

God
Wants

**You To Know Something
Very Important Today
From His Word!**



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While many people in our world today admit to being 'religious' and/or 'spiritual', very few can answer the most searching question that a person can be asked which is, ***"If you were to die today, are you 100% certain that you would go to Heaven?"***

One day, each of us is indeed going to die, and the most important thing that God, our Creator, wants every person to know is that they are going to be with Him in Heaven when they die.

Friend, if you died today and you were to stand before God just outside of Heaven and he asked you, ***"Can you give me one good Bible reason why I should let you into my Heaven?"***, how would you answer Him?

Some people would have a hard time answering that question and perhaps you would too, but I would like to take a few minutes and show you from the Bible, God's Holy Word, how that you can answer that question and be ***one hundred percent certain*** that Heaven will be your eternal Home when you die! Would you allow me to take a few minutes of your time and show you this please??

First of all, I want you to understand that God wants **EVERYBODY** to go to Heaven and so do we here at Church of the Open Door, an Independent Baptist Church located in Westminster, Maryland, USA!

We don't want anybody to have to spend **ETERNITY** separated from God in the eternal flames and torment of an awful place called Hell!

*“But how can a person **KNOW FOR SURE** that they can live forever in Heaven when they die??”, you may ask.*

Well, here is what the Bible, God’s Holy Word, has to say about it...

First of all, the Bible tells us in II Peter chapter 3, verse 9... *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance.”*

God wants us **ALL** to come to Him and repent of [*repent*’ meaning, *to be sorry for*] our sin and receive His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as our own personal Saviour!

And here is why we need Him as our personal Saviour and Deliverer from the penalty of sin...

The Bible says in Romans 3:23, *“For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

The Bible says in I John 3:4 that *“...sin is the transgression of the law...”* and in James 2:10 the Bible tells us, *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

As everyone knows, whenever we do something wrong, that “*wrong*” must be dealt with. And God says the same thing in Romans 6:23 when He says, *“For the wages*

[‘wages’ meaning, ‘the payment deserved for something done or accomplished’] of sin is death...”

When a person dies, their physical body is usually buried in the ground, but that eternal soul that gives us life actually lives on and must spend eternity either in Heaven with God or in Hell separated from God.

The word **‘death’** here refers not only to physical death, but to spiritual death and eternal separation from God in an awful place prepared for the devil and his fallen angels called Hell.

But as we saw in II Peter 3:9, we realize that it is not God’s desire that *anyone* should have to die and be separated from Him in this awful place called Hell! The Bible goes on to tell us that because God loves us, even though we have sinned against Him, He has made the Way possible for each of us to escape the punishment we deserve for our sin and also have the opportunity to spend eternity with Him in Heaven when we die!

The Bible tells us in John 3:16 and 17, ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son [that was Jesus Christ], that whosoever [that’s you and me] believeth in him should not perish [that word ‘perish’ meaning ‘to die without hope’], 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.”***

“Saved?? Saved from what?”, you may ask. Saved from the wages, or the payment that we deserve for our sin, which is eternal death and separation from God in Hell!

God has, through the sacrifice of His own precious, sinless Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross of Calvary, paid the debt that you and I owe for our sin, and now, He extends His gift of eternal life to every man, woman, boy and girl, for the Bible says in Romans 6:23, ***“For the wages of sin is death; BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

God loved us so much that the Bible describes in Romans 5:8 how that, *“...God commendeth [meaning, ‘God gave’] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

According to II Corinthians 5:21, Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, became *“...sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

God allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the debt that we owed for our sins! God laid upon His Son, Jesus, the weight of all your sins, and of my sins, and the wrath of God came down upon His own dear Son, Jesus, instead of upon you and me when Jesus died on that cross. Then Jesus arose from the dead after being buried in a tomb for three days and three nights! And now, God offers each of us His free gift, which is eternal, everlasting life *through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

And just as with any gift, it must be understood that the Person *giving* the Gift has *paid for it in full*, and now they simply *offer that gift* to the one that *they love and want to receive the gift* that they have bought and paid for!

If you understand today that you are indeed a sinner in the eyes of Holy God and if you realize that you owe a debt for sin that must be paid, then you need to understand that God has indeed paid the debt for your sin *in full* and He now asks if you will be willing to accept His free gift of eternal life!

“But how do I do that?”, you may ask.

