

What it means to be BORN AGAIN

- Why do I need to be Born Again?
- What does it mean to be Saved?
- I'm a good person at heart – surely that counts?
- Doesn't everyone go to Heaven?



These and similar questions are answered in this topical booklet, specifically designed for those seeking to know more about God and looking for answers to some of the deeper questions of life and eternity.

Introduction – MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE IN GOD

Most people believe in a supreme being, higher power or divine entity whom they call God. Few people are totally atheistic. We know this because when the chips are down and we have to face our own mortality through serious illness, accident or adverse circumstances, it is amazing how many people who do not believe in God have a tendency to lash out and blame Him for their circumstances!

On the other hand, most people think that if they believe in God and accept that a place such as heaven exists, then they will somehow get there when they die. The reasons they give for this belief are many and varied. It is more of a hope on their part than a certainty; and to leave such an important issue to chance does seem rather short sighted, even foolish!

The Bible tells us that belief in God alone is not sufficient to get anyone into heaven. If it were, the devil would have a place prepared for him in the heavenly realms, which clearly is not the case. So, what more is required if belief in God alone is insufficient to guarantee a place in heaven when we die? What must a person do to win God's favour and forgiveness?

Doesn't Everyone Go To Heaven?

This is a commonly asked question. The Bible indicates that not everyone will go to heaven. Consider this: ***"It is appointed for men once to die, and after this comes judgment"*** (Heb 9:27)

We may ask: *"But doesn't going to heaven depend on how good we have been in this life?"* or *"Doesn't God love everybody?"* If not, then on what basis does God decide who will or will not get to heaven, and why does there need to be a judgement? Why would a loving God want to destroy His Creation and exclude them from heaven when they die?

Seven Reasons People Believe Will Get Them To Heaven

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Belief in God | 5. Keeping the 10 Commandments |
| 2. Going to Church | 6. Never hurting anyone |
| 3. Being a good person | 7. Helping others |
| 4. Doing the best you can do | |

Most people believe they will somehow get to heaven, if they believe in God and accept that such a place exists, but the reasons they give for why they believe this are many and varied, and usually based upon inaccurate information. Let's try now and clear up some of the misunderstandings you may have.

THIS MAY SURPRISE YOU

According to the Bible none of the reasons printed above will get anyone into heaven. Let's look at them one at a time.

1. Believe in God ...

*“Do you believe that there is only one God? Good!
The demons also believe - and tremble with fear” (James 2:19)*

2. Go to Church ...

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things” (Acts 17:24,25)

3. Be Basically A Good Person ...

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23)

4. Do The Best You Can Do ...

*“All have turned away from God; they have all gone wrong;
no one does what is right, not even one” (Rom 3:12)*

5. Keep The 10 Commandments ...

“Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of breaking them all” (James 2:10)

6. Never Intentionally Hurt Anyone ...

“You have heard that people were told in the past, ‘Do not commit murder; anyone who does will be brought to trial.’ But now I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial, whoever calls his brother ‘You good-for-nothing!’ will be brought before the Council, and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell” (Matt 5:21-22)

7. Helping Others ...

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again
he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3)*

Unfortunately, helping others, good works, being good, going to church, even believing in God (which clearly even the devil does) will not be sufficient. Jesus said we must be Born Again to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Our Good is not Good enough!

Can anyone honestly say that they are truly “good” by God’s standards? God clearly states **our goodness is not good enough for Him!** Man’s idea of goodness and God’s idea are two different things. Man’s idea of goodness is quite corrupt, and that corruption God calls “sin”.

*“Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3)*

WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

♦ The Problem

It is clear from reading the Bible that God truly desires to be in relationship with His creation. Genesis says man was created in God’s image (Gen 1:26), that we were made to be friends with God and to walk with God as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden.

That close relationship with God was broken when Man, of his own free will, made a choice to adopt a “false truth” (deception) and succumbed to temptation in the Garden of Eden. Ever since then we have all been doing things our own way, preferring our own version of the truth to the truth of God.

***“All have turned away from God; they have all gone wrong;
no one does what is right, not even one” (Rom 3:12)***

That is why there are so many religions with their own versions of how man can raise himself to a status equal with God.

Sin is a Corruption of God's Truth

God's nature is such that He cannot dwell with anyone that holds onto false truth. True goodness cannot dwell with corruption, as it will ultimately be destroyed, which is why Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden.

***“And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you,
that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5)***

The Bible tells us that at some point all that is corrupt and evil will eventually be cast into a lake of fire for destruction (Rev 20:14-15).

God Longs To Dwell With Us In Eternity

Yet God still longs to dwell with us because we were created to be in relationship with Him. This was a problem for God, because the only way God can dwell with Man is to deal with man's corruption - **his sin**. Sin can simply be defined as rejecting God's true. Man's sinful nature needs to be transformed so that God can dwell eternally with him. We call this transformation, being **Born Again**.

This is something we cannot do for ourselves. We need God's power. More specifically, Jesus needed to come and pay the price for our sin so that we might come into unhindered fellowship with God. It is as simple as accepting this and allowing the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and effect within us what amounts to a deep spiritual transformation.

♦ THE SOLUTION

God devised a plan that placed the death penalty for Sin upon the only one in the universe who could take Man's place - God Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb 2:9; John 1:1-14)

Jesus was innocent, but He willingly suffered and died on the cross, in our place, providing the only way by which we can get to heaven (2 Cor 5:21; John 14:6).

Eternity Life Is A Choice

The truth is that God does love everybody, but not everybody loves God. God has provided a way to make it possible for everyone to go to heaven, but not everyone wants to choose God's way. On Judgement Day, God inevitably reveals to us the results of the choice that we have each made freely and of our own accord.

Unfortunately, many people still refuse to believe that God will not do what he promises. The question is not really about whether God loves us, but do we love God and are we prepared to believe that what He says is the truth?

***“Choose for yourself this day whom you will serve ...
but for me and my household we will serve the Lord” (Josh 24:15)***

THE CONCLUSION

We escape punishment for our sins by having faith (completely trusting) in what Jesus Christ accomplished when He died on the cross (Eph 2:8-9).

“The undeniable fact is that our good works will never get us into Heaven” (Titus 3:5)

The Good News is that Christ has made a way where there was no way!