

The parable of the sower

Matthew 13:3b-9 Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

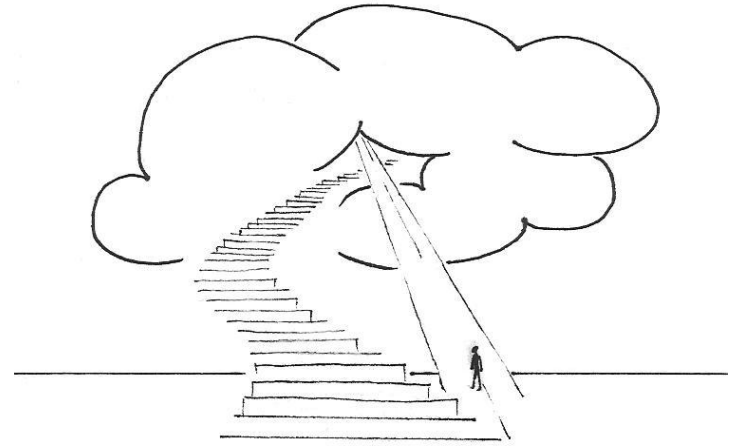
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Are You Going to Heaven?



This Two Question Test
Reveals the Answer

Question 1

Do you believe that you will go to Heaven when you die?

- Yes
- I hope so Continue to page 2
- I'm not sure
- No Flip to page 3

Some final points

3. Now that our fellowship with God is restored, (he will never forsake us) we should spend time each day in prayer talking and listening to him.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

4. Read the Bible. If someone who loved you wrote you a letter, wouldn't you want to read it?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

5. As a new Christian you must beware of cults
Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

As you begin walking with Jesus

1. Become water baptized. Baptism is a public declaration of your faith. (see also Romans 6:5-11)

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 10:32 Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

2. Be sure to fellowship with other Christians. If you hang around unbelievers and are not lifting them up, they are bringing you down.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. Finally, there are no fence sitters.

Luke 11:23 He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathers not with me scatters.

Question #2

Why do you believe this?

- I've tried to keep the 10 commandments (James 2:10)
- I go to church (Titus 3:5)
- I believe in God (James 2:19)
- I'm basically a good person (Romans 3:10-12)
- I've done the best I could (Matthew 22:37-38)
- I've never hurt anyone
- Other reason: _____

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Question #2

Why do you believe this?

- I'm an atheist
- I am an agnostic
(we can't know the answer)
- I do not know what God expects
of me.
- I am not sure that I am good
enough for Heaven
- I do not believe in Heaven
- Other reason: _____

Do you believe this?

If you do believe, your response
should be thankfulness.

A suggested prayer

Lord Jesus . . .

Thank you for your love toward me, and the
sacrifice you made to pay for my sins.

Help me to submit to you and allow you to
take your rightful place as Lord.

Forgive me for my sins and help me to
repent and turn away from everything that
offends you.

Lead and guide me into all truth.

Help me to be counted worthy to stand
before you in that great day.

If you are thankful, God expects you to live worthy of him

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

➤ **He expects you to repent from your sins**

John 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

➤ **He expects you to forgive others**

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

➤ **He expects you not to be ashamed of Jesus**

Matthew 10:33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Test results

This may surprise you, but according to the Bible, none of the answers printed on the previous two pages will get someone into Heaven.

End of test

May I briefly share with you the amazing way that the Bible describes how you can get to Heaven?

The way into Heaven

Are you a good person?

Yes No Sort of

- Have you ever stolen anything?
- Have you ever used the Lord's name in vain?
- Have you ever lied?
- Have you ever disobeyed your parents?
- Have you ever been envious or jealous of a friend?

Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 5:24 Most assuredly, I [Jesus] say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

1st John 5:10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Why did Jesus do it?

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

We are saved by God's ultimate love. If we add good works to for salvation, we insult God by saying his ultimate love is insufficient to save us.

Only the cross can solve all three problems:

➤ **Our relationship to God is restored**

Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

➤ **No one will be boasting of their good works**

Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

➤ **Price for sin is paid**

Isaiah 53:10a Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin.

Our three problems:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

➤ **Our sins have separated us from God.**

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear.

In fact, the just punishment for sin is death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Also see Matthew 12:36-37, Mark 9:44-49, Luke 12:47-48 and Revelation 14:9-11

➤ **God will not lower his standard.**

He would have to compromise to do it, and we would boast about how good we are.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

➤ **God cannot just forgive us our sins.**

A judge is not righteous if the price for our sin is not paid.

Psalms 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.

God's solution was to send Jesus

Who is Jesus?

➤ **Son of God**

Luke 1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

➤ **Creator**

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

➤ **The Anointed One** (Messiah or Christ)

John 20:31 These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

➤ **The Lord**

Philippians 2:10 ... at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth.

What did Jesus do for us?

He took the punishment we deserve upon himself by dying on the cross in our place.

Philippians 2:7-8 [Jesus] made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

In order to be a sin offering Jesus had to be without blemish; he had to live a sinless life.

2nd Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.