

## Evangelism - Questions & Answers

*More time spent with fewer people leads to greater  
lasting impact for the Kingdom of God*

### *You don't rise up to your expectations, but fall back to your preparations*

In evangelism, it's not uncommon for people to ask questions that you may have no idea how to answer, which is okay! Having the humility to tell someone "I don't have the answer" is better than arguing a point that just pushes someone away. This document is to help provide some answers to a few difficult questions/situations and to encourage you to trust God and His word with every conversation.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." – 2 Tim 3:16*

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**Question:** Why would God create mankind when He knew mankind would choose to disobey him (sin)? Therefore, resulting in death, pain, sorrow, and eternal separation from Him?

- Acts 17:27 *"God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not that far from each one of us."*
- Romans 11:32 *"For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that He may have mercy on them all."*

These two verses explain how our life in the world is intended to direct each of us to God:

1. "So that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find him". God has given us **Free Will**, which enables us to choose if we want to obey and know God. In Deuteronomy 30:19 God says this, "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curses. Now **choose life**, so that you and your children may live." God desires and commands that we choose life and choose what is good. In Deuteronomy 6:5 God commands for us to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." But, in order for us to love God we must have the ability to choose to love Him. Love is a choice, and if we don't have free will, we cannot love God. All men, like the first man Adam, are given the choice between obedience and sin, between life and death. Adam chose disobedience, and so do we. The result of this decision is the death, pain, and sorrow we experience in our world today."
2. "that He may have mercy on them all". According to 1 Timothy 2:3-4 God wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, and He's made it freely available through Christ.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” This is the mercy of God, who saved us despite being enemies of God (Rom 5:8-10). Another verse we must also take into consideration is that God is not like us. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” – Isaiah 55: 8-9. God is gracious to remind us of the humbling truth that we are not Him and He is not like us. God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, so who are we to question Him?

**Question:** How do we know someone is truly saved?

- John 3:3 *“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”*
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 *“I will give you a new heart and a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”*
- Titus 3: 4-6 *“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.”*
- John 17:3 *“Now this is Eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Doubt is not unusual, and it is not uncommon for people to question if they are truly saved. Nor is it uncommon when evangelizing for people to hear and believe the basic truths of the Gospel to walk away *thinking* they have accepted Jesus but do not confidently *know*. How can we respond to someone who *thinks* they have accepted Jesus but do not know for certain? How and when should we affirm someone’s saving faith in Jesus? Let’s consider what Jesus Himself has said. Jesus said a person **must** be spiritually born again in order to enter heaven. In being born again we are “given a new heart” and given God’s spirit (Holy Spirit) to move us to follow Christ. When a person is born again there is an evident change in direction as the Holy Spirit has made us into a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17) and seeks to lead us towards Godliness and to knowing Jesus. Jesus even said that Eternal life is defined by knowing God and Jesus Christ in John 17:3. **So**, if someone is unsure if they are saved, share with that person the above verses and explain to them the change that occurs in a person’s life when they are born again. Then, ask them if they can confidently say that they have been born again and changed by the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately God knows a person’s heart and whether they have truly been born again through faith in believing in Jesus Christ. Some people who have been born again just need to be encouraged to start really living a life that seeks to know Christ and make Him known through the Spirit’s leading. Our given responsibility is to present the Gospel clearly and let the Holy Spirit guide a person to understand where they stand before God, and He is faithful to do just that.

**Question:** Why did Jesus have to die?

- Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is Eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
- James 2:10 *“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”*
- 1 Peter 2: 24 *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”*

The answer to this question may seem obvious at first, but let’s think about it - why does our sin require the death of the Son of God? Many people might answer “to forgive us of our sin,” but when asked “why did Jesus have to die for the forgiveness of your sin?” not a lot of people can answer. To understand why, a person has to understand where we stand before God - dead. If you unplug your phone from the wall outlet what will happen to it? It will be in a perpetual state of dying until dead, unless plugged back into the wall. The same goes for our connection to God, the source of life. Because sin is in our nature and we choose to sin we have become disconnected from the source of life and the direct result is death, both physically and spiritually. In the same sense the sentence that we owe to God as our judge is death, no matter how little or big the sin may seem, **sin = death**. James 2:10 says that if you break one law then you break them all!

