

The GOOD News

The “Good News” is that there *is* a *God who wants to give you a better life* here and now, plus, *life everlasting!*

Amazingly, about **70% of the people in the United States**, when asked—

“If you were to die today, do you *know for certain* you would go to Heaven?”

—answer with “*I’m not sure* ” or worse, “*No, I’m not going to Heaven* ”.

How would YOU answer this question about going to Heaven?

God wants you to *know for certain* whether or not you have eternal life. How can you know? Because *you have it in writing from God* in His Word.

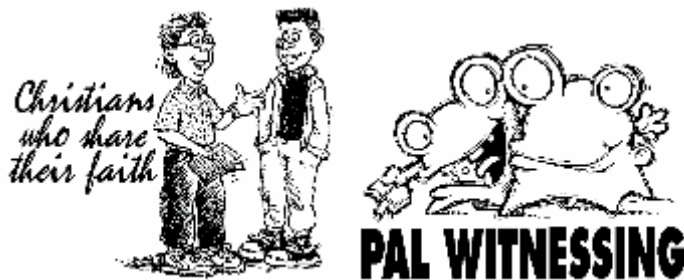
“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. So *whoever* has God’s Son has life; *whoever* does not have His Son does not have life. I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:11-13, NLT

God LOVES You! *He really does!!!* You’re very important to Him! In fact, *you have His very own IMAGE!* (Genesis 1:27) He wants you to live a **FULL** life in peace with Him and to receive *eternal life*. And what does **God** think of *Satan*—the father of **LIES** whose mission is to kill, steal, and destroy you, tricking you into **Hell**? (John 10:10, Luke 22:31) **God HATES** him! *He really does!!!* (Matthew 13:39) **God hates him so bad**, and *loves you so much*, He subjected Himself to sheer, unbearable *torture* just to win you back. He’s a hero’s hero, the *Real Deal*. Read on, my friend, and I’ll see **YOU** in **Heaven...**



Following are four practical *Steps to Peace with God*. They're in the Bible, and they're public domain, so feel free to copy them and share them with a friend or loved one.



These simple steps are also the *exact same ones* used by *Dr. Billy Graham*. Now that guy *KNOWS* about helping folks get into **Heaven!**

Step 1 ~ *God's Purpose:* **Peace & Eternal Life**

Perhaps you've seen the now famous **John 3:16** sign. What this Bible verse says is:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but *have eternal life.*”

A little after that, we read:

“...we *have peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

and then...

“...the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23b

Since God planned for us to be at peace with Him and to have eternal life, why are many people *NOT* enjoying this experience?

Step 2 ~ *Our Problem:* **Sin & Separation**

God did not make us robots to mindlessly love and obey Him. Instead, He gave us a will and freedom of choice.

But, like Adam, we often choose to disobey God and go our own selfish ways (read Genesis 2-3). This side of our nature is called sin, and it separates us from God.

The Bible Says...

“For *all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...the wages of sin is *death*.”

Romans 3:23; 6:23



“So (after Adam sinned) the LORD God *banished* him from the Garden of Eden...”

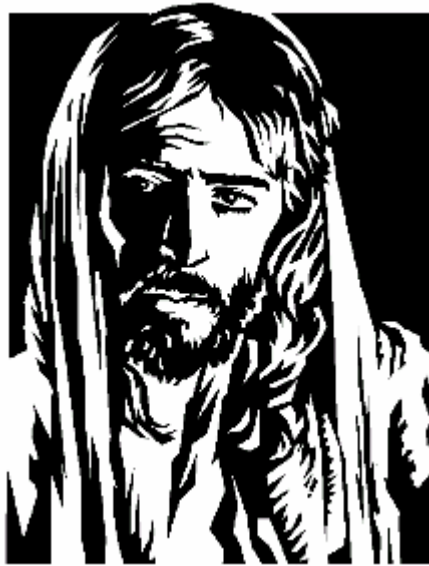
Genesis 3:23a

“But your iniquities have *separated you from your God*; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

Our sin separates us from God.

