



Do You Know For Sure?

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Do You Know For Sure?

Do you know for sure if you died today, you will have eternal life in Heaven? The Bible says you may know for sure. “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...” (1 Jn. 5:13)

God loves you and created you for a personal relationship. He wants you to love Him as well. “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (Jn. 15:13)

What do you think of a friend like that?

But there is a problem that can keep you from having that relationship. That problem is sin, and we are all guilty. God gave us a free will, and we often choose to follow after sin instead of following God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Ro. 3:23). “But your iniquities have separated you from your God...” (Is. 59:2)

If you are separated from God when you die, you will be separated from Him forever, and the penalty for sin and rejecting Jesus is death in Hell! “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Re. 20:15)

What do you think of that penalty?

That penalty may seem cruel, but to be fair as a holy and just God, He must hold all of us accountable for our sins even though we think we are good. He loves us, but we rejected Him. If you get a speeding ticket, and tell the judge that you are a good person, you would still have to pay the penalty, right? However, God is also a loving heavenly Father, who provided a way

to forgive our sins and give us eternal life.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (Jn. 14:6)

Here is how He did it: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Co. 15:3-4)

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...”. (1 Pe. 3:18)

Can you imagine that the Son of God suffered and died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sins and then rose up out of the grave on the third day in victory over death? Our sins separated us from God, but Jesus willingly died for us to bring us back to Him. However, forgiveness and eternal life won't happen automatically;

you must first believe in Him! “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (Jn.3:16)

Do you believe that Jesus is God’s son, who died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sins?

But you can’t just believe the facts about Jesus; even Satan believes the facts about Him but does not have a trusting relationship with Him. Someone might say, “I believe that Jesus is God’s son and all the other facts about Him, but I’m not really sorry for anything, and I want to do things my way!” “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!” (Ja. 2:19)

It is very important to understand what “believe in Him” really means. Part of the

original Bible was written in Greek. The word believe comes from the Greek word pisteuo, which means to believe the facts about Jesus, and trust in Him with all your heart with an active commitment. That is much different than just believing the facts!
“The Lord redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.” (Ps. 34:22)

Do you think God’s son, Jesus, is trustworthy? Trusting Him is absolutely necessary.

“Believe in Him” also includes repenting, which is a sincere expression of regret for your sins and a desire to turn away from sins and turn to God for His help. God hates sin and He wants us to have the same attitude as He does. After all, it was sin that compelled Jesus to suffer and die on the cross. “Repent,

then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus.” (Ac. 3:19 NIV) “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (Lk. 13:3) “The Lord...saves such as have a contrite spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)

Have you repented of your sins?

If God convicts you of sins after you receive Him as Lord, He will forgive them when you confess them to Him. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn. 1:9)

Finally, “believe in Him” includes calling on Him by faith and receiving Him as Lord and Savior with a commitment to follow

Him. “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Ro. 10:13) “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” (Jn. 1:12). “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish...” (Jn. 10:27-28)

So you must believe that Jesus is God’s son who died on a cross to pay for your sins and rose again; trust Him with all your heart; repent of your sins; invite Him into your life by faith; and receive Him as Lord and Savior with a commitment to follow Him. God will then forgive you and give you eternal life as an amazing gift.

All other world religions claim that you must strictly follow certain traditions or work to earn eternal life, but eternal life is a

precious gift from God, and you can never earn this gift no matter how much you try.

“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.”
(Ep. 2:8-9)

Christians are also different because we worship a living God who rose from the grave! Jesus spent time with His apostles over a period of forty days after He arose, and eleven of them later died as martyrs rather than denying that truth. Jesus also appeared before five hundred people at one time after He arose from the grave.
(1 Co. 15:3-8)

When you receive Jesus as Lord, you will be born again spiritually. “Jesus answered and said to him...’unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” (Jn. 3:3)

As you are born again, the Holy Spirit will enter your body and make you new inside so that you may have a more abundant life. This abundant life is possible only through God's holy presence in you, and that will become most evident as you maintain an awareness of His presence. “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price...” (1 Co. 6:19-20)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ...” (2 Co. 5:17-18) “...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (Jn. 10:10)

Jesus will then want you to live for Him, which is a great way to show love and

appreciation for all He has done and will do for you. "...He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." (2 Co. 5:15)

The best part about Heaven is that you will be with Jesus forever! "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (Jn. 14:2-3)

Jesus is inviting you now to receive Him as Lord and Savior! "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (Re. 3:20)

Do you believe that God loves you and created you for a personal relationship?

Do you believe that Jesus is God's son who died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sins, was buried and rose again?

Do you trust Him with your life?

Do you repent of your sins and will you try avoiding them in the future with His help?

Do you want to call on Him and receive Him as Lord with a commitment to follow Him?

Please don't reject Him again by waiting another day, which may never come!

Pray something like this:

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for loving me! I believe that Jesus is God's son who died on a cross to pay the penalty for my sins and rose again. I trust Him as the Son of God. I regret my sins and want to

turn from them and turn to You for help. Please forgive me. I want Jesus to come into my life, and I want to follow Him. I pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

Now you can know for sure that you have eternal life with Jesus! “...This is the testimony; that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...” (1 Jn. 5:11-13)

- After you make the decision to trust Jesus Christ as leader of your life and become a born-again believer, get baptized as a public acknowledgement of your faith in Him. Baptism through submersion in water is symbolic of dying to your old life of sin and rising to newness of life as Jesus died, was buried, and rose again in victory over death.

- Read the Bible, and pray every day; draw close to God, and seek His direction for life.
- Seek God's strength to help overcome temptations to sin.
- Practice being aware of His presence all the time.
- Attend a good Bible-teaching church regularly, and take discipleship training.
- Seek out a mature Christian mentor.
- Develop Christian friendships.
- Share your faith with others, and serve God as He directs your life.
- Trust God as leader of your life, and trust Him for help with all of the above.

May God bless you richly as you follow Him each day!