The Bible says in Romans 10:9 and 10, ***“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.”***

“What does all that mean?”, you may ask.

It simply means that you need to confess or admit your sin to God...tell Him, *“Dear God, according to the Bible, I know that I am a sinner and I realize that I owe a debt for my sin which is eternal separation from you in an awful place called Hell.”*

Then, the Bible says ***“That if thou...shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”***

Tell God right now, *“Dear God, I do believe what the Bible says, that not only did Jesus die for me on the cross, and that He was buried for me in the tomb, but that He rose again from the dead to give me eternal life and victory over sin!”*

Please don't just **“say”** those words with your mouth, but **“believe”** what God has told us in His Word with your whole heart and, as you pray, ask Him to forgive you and to save you from the penalty of those sins!

God wants you to be saved *so much* that He has given His promise that if you will call upon Him to save you, then *He will indeed save you* even as we see in Romans 10:13 which says, **“For WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED.”**

Now, let me ask you... if God were willing to save you right now, and the Bible plainly shows us that He is, would you be willing to accept His Son, Jesus Christ, as your substitute for sin and ask Him to save you right now?

If your answer is **“YES”**, then with all your heart, why don't you talk to God right now and tell Him, **“Dear God, I realize that I am a sinner. I realize that if I got what I deserve for my sin today, I deserve to be separated from you for all eternity in that awful place called Hell.”**

“But dear God, I do not want to go to Hell when I die! I do believe what the Bible says; that you love me and that you sent your Son, Jesus, to die for me on the cross, and

that He was buried for me, and that He rose again for me so that I could have eternal life!”

“Right now, Lord, I ask you to forgive me of all my sin and come into my heart as my own personal Saviour! Please save me, right now, so I can go to Heaven when I die...in Jesus’ name I pray...Amen!”

Dear friend, if right now, you just prayed and asked the Lord to forgive you of all your sin, and if you, by faith, prayed and received Jesus Christ into your heart as your own personal Saviour, the Bible says you have just been born into the family of God and that God has given to you His gift of eternal, everlasting life!

Jesus said in John 3:36, *“He that believeth on [that phrase ‘believeth on’ meaning ‘to put your faith and trust in’] the Son [‘the Son’ referring to ‘Jesus Christ’] hath [‘hath’ being present tense] everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

And in John 5:24 Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

And again in John 6:47 we read Jesus saying, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”*

The Bible tells us in I John 5:11 and 12, ***“And this is the record, [that word ‘record’ means ‘the proof’ or ‘the evidence’] that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”***

When you, by faith, repented of your sin and received Jesus Christ into your heart as your own personal Saviour, He, in turn, gave you His gift of eternal, everlasting life!

And just as you only have to have one *‘physical birth’* to experience *‘physical life’* in this world, you only have to receive Jesus Christ once, by faith, into your heart in order to be born into God’s family and have His gift of eternal life!

Now, if you did indeed, by faith, accept Jesus Christ into your heart, why not go and tell someone that you have been saved and let them know that they too can be saved just like you??

The Bible says in Romans 10:11, ***“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”***, so don’t be ashamed to let folks know that you have received Christ Jesus as your own personal Saviour and you have indeed been born again!

Jesus told one of the religious Jewish leaders in John 3:3, ***“...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”***

So, just as one day several years ago, you had a *'physical birth'* which gave you *'physical life'*, today, if you received Jesus Christ into your heart as your own personal Saviour, you have now had a new *'spiritual birth'* and have been *'born again'* and God has given unto you His great gift of eternal, everlasting life!

What a blessing it is to know that our sins have been forgiven and that we have been born into God's family!

Now, please understand that when a person accepts Christ Jesus into their heart as their own personal Saviour, it does not make them *perfect* or *sinless* in any way. But it does now make that person to be one of God's dear children, even as that physical birth made that person to be their parents' child the very moment they were physically born.

And now, as one of God's dear children, the Lord wants you to love Him enough each and every day to simply trust and obey His Word, the Holy Bible, and to live for Him unashamedly!

I know you remember when you were a child and you may have disobeyed your parents in some way or another. That disobedience and rebellion against your parents broke the fellowship you had with your parents, didn't it?

It did not change your *'relationship'* as far as you being your parent's child because you can't undo or reverse a birth, can you? Once we are born into our family, we will ALWAYS be our parents' child...nothing can change that!