Step 3 ~ God's Remedy: The Cross

Jesus Christ is the only answer to this problem of separation from God. He died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sin—completely *bridging the gap* between us and God.



The Bible Says:

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

“Salvation is found in *no one else*, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12



“...God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, Himself man, is between them to *bring them together*...”

1 Timothy 2:5 (TLB)

“I tell you the truth, *whoever* hears My word (Jesus) and *believes* Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

John 5:24

Time out! Won't my good works get me to Heaven, somehow outweighing the bad? Good question. Unfortunately, even “...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags”.

Isaiah 64:6

“You can't *buy* your way to Heaven. All the good things you do in your *whole life* wouldn't get you one minute into Heaven.”

—Billy Graham

Instead, we must trust what Christ has “Done”, not what we can “do”.

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.”

Romans 5:1, 2 NLT

God has provided the only way...and we must make the choice...

Step 4 ~ Our Response: Receive Christ

We can **receive** Jesus Christ when we **believe** in His message and **trust** in Him alone to save us.

The Bible Says...

“All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who *believes* in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

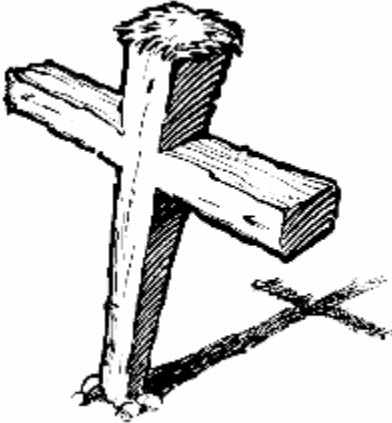
Acts 10:43

“(Jesus said) Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; *trust* also in Me.”

John 14:1

“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.”

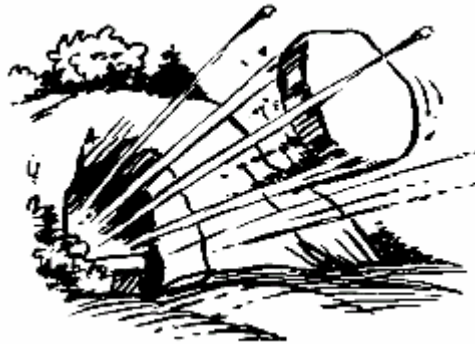
John 1:12

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Are you here... ↓ | ...or here? ↓ |
| People | God |
| Anxiety | Peace |
|  | |
| Sin | Forgiveness |

| | |
|--|---|
| Separation—<i>CHRIST</i>—Relationship | |
| Eternal Torment <i>(Ouch!)</i> | Eternal Life <i>(Ahhhhh...)</i> |

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner). *Say it! Mean it! It's true!*
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent). *Want to stop – that's enough to start!*
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.



**He did! Over 500 eyewitnesses saw Him after He rose.
(1 Corinthians 15:6)
History verifies His life, death, and resurrection.**

4. Invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. (Receive Jesus as your Savior). *The Holy Spirit is the gift of God when you accept Christ. The Holy Spirit brings you the power to stop sinning and live a life pleasing to God.*



What to pray

You may use your own words or say this suggested prayer:



Oh God,

I am a sinner. I'm sorry for my sin. I'm willing to turn from my sin, and follow You instead, but I need your help. I believe Jesus died and rose again to pay the penalty for my sin. I receive Christ into my heart by faith. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, Jesus. I want you to be Lord of my life, from this moment on. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

God's Assurance

You have His Word on it.

If you sincerely prayed this prayer and asked Jesus Christ to come into your life, do you know what He has given you?

The Bible Says...

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13

“Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:39

“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 John 5:12-13, NKJV

“...if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

Romans 10:9,10

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

2 Corinthians 1:21,22

Your New Life

“When you receive Christ, you are born into God’s family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer...this is called regeneration or “new birth.” God Bless you as you begin your wonderful new life in Christ.”

