

How To Be Saved

Do you know with certainty that if you died right now you would wake up in Heaven? Would you like to know for sure? You see, no one goes to Heaven by default. This is because **everyone has sinned against God**. The Bible says this:

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

Everyone has sinned! At some point in our life we've disobeyed God. Have you ever stolen anything? Have you ever lied? Have you ever taken God's name in vain, or hated someone, or lusted after someone? If so then you've sinned. It doesn't matter how many good deeds you've done – in God's eyes you've sinned, and your sin must be paid for.

The Bible goes on to say that **the penalty for even one 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.”

Since you've sinned you're no longer right with God. The punishment for your sin is death – eternal death in a place of endless torment the Bible calls the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:15). There's no way for you to pay for your sin on your own. No amount of good deeds will ever make things right.

But God stepped in and did what you couldn't do. The Bible says that God loved you so much that **Jesus Christ came to Earth and died in *your* place to pay for *your* sins:**

Romans 5:8: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,

Christ died for us.”

Jesus, the divine and eternal Son of God, came to this world and lived a perfect life. He then suffered and died a cruel death on the cross – not to pay for His sins (because He never sinned) but to pay for **yours**. He loved you so much that He took upon Himself the punishment that you deserved. Jesus then rose from the dead on the third day, triumphing over death itself!

Jesus offers salvation freely to anyone who trusts Him as both their Lord and Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved (John 14:6). There's no other path to God. This is because Christ's death on the cross is the only payment God will accept for your sins. If you reject this payment and try to pay your debt another way (such as through your own good deeds) then God will reject you.

To become saved, you must:

- (a) **ask God to forgive your sins** (for God will not save anyone who refuses to admit that they've sinned, or who refuses to make Jesus the Lord of their life)
- (b) **believe that Jesus died in your place and that His death completely paid for all of your sins** (which means you must stop believing you're good enough to get to Heaven on your own, or that your good deeds will somehow outweigh your bad deeds and that will be enough)
- (c) **believe that Jesus rose from the dead**
- (d) **ask God to save you**

These passages sum it all up:

Romans 10:9-13: “That 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. For the Scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Mark 1:15: “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

John 3:16-18: “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. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

If you go to Jesus and ask Him to save you then He will. At that moment your sin debt will be covered by the blood of Jesus, and from God's point of view it will be as if you had never sinned. The Bible says this:

Romans 8:1: “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

When God forgives your sins they're forgiven once and for all. When you die you won't face the wrath of God but instead will receive His mercy! God will invite you to live forever with

Him in a place of unending peace and joy:

Revelation 21:4: “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

When you give your life to Jesus (which means that your life is now about honoring God instead of honoring yourself) and ask Him to be both your Savior **and** your Lord, a whole new life will open up. Your life will become centered around Jesus as you learn how to love Him and honor Him in all that you do. The Holy Spirit will enter your life and begin turning you into a new person. As God begins changing your heart, you'll lose your appetite for sin and become hungry for spiritual things.

Once you become saved I highly recommend finding a good local church and attending it regularly. This will help you to grow spiritually. But the key to remember is that Christianity isn't a do-it-yourself religion. God will always be with you and will never stop loving you or watching over you. He promised to make you perfect in every way (just like Jesus) and He will do exactly that.