

What Must I Do To Know I Will Go To Heaven?

Scripture quotations are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Matthew 25:32-34 “All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ ”

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

It is certain that after we leave this life, i.e., we die; we will enter an existence in eternity. A place where time as we know it, no longer exists.

What is undetermined is where we will be for eternity.

That is the center of our consideration. How can I be assured I will gain heaven and not reap everlasting punishment? Is it possible for us to know for sure we will be welcomed into the eternal bliss of living forever with our Father God and His Son Jesus?

I believe that the scriptures are clear that there is a way for us to know these things with all certainty.

Just as Paul had this assurance, **2 Timothy 4:7-8**, Stephen also, **Acts 7:56**; we too can be certain of our welcome into heaven.

John 10:27-29 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.”

Here in this passage from John's gospel, Jesus says that those who hear His voice are counted as being His sheep and they follow Him. He also says here that ... “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish ...”

So what does it mean exactly to follow Jesus?

1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

John 14:23-24 23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.”

Romans 2:5-10 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Some of the things revealed in these verses talk of “keeping My word”, doing “the will of God”, and “patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality”.

All of these things point to one being confident of their soul’s salvation.

Having confidence in acquiring eternal life with God in Heaven is not arrogance or should not involve an arrogant attitude but one of blessed assurance of the promise given to all who obeys His voice.

John wrote of this assurance:

1 John 5:13 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.

Note the key word in this passage is continue. To continue to do something is demonstrating faithfulness. To continue to believe is a demonstration of acting according to the teachings of Jesus and those revealed to His apostles through their writings.

2 Peter 1:5-11 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:25-29 And this is the promise that He has promised us — eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Revelation 2:10 “... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

These passages and others clearly teach that we can have the certainty of eternal life after our death if we remain faithful to God’s Word and be willing to repent when we sin and ask forgiveness.

Some teach that there is nothing we can do to be sure of salvation. That God alone determines who is to be saved and receive the reward of Heaven.

Jesus taught something entirely different.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Peter on Pentecost told the crowd gathered who had just heard the apostles preach the first gospel sermon;

Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Clearly, Peter and the others were acting in accordance with what Jesus had told them to do.

It is plainly seen that belief, confession, repentance and baptism all are needed for entrance into the Kingdom of our Lord.

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Although we are saved by the grace of God and not by any works we have done, we are expected not just to sit and wait for the promise but, continuing in faith until our death assures us of the promise of eternal life which is mentioned time and again throughout the New Testament.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.