—Billy Graham



Yahoooooooooooooooooooo!!! You’re in the family now! I can’t wait to meet you—here *or* in Heaven! Are you aware of the huge *party* you just set off in Heaven? They’re more excited over your simple decision today than over ninety-nine *already* righteous

people who did not need to do what you just did! I suggest you tell someone you received Christ and write down *today's date*.

Happy New Birthday!



~Greg Swan, Rhinosoft Interactive—Your host today!

“I tell you...there will be more *rejoicing in Heaven* over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

—Jesus Christ; Luke 15:7



Epilogue . . .

or is it just the beginning? . . . What's next?

Surprise! No, we don't want your money. And no, we're not going to tell you where to go to church or how to cut your hair or what brand of spring water to drink.

Friend—You're a saint now!

**Reading any further will NOT change the fact YOU ARE NOW
GOING TO HEAVEN FOR SURE! We're talking Done Deal!**

Still reading? Boy, you must *really* be excited! I don't blame you! Here *are* some answers for questions you may have (along with even *more* assurances) that will help you right now *UNTIL* you arrive in **Heaven**:



Should I go to a church?

Oh yeah.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

I recommended you look up a Bible believing church, perhaps one close to your home. (Check the yellow pages!) It will be full of imperfect believers, which is a great place to start. (Imperfect to us, maybe, but not imperfect in God's eyes: "...by one sacrifice—His crucifixion—He has **made perfect forever** those who are **being made** holy. Hebrews 10:14)

Perhaps you'll be shy about going into a church. *That's a good sign!* Satan doesn't want you to go. Go anyway. **"Just do it."** (Nike® 1:01)*

*Not in the Bible—recent American Pop Culture phrase

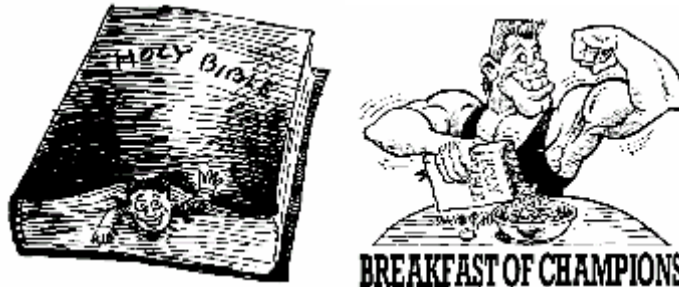


Should I read a Bible?

Yep.

“If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples...*apart from Me you can do nothing.*”

John 15:7, 8, 5b



Which Bible should I read?

Some different translations that are helpful are: *New Living Translation, New International Version, New King James Version, New American Standard Bible, The Living Bible, The One Year Bible, The Message, etc.*

Where can I get a Bible?

Almost any bookstore will have several to choose from (It’s the best selling book of ***all time***—and for good reason!) and certainly any *Christian* Bookstore will have any number of modern, understandable versions. Mass retailers also carry many versions. In the United States, for instance, even Wal-Mart and K-Mart carry many translations. You can even read the Bible for **FREE** on line at ***Gospelcom.net*** (look under **Bible Gateway** on the right hand side of the home page). You may also get more help there on how to grow in your relationship with Christ from any of over 100 *non-profit* ministries.

Will I be able to understand the Bible and apply it to my life?

Yes!

“...the Spirit of truth...will guide YOU into *all truth.*”

John 16:12



What about talking with God (prayer)—does He even hear me, I mean, c'mon, really?

Absolutely!

“And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for.”

1 John 5:14-15

What if I don't feel any different?

If you or someone you know is married, consider this analogy: When two people know *of* each other, *like you may have known of or about Christ*, are they married?

Nope.

If they date and have a long courtship and even get engaged, having the strongest human emotions for each other, *like you may have had a strong emotional experience that you thought brought you closer to God*, does *that* make them married?

No again.

When *are* you married? You're married when you say “*I do*”.



