

Too Good to be True?

“HOW could you fall for that?” exclaimed Susan’s mother. “I’ve told you: if it seems too good to be true it is too good to be true! There are warnings about those scams. I thought you had grown out of fairy tales.” Susan had been shopping on the internet and had claimed an attractive ‘free’ voucher, without realising that in so doing she had initiated a monthly payment to the company.

Most of us like a bargain, especially getting ‘something for nothing’. But there is the well-known saying ‘no such thing as a free lunch’. However, there is one offer which is free, truly amazing and absolutely genuine.

God offers us eternal life. This is not simply an extension of life as we know it, with its mixtures of pain and pleasure. It is an opportunity to serve Him in idyllic conditions, with no negative aspects, and even to share His divine nature (2 Peter 1:3–4). The offer is for us to be like the resurrected and immortal Jesus. Moreover, we have to do very little to accept this offer – it is described as a gift.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8–9).

God’s grace is the offer of that ‘free gift’, and part of the faith God requires is for us to believe that it is true.

We are told to believe the gospel, repent and be baptised and then to follow Jesus (Mark 16:16, Acts 20:21). This offer is beyond our wildest dreams. By ourselves we could not imagine what it will be like, but God has told us in His words in the Bible.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9–10).

This offer is all the more amazing because we are by nature enemies of God (Colossians 1:21), but He does not want us to perish (2 Peter 3:9). The Bible instructs us what to do and warns us about taking no notice (Acts 17:30–31).

The choice, however, is ours. It is an offer, not an obligation. Susan had the choice to read terms and conditions and to ignore the voucher; we have the choice to read the Bible and to accept or reject God’s offer. The promised life is not a fairy tale. But many genuine offers have time limits. One day – when Jesus comes back – it may be too late to respond.

God’s free offer may seem too good to be true, but it is genuine and we still have time to accept it.

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