So how can a debt of death be payed? Better yet who can pay it since all of mankind is guilty and have sinned (Rom 3:23)? What about an animal sacrifice to atone for our sins? Hebrews 10 makes it clear that sacrifices of animals were only an annual reminder of sins. “Because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” – Hebrews 10:4. To that Jesus says, “Here I am – It is written about me in the scroll – I have come to do your will, O God” (Heb 10:7). Jesus’s death on the cross was not just a demonstration of His love and mercy, but a necessary action to cancel the record of charges against us by nailing it to the cross, being his own body. (Col 2:14). Jesus paid our debt in full by giving His sinless life on the cross so that we could be free, which is why Jesus was able to proclaim on the cross, “Tetelestai” meaning: paid in full.

**Situation:** A person believes they are saved through works, or they do not understand grace.

- Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*
- Isaiah 64:6 *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”*
- Galatians 2:21 *“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”*

The world has given grace a lot of different definitions: something earned, something purchased, something exchanged, something received. But how does God’s word define grace? Ephesians 2 gives one of the clearest definitions for grace in the Bible teaching that grace is not from ourselves and not by our works, but is a gift from God, so that no one can boast. That being said, how does a person get a gift? A gift is not earned, purchased, or exchanged. A gift is **received**. We have no part in getting a gift except for receiving it!

When asking “why can’t a person’s good works bring salvation?”, we must understand how God perceives our ‘good works’ when we attempt to offer them to Him for righteousness. The prophet Isaiah calls our good works “filthy rags.” This may be hard for some people to grasp since many have been taught and believe that God is pleased with their “good deeds” according to God’s law to make them righteous. But if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing! The method in which we receive the gift of grace is through **faith**, so that through faith we might receive the promise of the spirit (Gal 3:14). Faith is being sure of what a person hopes for and certain of what a person does not see, being Jesus Christ (Heb 11:1). So, what about faith without works being dead? (James 2:26). James said that “as the body without spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.” But we have to ask ourselves “What kind of faith that receives the spirit of God doesn’t result in works that glorify God?” No faith at all! James said in the same passage (verse 22) “faith and actions work together” and asks hypothetically in verse 14 “Can such a faith with no deeds save anyone?” Of course, it can’t! Nobody is filled with the living spirit of God by faith and not moved towards good deeds expressing itself in love (Gal 5:6).

**Situation:** I will accept Christ later in my life, when I have more time.

- 2 Corinthians 6:2 *“For He says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”*
- John 4: 13-14 *“Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*
- John 15:11 *“I have told you this so that my joy would be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*

There are many people who understand the gospel and what they would need to do to be saved, but often they say “I don’t have time right now” or “I will get religious and give my life to Jesus later” or they may have the perception that living a life for God restricts them from living life to the fullest. A person who says, “I don’t have enough time for God”, simply doesn’t make the time in their life for God. God says, “**Now** is the time of God’s favor, **now** is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor 6:2) The word “now” in this verse is meant to be urgent! Nobody is promised tomorrow; our lives are like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes (James 4:14). A person needs to understand that if their life was to suddenly end and they hadn’t made Jesus their Lord and savior they will be separated from God for **eternity**! For a person to say, “I will accept Christ later in life when I have more time” is like someone who is dying from a poison and instead of receiving the antidote that is offered to them they say, “I don’t have enough time right now”. **Now is the day of salvation.**

It will also never be “convenient” for a person to surrender their life to God, it will always require a step of faith and change of direction. The person who sees living a life for God as restrictive, simply does not understand who God is. In John 4 Jesus presents Himself as the source of living water that does more than fill our thirst, but keep’s “welling up” to eternal life. What Jesus is saying is that there is deep longing within us to find satisfaction and purpose in life, but we go to the world to try to fill it. This includes our jobs, relationships, money, family, food, drugs, alcohol, sex, etc.

Jesus is telling us that the “thirst” within us can only be filled by going to the source, Jesus Himself. God’s word goes even further to say we have been created by Him and **for Him**” (Col 1:16) and that Jesus came so that we “may live life to the full” (John 10:10). Jesus say’s in John 15:11 that His commands are not to bind us, but to free us so that our joy would be complete in Him. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Jesus will save it (Luke 9:24).



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