Versus

Today you said “*I do*” to **Jesus Christ**. It was an act of your will. Feelings can be fickle, so *don't worry another second if you don't feel different*. In fact, *never* worry again—and that's an *order!*

“Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:31-34

Nice marriage example, but since so many people seem to get divorced, what if Christ decides to divorce me?

Impossible!

He says so right in His Word:

“God has said, ‘*Never* will I leave you; *never* will I forsake you.’ ”

Hebrews 13:5

“If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for *He cannot deny Himself*.”

2 Timothy 2:13 NLT

Once you receive Christ, *that's it*, even if you make a mistake and “are unfaithful”, He “remains faithful”. Friend, *that's love!*

You don't know me. I've actually done some things that may be unforgivable.

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though *your sins* are like scarlet, they shall be as *white as snow*; though they are red as crimson, they shall be *like wool*.”

Isaiah 1:18

“I (Your Father in Heaven) forgive your sins—every one...as far as sunrise is from sunset, I have separated you from your sins.”

Psalm 103:4, 12 The Message (First person)

“This is a true saying, and everyone should believe it: Christ Jesus came into the world to SAVE sinners—and I (The Apostle Paul—who used to help murder Christians) was the worst of them all. But that is why God had mercy on me, so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life.”

1 Timothy 1:15-16 NLT

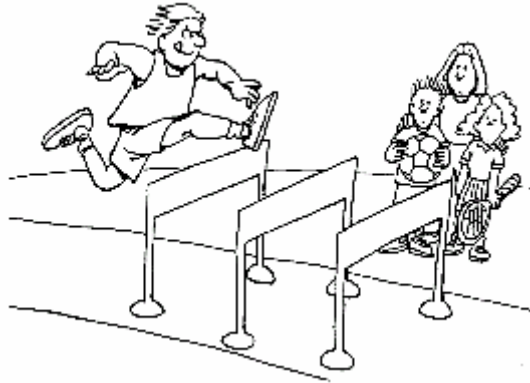
Now that I’m certain I’m going to Heaven, does that mean I will never sin again?

As you grow in your faith, you may have “growing pains” and commit sin. *Now* if you sin, you can *tell the Lord about it*—He’ll forgive you and cleanse you—He promises!:

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”

1 John 1:9

Friend, the Christian journey is a great, life-long adventure! Challenges will come—



—but take heart:

“...the One who is *in you* is greater than the one who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4

“I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.”

Philippians 4:13 NLT



You will be *amazed* at how much you will now *understand* of what the Bible says *directly to YOU!* I suggest you set up a daily reading plan. Take time to *listen* to God's inner voice, too—He's one *great* conversationalist, and One who truly *values your friendship!*

“...the greatest love is shown when people *lay down their lives for their friends* (*Jesus did that for you*). *You are My friends ...I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants. Now you are My friends—*



—since I have told you everything the Father told Me. You didn't choose Me. *I chose you.* I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you *whatever you ask for, using My name.*”

—*Jesus Christ, John 15:13-16 NLT*

Your Name Is Written— **—in the *Book of Life!***

May you yield to *God's specific plan for YOU* to reach your ultimate potential and fulfillment in this life. And friend, rest easy tonight—and *every night!* **Your name** was

written **today** in the *Book of Life* which is kept safe in your future, permanent home—Heaven, *The Heaven* itself!

“I will never erase their names (believers) from (meaning your name is already there) the Book of Life, but I will announce before My Father and His angels that they are Mine.”

Revelation 3:5

“...whose names are (already) written in the Book of Life.”

Philippians 4:3

*You're there—count on it! You have it in writing from God! And now God has *Your Name* in writing! Remember:*

“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 John 5:12-13, NKJV

HOW can you be Absolutely Certain you're going to
Heaven?

God has doubly assured **YOU** with words that
leave absolutely no room for even the tiniest doubt:

***“You Have . . . You KNOW . . . Forever . . . Confident . . . Sure . . .
Guarantee”***

That's how!

And now you KNOW! See you there!!