

1. COULD GOD REALLY LOVE SOMEONE LIKE ME?

1 John 3:8; Jeremiah 29:11

The Bible says: God is _____. (1 John 4:8) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you...thoughts of _____ and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jer. 29:11)



Note: God doesn't love because of who we are or what we do, but because of who He is. We may be good or evil, but God loves us in spite of behavior. Like a parent, no matter how bad we get, God always loves us. God does not always love what we do, and He can't always save us from the consequences of our actions, but He still loves us and has great plans for us if we will give our lives to Him. So, no matter where you've been or what you've done, God wants you to come as you are, because God doesn't love someone like you. He loves you.

2. IF GOD LOVES EVERYONE, WILL EVERYONE MAKE IT TO HEAVEN?

Matthew 7:13; Luke 13:24

The Bible says: Narrow is the gate and _____ is the way which leads to life, and there are _____ who find it. (Matt. 7:13) Many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (Luke 13:24)

Note: God's love does not remove His justice. If the son of a judge killed a man, the judge could not set him free just because the judge loved them. And just because God loves us does not mean He will let us into heaven if we continue to live in open rebellion. Jesus wants to save everyone, but most people, including many professed believers, will not make it to heaven because they refuse to repent, give up their sins, and surrender their lives to Jesus. Still, Jesus has made full provision for all, even the greatest sinner, to be saved.

3. ISN'T THE HEART GOOD? CAN'T WE TRUST OUR HEART?

Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:19

The Bible says: The heart is _____ above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? (Jer. 17:9). For out of the _____ proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries... (Matt. 15:19)

Note: Many broken hearts can testify that the heart is not always a safe guide. If put in the right circumstances, people will do things they never would have imagined because the heart is deceitful. Our idea of good is not the same as God's idea of good. According to God's standard, even our goodness is not really good (See Isa. 64:6). While we may be good our own eyes, our hearts can deceive us and we won't even know it (See Prov. 21:2). That's why we need Jesus to come into our heart, give us a new heart, and save us.

4. WILL GOD REALLY KEEP SOMEONE OUT OF HEAVEN IF THEY LIVE A GOOD LIFE?

Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16

The Bible says: Therefore by the _____ of the law no flesh will be justified. (Rom. 3:20) A man is not justified by the _____ of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ... (Gal. 2:16)



Note: The problem is the heart. Even if we do good things, our good works do not fix our sinful heart. You can cut bad apples off a tree all day, but they will keep coming back if the root is bad. Trying to save yourself by getting good enough is like trying to get your legs strong enough to jump the Grand Canyon. Impossible. Even if we could get ourselves good enough, our good works could never atone for our past sins any more than good deeds could make up for killing someone's child. Our sins killed Christ. Our only hope for forgiveness and power to change is by getting a new heart (See Ezekiel 18:31).

5. DON'T I JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST TO BE SAVED?

James 2:19

The Bible says: You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the _____—and tremble! (Jas. 2:19)



Note: Simply believing Jesus is God is not what saves a person. The devil and his angels believe that Jesus is God. They believe that Jesus died on the cross to save humanity. They believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. They were there. They saw it. But they don't love Jesus. No one is saved by intellectually believing facts about Jesus or God. Simply believing facts is not enough. We are saved by a living faith that evokes a personal relationship with God that inspires loving obedience. True faith leads to a new life of love and obedience.

6. SO WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO IN ORDER TO BE SAVED AND MAKE IT TO HEAVEN?

John 3:3; Matthew 18:3

The Bible says: Unless one is _____, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3) Unless you are _____...you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3)

Note: We must be born again, or converted, if we want to get to heaven. The word 'convert' means 'change.' This is an internal change that takes place in our heart, but we cannot change ourselves, so God must change us. If we ask Jesus into our heart and seal our decision through baptism, He promises to come into our lives and change us on the inside, giving us a new heart, or nature. Since we are born with a sinful nature, God must give us a new nature (See 2 Pet. 1:4). This experience is like being born again as a new person.

7. WHAT HAPPENS TO ME AFTER I AM BORN AGAIN?

2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 4:19; Psalm 119:97

The Bible says: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:17). We _____ Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) Oh, how I love Your _____! (Ps. 119:97)

Answer: After asking Jesus to come into our heart, He begins to change us on the inside. When we were born, our sinful nature naturally loved sin (Ps. 51:5). When we are born again by God's Spirit, we begin to love new things and understand things in a new way (See 1 Cor. 2:14). While still tempted by the pleasures of sin, we hate sin for what it is, and have a newfound love for Jesus and His law (See 1 John 4:19; Heb. 8:10; Ps. 119:97). As Jesus changes us on the inside, our desires for sin fade and our love for God grows.

8. IS THERE ANYTHING REQUIRED OF ME AFTER I AM BORN AGAIN, OR SAVED?

John 15:10; James 2:18

The Bible says: If you love Me, keep My _____. (John 14:15) If you keep My _____, you will abide in My love (John 15:10) I will show you my faith by my _____. (Jas. 2:18)



Note: Sure, being saved isn't the end of the Christian life. It's the beginning. Being saved is more than just washing your past sins away. As we are justified, or forgiven, we are also called to be sanctified. Sanctification is the process of Christian growth, leading us to a holy life through the Spirit. Once we accept Christ, He not only puts a love for the law in our heart, but He also provides us with the power to obey. The purpose of the new birth is to change us, make us into new people, and lead us to live holy lives.

9. IF WE AREN'T SAVED BY WORKS, WHY DO WE NEED TO HAVE GOOD WORKS?

1 John 5:2, 3

The Bible says: By this we know that we love the children of God, when we _____ and keep His commandments. For _____ is the love of God, that we keep His _____. (1 John 5:2, 3)



Note: We are not saved *by* good works, but we are saved *for* good works. Good works don't make us saved. They show that we are saved. After we are saved, we love God and long to please Him, while at the same time we see the horror of sin, and long to be free from it. While still tempted, we strive to live holy lives, and God supplies the power. Since we are born with a sinful nature, it is impossible to live godly lives without Jesus, but when we invite Christ into our heart, He gives us the power to obey His laws as evidence that we are saved.

10. ONCE SAVED, CAN A PERSON AGAIN BECOME LOST?

Ezekiel 28:24; Jeremiah 3:22

The Bible says: But when a righteous man _____ from his righteousness...All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered. (Eze. 18:24) Return, you _____ children, and I will _____ your backslidings. (Jer. 3:22)

Note: We do not bounce from lost to save each time we sin and repent. When a saved person falls into sin, they are given time to repent (See Rev. 2:21), but if they continue in sin, they can eventually fall back again into a lost condition (See 1 Tim. 5:12; 2 Pet.2:20). Think about it. Satan was saved and became lost. So was King Saul. If we couldn't turn away from God, that would defy free will. Still, while it is possible to fall away from God, the good news is, God is longsuffering and leaves the door open for us to come back (See Jas 5:19, 20).

HOW TO BE SAVED