But disobedience and rebellion and other sinful acts can surely break the *fellowship* between a child and their parents, and so it is with God!

God, as our Heavenly Father, wants us to love Him enough to simply trust Him and to obey Him each and every day, but when we fail to trust Him or when we do disobey Him, He wants us to come to Him and repent of our wrong doing and ask Him for forgiveness, just as any parent would want their child to do in order to restore their '*parent-child fellowship*'...does that make sense to you?

And when we, as God's dear children, are truly sorry for doing wrong and we sincerely ask the Lord God for forgiveness, the Bible tells us that God is both willing and able to forgive us of that sin and restore our fellowship with him once again! As a matter of fact, the Bible tells us in I John 1:8-9, "***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***"

Don't just be sorry that you got caught for doing sin, but rather, be sorry *in your heart* that you have indeed sinned, and then be willing to admit it to God, and ask God not only to forgive you, but to help you not to do it again!

We are reminded in Proverbs 28:13, "***He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.***"

So remember, now that you have received Christ Jesus into your heart and you have been born into God's family as one of God's dear children, your desire should be to please the Lord and to obey Him in all that you do. But remember, if and when you do something wrong, go to Him right then, and admit it to Him, and ask Him for forgiveness and for spiritual strength and wisdom not to do it again!

Watch who you hang out with and avoid those places or folks that you know will tempt you to do wrong or get you in trouble!

Again, the Bible gives us good advice from Proverbs 13:20 which says, ***“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”***, and in I Thessalonians 5:22 we are commanded to ***“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”***!

Don't be ashamed of the Lord and what he has done for you today! Again, the Bible reminds us in Romans 10:11, ***“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”***

God was *not* ashamed of us when he sent his Son Jesus into this world to die for our sins, and Jesus was certainly *not* ashamed of us when He died upon the cross for our sins! Therefore, we should love Him enough to not only tell everyone around us what Jesus has done for us, but we should be willing to tell everyone we meet what He can do for them and others as well!

Remember, the Bible teaches us that God wants **EVERYBODY** to go to Heaven, and so should you, now that you are a born again child of God, so don't be ashamed to share the Gospel with all your family and friends!

If you will obediently trust the Lord each day and read his Word, it will *help you* to live a victorious life every day for the Lord, as a child of God, now that you know Him as your own personal Saviour!

To help you begin to grow spiritually in your new life in Christ, we want to invite you to come and visit with us in Church soon! Coming and being involved in a good Sunday School Class and attending a good church where there is sound Bible preaching will help you to grow in your new relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Bible teaches us in I Peter 2:2, "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby...*" and so we would like to have the opportunity to help you to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ through the various Bible teaching and preaching ministries at our church!

God's Word also encourages us to be found faithful to attend church where we can learn more about how to live for the Lord now that we are saved and on our way to Heaven too!

The Bible says in Hebrews 10:24-25, *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

So, let me ask you, would you be willing to come this Sunday and join us?? We would certainly be honored to have you come as our guest for any or all of the services!

Our address is...

Church of the Open Door
550 Baltimore Boulevard
Westminster, Maryland 21157 USA
Telephone: (410) 876-3838

Our web address is simply: opendoorchurch.org

We have Sunday School for all ages, children through adult, at 9:45am each Sunday morning, followed by the morning worship service at 10:45am and a Sunday evening service at 6:00pm. All church services are interpreted for the deaf and there is a Sunday School Class for the deaf as well.

The Spanish also meet for worship service at 10:45am each Sunday morning.

On Wednesday evening we have a mid-week Prayer and Bible Study service at 7:00pm which includes special classes for children ages 3 up through 6th grade, a special

Teen Service, a Bible Study service for the deaf, and a Spanish mid-week Prayer and Bible Study service as well.

We hope you will choose to come to any or all of these services beginning this Sunday morning!

If you are not in the area of our church location, please watch the services online Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or Wednesday evening through our church website at opendoorchurch.org/Streaming or go back and watch past services on our latest Video Sermon Archive page at <https://vimeo.com/channels/cod> .

We also have Video lessons available on our church website that you may watch along with *printable lesson booklet materials* that are free for anyone to access (for students or teachers) at anytime from anywhere in the world through our 'New Converts in Christ' web page at opendoorchurch.org/Sunday-School/New-Converts-In-Christ

May God bless you and help you now to grow spiritually for Him! We look forward to seeing you soon in any or all of these weekly services!