

THE REAL GOAL



**GREAT HAND-EYE COORDINATION IS
AMAZING TO WATCH. HOW DO SOME PLAYERS
MANAGE TO PLACE THE BALL IN EXACTLY
THE RIGHT SPOT WHILE UNDER INTENSE
PRESSURE FROM THE OPPOSITION?**

Everyone admires the talent, skill and mastery of athletes who make the incredible look easy. Where did their abilities come from? It's design, not chance. You are a creation, not an accident.



The eye sees through 12 million tiny light receivers to precisely follow moving objects. Light is focussed through the cornea, to the pupil, which varies the width of a light beam, depending on brightness. Then the retina, with 130 photosensitive rods and seven million colour sensitive cones, creates an upside down image. Each eye sends slightly different information to the brain, which blends the two images and turns them right way up. A player can then calculate the exact location of objects and react accordingly.

The human thumb is the most unique digit on the hand. It's opposable, which means it can push toward or pull away from one or all the fingers. The saddle joint between the thumb and wrist allows complete rotation. It gives the hand the power to grasp. A thumb's complex linking of forearm muscles, nerves, ligaments, bones and joints allows an athlete to throw, tweak and grip. The human body is an amazing creation.

The Bible tells us we are created for a purpose – to have a relationship with God forever, in harmony with each other, caring for the world around us, and using our God-given creativity and talents. 'Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of... all the earth... And God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.'¹

'WE KNOW THAT WE ARE NOT PERFECT'

In the beginning, humanity was 'supremely good'. But if we're honest with ourselves, we know that we're not perfect. From the start, people have fallen out of this close relationship with God, to go their own way. 'All have sinned and fall short of God's

glory.'² This sin has led to the corruption of every part of God's world, and separates us from him. 'The wages that sin pays is death...'³ God's solution to the problem of sin and death was to send his son, Jesus Christ. '...God's gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'⁴ He came as a real person like you and me, except that he did everything out of unselfish perfect love, refusing to give in to sin.

Jesus spoke of a new world, restored through love. He demonstrated what the new world would be like, and made it possible, through his teaching and actions. Jesus was crucified for his stand. 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us.'⁵ When he died, he took on himself all the sin, corruption, and evil of every person, and the world. He died for our sins, to set us free and restore our relationship with God.

Because he was perfect, unlike all other people who cannot escape death, the power of death was unable to hold him. He rose from the dead – the first of a new humanity, a new creation, a new world. 'For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...'¹⁶ Without Jesus, the sins that we all commit will ultimately lead to death. That's why we need to put our trust in him.

He offers everyone eternal life with him beginning now. In the present it means accepting God's invitation to enter into relationship with Jesus Christ and living as we were always intended to live – in partnership with God to restore everything to the way God wants it to be.

**'HE
OFFERS
EVERYONE
ETERNAL
LIFE'**

For this new life to begin, a person has to accept God's invitation and acknowledge the sin that has broken their relationship with him. They have to accept Jesus, the Son of God, as the one who can save them from their sins and show them a better way to live. This means accepting that Jesus died in our place and paid for our sin, and that he rose from the dead.

'If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'⁷ When we do, God pours into our hearts his own being, his Spirit, and transforms us on the inside. Then we begin to

**'...DRAWS
YOU INTO HIS
MISSION...'**

live a new life. 'To as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name.'⁸

When you say 'yes' to God, and live as a follower of Jesus Christ, he draws you into his mission to invite others onto the same journey, and to transform the part of the world where you live. Once your time on earth is finished, he promises that you will go to live with him forever.

If you can see that you need Jesus and want to follow him, if you want to be the person that God designed you to be, here's a short prayer you can say to start a new relationship with God:

God, I know I need your help. I believe that Jesus is God and that he died in my place. I accept him as my Saviour and Lord and ask your forgiveness for my sin. I give you my life and accept your invitation to work with you and for you to live as a follower of Jesus. Thank you that you promise to be with me forever, and lead me. Amen.

If you said this prayer, God has come into your life. To grow in your relationship with him, find other Christ followers, pray to God, get a Bible and start reading the New Testament. Find a local Christian church that believes the Bible and meet with other believers.



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- 1: Genesis 1:26, 31
 - 2: Romans 3:23
 - 3: Romans 6:23
 - 4: Romans 6:23
 - 5: Romans 5:8
 - 6: 1 Peter 3:18
 - 7: Romans 10:9-10
 - 8: John 1:12

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