

KEY QUESTIONS

How are YOU going to get to Heaven?

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Missionary at Large

Various religious groups teach that a person's destiny in Heaven is guaranteed by such things as:

- Joining the right Church
- Being of the proper nationality or race
- Baptism
- Marriage in their Temple
- Doing more good deeds than bad deeds
- Worshiping on the right day
- Partaking of communion or mass
- Generous giving to the Church or shrine
- Generously helping the poor and dying
- Various sacraments
- Speaking in tongues
- Praying certain memorized prayers

So what's the truth? According to the Bible, how does a person get to heaven?

NOT BY BEING GOOD ENOUGH TO DESERVE IT.

- "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags..." *Isaiah 6:46*
- "There is none righteous, no, not one." *Romans 3:10*
- "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked..." *Jeremiah 17:9*
- "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all." *James 2:10*

Over and over the Bible passages confirm that we can never, never be good enough or generous enough to *earn* Heaven.

NOT BY RELIGIOUS RITUALS. NOT BY OUR OWN EFFORTS.

Repeatedly, the Bible insists that admittance to Heaven (salvation) depends neither on our own efforts nor on religious rituals.

- "...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." *I John 1:7*

- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *I John 1:9*
- "And He is the propitiation [acceptable sacrifice] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." *I John 2:2*
- "Not by works [deeds] of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us." *Titus 3:5*

NOT BY WATER OF BAPTISM. NOT BY COMMUNION.

- "He...washed us from our sins in His own blood." *Revelation 1:5*
- "...One Lord, one faith, one baptism." *Ephesians 4:5* [Note: All three are spiritual, therefore the *water* of baptism does not save.]
- "I [Paul] thank God that I baptized none of you..." *I Corinthians 1:14* [Was Paul thanking God that he had helped no one get saved?]

See also John 4:2 Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples.

NO OTHER SOURCE BUT JESUS CHRIST.

Only by faith in Jesus Christ can you be saved.

- "...the gospel of Christ...the power of God unto salvation to *everyone* that believeth..." *Romans 1:16*
- "...God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." *Philippians 2:9-11*
- "In whom [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." *Ephesians 1:7 (identical in Colossians 1:14)*

- “...ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ...” *I Peter 1:18-19*
- “Neither is there salvation in *any* other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” *Acts 4:12*

**NO OTHER WAY
BUT GOD'S OWN PLAN.**

The eternal plan of salvation does not depend on political correctness, compromise, ecumenicity, negotiation, or human wisdom. It is strictly God's own plan.

- “...the gospel of God...” *Romans 1:1, 15:16; II Corinthians 11:7; etc.*
- “...the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.” *I John 4:14*
- “I am THE door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...” *John 10:9*
- “I am the Lord, I change not.” *Malachi 3:6*

Nothing we are...nothing we do...no temple, church, mosque, or shrine activities... no social or fraternal organizations...only faith in Christ will get you to Heaven. And any other plan of salvation devised by man makes Christ a liar! He said, “I give unto them eternal life, and they shall **never** perish.” *John 10:28* If we add **anything** to the gospel, we distort it, and come under the curse in *Galatians 1:8-9!*

Jesus declared on the cross: “It is finished!” “For by **grace** [*undeserved, unearned favor*] are ye saved **through faith** [*trust in God*]; and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man [*person*] should boast.” *Ephesians 2:8-9* “...that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but hath everlasting life.” *John 3:16*

DO YOU KNOW GOD?

How can you know *God personally*? Every person's sinful, selfish rebelliousness separates him or her from God. Therefore it is vitally important that each of us must be sorry for our wrongdoing, ask Jesus to forgive us, and to believe that He does!

Consider the following verses that show how each of us comes to know God:

- “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” *Romans 3:23*
- “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...” *Isaiah 64:6*

- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” *I John 1:9* “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” *Romans 10:9-10*
- “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.” *John 3:16-17*

Do you know to “believe on Jesus” means to admit that Jesus is **God**, and to put your trust totally in Him? *Acts 16:31* assures us: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved....”

WHAT YOU DO:

- Agree with God about your wrongdoing and that you need to change. *I John 1:9*
 - Believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and risen Saviour. *Romans 10:9*
 - Receive Jesus Christ into your life. *John 1:12*
- All of this you do on the authority of God's Word—the Bible. YOU do these things because you take God at His Word.

WHAT GOD DOES:

- Jesus Christ becomes your personal Saviour and Lord. *John 3:16*
- Jesus Christ forgives your sins as He said He would in His Word. *I John 1:9*
- You are now His child. *John 1:12*
- You are now a new person. *II Cor. 5:17*
- You now have the Holy Spirit in-dwelling or living inside you. *John 14:16-17*
- You now have eternal life. *I John 5:12*

All of this God does for you because you take Him as His word! You believe God means what He said!

WHAT YOU DO AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS:

1. Read the Bible daily. *Acts 20:32, I Tim. 2:15*
2. Talk to God (pray) every day. *Heb. 4:16, John 16:24*
3. Obey the Bible's teaching. *John 14:23*
4. Tell others about Jesus. *Romans 10:9*