
Getting to Heaven From Here

Adapted from
I Want to Go to Heaven When I Die
by Woodrow Kroll

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INTRODUCTION

I want to have my sins forgiven. I want the comfort of the Holy Spirit in my daily life. I want the assurance that when I die, I will go to heaven. But how can I have these things?

Some would say, “Join our church and you’ll be alright.”

Others say, “Just do the best you can. You’ll make it.”

People have so many different opinions. Who’s right?

Don’t be concerned about what others say. If anyone knows, it’s God. What does He say in His Word—the Bible? Let’s look.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:7-8

Just: to be fair and honest

Righteous: innocent, holy, without fault

Love (agape): an unconditional commitment

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.

John 3:16

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Saved: our sins are forgiven and our relationship to God restored

LESSON 1

THE SURE FOUNDATION

The foundation for the Christian life is found in Who God is, not in what He has done. The basis of our salvation lies in God's character reflected in God's actions.

To better understand God's character, select the best answer to each question based on the Scripture verse given.

1. What word best describes God's character? (1 John 4:7-8)

- a. JUST
- b. RIGHTEOUS
- c. LOVE
- d. PATIENT

2. Whom does God love? (John 3:16)

- a. HIS CHOSEN ONES
- b. THE WORLD
- c. REPENTANT SINNERS
- d. SINLESS PEOPLE

3. How has God most vividly demonstrated His love toward us? (Romans 5:8)

- a. BY HIS BEAUTIFUL CREATION
- b. BY PROVIDING FOR ALL OUR NEEDS
- c. BY FORGIVING OUR SINS
- d. BY SENDING HIS SON TO DIE FOR US

4. Because of His love, what is God's deepest desire? (2 Peter 3:9)

- a. THAT ALL BE HAPPY AND HEALTHY
- b. THAT ALL SHOULD BE SAVED
- c. THAT ALL BE KEPT SAFE
- d. THAT ALL REACH THEIR GREATEST POTENTIAL

Beyond the Text: Based on the character of God, what do you think His desire for you might be?

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51:5

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

Sin: to miss the mark, to not reach God's standards for living

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

Sin: to miss the mark, to miss God's standards for living

LESSON 2

THE SIN FACTOR

Man is a sinner, and above all he needs God's love; for without it he will never have forgiveness. And without forgiveness he will never find the peace and security he desires. Sin robs him of that. The Bible describes sin in several different ways. It can mean "to miss the mark," "to transgress a rule" or simply "to fall short of a goal or standard." No one with sin in his life can stand in God's presence (Psalm 24:3-4).

1. When does sin begin? (Psalm 51:5)

- a. WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG
- b. WHEN WE REACH THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
- c. WHEN WE ARE CONCEIVED
- d. WHEN WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN

2. Who is guilty of sin? (Romans 3:23)

- a. THOSE WHO COMMIT MAJOR WRONGS LIKE RAPE AND MURDER
- b. THOSE WHO COMMIT WRONGS WHETHER MAJOR OR MINOR
- c. EVERYONE
- d. EVERYONE BUT CHRISTIANS

3. What if I don't feel like I have sinned? (1 John 1:8)

- a. THEN WE PROBABLY AREN'T
- b. THEN WE ARE DECEIVING OURSELVES
- c. THEN WE ARE NOT SINNING IN A SERIOUS MANNER
- d. THEN WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT

4. What are the consequences of sin? (Romans 6:23)

- a. ETERNAL LIFE
- b. DEATH
- c. SICKNESS
- d. POVERTY

Beyond the Text: Where are you in relationship to the issue of sin and its consequences?

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:9

Righteous: innocent, holy, without fault

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:10

Law: a collection of instructions that come from God

Sabbath: the last day of the week (Saturday), set aside as a day of rest to symbolize the spiritual rest which Christ would bring

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

Faith: an attitude of complete trust

Confess: to agree with God concerning our sin

Repent: to turn away from and move back toward God

LESSON 3

THE SOLUTION FURNISHED

For reasons known only to God, He still loves us in spite of our sinful condition. Our sin, however, is a humanly insurmountable barrier that keeps us from an intimate relationship with Him. So God is faced with a dilemma: He wants intimacy with those He created, but their sinful nature cannot co-exist with His holiness. How can He resolve it?

God's Response

1. How did God choose to resolve this dilemma? (1 John 4:9)

- a. ANIMAL SACRIFICES
- b. GOOD WORKS
- c. RIGHTEOUS LIVING
- d. HIS SON

2. What else is necessary? (Hebrews 10:10)

- a. NOTHING
- b. BAPTISM
- c. OBSERVING THE LAW
- d. KEEPING THE SABBATH

Man's Response

Salvation is entirely the work of God. We contribute nothing to it except for the sin from which we need to be saved. But while we do not add anything to our salvation, we do not sit idly by. We are not just the passive recipients of God's grace; we must actively respond to it.

3. We have seen God's response (grace), but what is man's response? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- a. GOOD WORKS
- b. FAITH
- c. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
- d. BAPTISM

Believe: to accept as true

Receive: to appropriate, to make something your own

4. This response is expressed in a fourfold fashion (select the correct four responses based on the following Scriptures: Romans 10:9, Acts 3:19, Acts 16:31, John 1:12)

- a. CONFESS
- b. GIVE
- c. REPENT
- d. BELIEVE
- e. RECEIVE

Beyond the Text: God has already done His part. What are you going to do about your part?

LESSON 4

OUR ASSURANCE FINALIZED

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, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

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.

Revelation 3:20

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Romans 8:16

Is assurance of salvation possible? Some religious people say that it is impossible for a person to know whether or not he actually possesses eternal life until he dies and stands before God. But is this the Bible's picture? Do the followers of Christ grope through life in darkness and uncertainty, never knowing whether they are saved or lost? Let's see what God's Word says.

1. What purpose did the apostle John give for writing his first letter? (1 John 5:13)

- a. THAT BELIEVERS MIGHT KNOW THEIR CHRISTIAN DUTY
- b. THAT PARENTS MIGHT KNOW HOW TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN
- c. THAT CHRISTIANS MIGHT KNOW HOW TO DEFEND THE FAITH
- d. THAT WE MIGHT KNOW WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

2. This assurance is based on several factors. Select three out of the list below based on the following Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 3:20, Romans 8:16.

- a. CHANGE IN OUR BEHAVIOR
- b. WITNESS OF GOD'S SPIRIT
- c. PROMISE MADE BY JESUS
- d. TESTIMONY OF OTHER BELIEVERS

Beyond the Text: Based on God's Word, you can be saved and know it. In light of this, isn't it time you took care of business with God? Perhaps you've been putting it off for a long time and your delay is eating you up inside. Maybe this is the first time you've thought about what the Bible says, but the Spirit of God is working in your heart and you know it. Isn't it time you responded in faith?

Will you trust Christ Jesus as your Savior? If that's your response, pray this prayer from your heart:

"Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner and I can't save myself. I believe You are the only one who can save me, and right now I trust You as my Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer and have just asked Jesus to become your personal Savior, please tell us about it. Complete the response form below and mail it to the address given below. We would like to send you a Bible reading guide to help you in your spiritual walk.

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YES, I have prayed and asked Jesus Christ into my life as Savior and Lord. I want to learn more about the Christian life. I would like to receive the free booklet, **Ten First Steps for the New Christian** (#08779).

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