truth of our human potential and destiny. It is presented here in a nutshell for the reader's consideration.

My spiritual journey has been in some ways unique (of course, we all have unique journeys in our own ways), and I believe it has prepared me for where I am now. I spent about 30 years in a non-mainstream exclusive church which had a heavy Bible emphasis, as well as encouraging members to build an individual relationship with God through a discipline of twice daily prayer and daily spiritual reading. The church also felt that it had unique truths (many different from the orthodox beliefs), and hence regarded itself as a notch above other Christians.

After that, over the last two decades, I was led to slowly abandon my exclusive and limited thinking as I was exposed to other groups and ideas – both Christian and of other faiths. It wasn't just an intellectual pursuit for the sake of satisfying curiosity, it was an unmistakable guidance through life's circumstances. With this back-

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ground I was then led (again, no doubt guided) to what this book is about – Jesus' gospel of God's Love.

About a year ago, through a series of what I believe were guided circumstances, I came across a book under the title *Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth*. As I started reading, the information resonated with me. It spoke about God, Jesus, and human salvation from a different angle, and even though it challenged some of the traditional Christian ideas as well as several of my own beliefs, it made a lot of sense.

The book I found led me to confirm from another angle what I had realized before – the Bible contains intertwining ideas from various sources and not all of them correspond to the teachings of Jesus and the early Christians. There is still much truth in the Bible, but being both the inspired Word of God, as well as a compiled, edited and re-edited creation of men, there are errors and inaccuracies.

The book that you are holding in your hands presents in a succinct way what I now see as closer to Jesus' original teaching regarding the Kingdom of God and salvation. More information can be found on my website <u>www.universal-spirituality.net</u>, in the *Notes and Further Reading* at the end of the book (where key Bible verses, superscripted in the text, are quoted and other online reading referenced), as well as in the list of *References*.

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While these concepts are not commonly believed and taught by Christian ministers, it is definitely one of the several threads running through the New Testament as is shown in Chapter 9. It has, however, been somewhat lost among other threads and concepts introduced in the selecting, copying and editing processes of the early manuscripts which took place in compiling the biblical canon.

Let's start by exploring the history and nature of the Bible and the development of Christianity. We'll then look at the nature of God, nature of humanity, the afterlife, and the way to achieve our maximum human potential and immortality – in other words, salvation. (Note that for simplicity, God is referred to by the pronoun He, but it is understood that God is genderless and can be regarded as both our Heavenly Father and Mother.)

I believe that you'll find this book an interesting, enriching, and potentially life-changing journey.

Eva Peck, June, 2015

## **Chapter 1: The Bible and Development of Christianity**

#### The Bible as the Word of God

Many Christians believe that the Holy Scriptures, or the Bible, are the inspired Word of God in written form. The Scriptures can be viewed as divine communication or self-disclosure to humanity. They identify God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and are an invitation to a relationship with this transcendent Being. They include information unattainable through science or reason, addressing life's ultimate questions, such as the purpose of life and the hereafter.

However, the Bible is not literally the Word of God – its contents weren't just dictated by God for individuals to write down word for word. Nevertheless, the book expresses, sometimes in metaphor or in the words of human instruments reflecting their culture and personality, God's past, present and future actions.

God-given inspiration is affirmed in the pages of the Bible itself. Phrases such as "the word of the Lord came to me" appear numerous times and indicate that some of the Old Testament writers knew that they were commissioned by God to write what they did. New Testament writers affirmed the inspiration of the Old Testament writings – the only Scriptures they had – referring to them as the words of God pertaining to historical and prehistoric realities (for example, 1 Kings 12:22; Jer.  $18:5^{(1)}$ ; Hebr.  $11:7^{(2)}$ ).

Jesus too affirmed the divine inspiration and authority of the Old Testament. Calling the Scriptures the "word that comes from the mouth of God", he quoted various passages to refer to himself and to predict his death, burial, and resurrection. He also spoke about significant events and persons mentioned in the Old Testament as past realities. After his resurrection, Jesus used Scriptures to show his disillusioned disciples that he was indeed the prophesied Messiah (for example, Matt. 4:4; Luke 17:26-27; 24:13-27<sup>(3)</sup>).

Because of the limitations of language and the incompatibility language between as а human phenomenon and God as Divine Spirit, some have suggested exploring the term "Word of God" as also metaphorical. This allows many concepts to have both a literal and metaphorical meaning, and to be interpreted at several levels. It makes room for imagination to search for depths of meaning beyond the literal. As a result, it enables a range of interpretations and insights, which are also influenced by the understanding, experiences, and prejudices that readers bring to their Bible reading and study. The Holy Bible, like other spiritual writings, remains a living word for people around the world -atreasure chest with endless possibilities of new discoveries.

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