



HOW DO I RECEIVE FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness cannot be earned! Going to church, praying, living a 'good' life and helping others are good things but none of them can give you a perfect record before God. To receive this forgiveness you must...

1. Admit that you have offended God by your attitudes and actions.
2. Turn away from anything that offends God. It is critical that you are sincerely sorry and want to change (God will help you do this).
3. Accept that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through a prayer of faith (trust) give God control of your life.

If you are willing to accept God's gift of forgiveness you must also accept the cost.

THERE IS A COST!

Jesus warned us about counting the cost before deciding to follow Him *"But don't begin until you count the cost..." (Luke 14:28)*

He made it clear that we are to submit to Him and be willing to face suffering and tough times just as He did. However, as a Christian, God will teach, encourage and help you even in times of failure. As you surrender control of your will to Him He gives you new desires and the power to change...this is a life long process.

SUMMARY

If you have counted the cost of being a Christian, want to become a follower of Jesus and accept the gift He offers you then the following is a suggested prayer...

Dear Jesus,

I confess that I have rebelled against You and am truly sorry. I want to start living my life Your way. Thank You for dying on the cross to take the punishment for my sins (past, present and future). Please forgive me, enter my life and make me the person You want me to be, Amen.

To help you grow as a Christian, read the Bible daily, obey what it says, join a Bible believing church and tell someone about your decision. Talk to God as much as possible, He hears and answers prayer. For more information go to:

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IF YOU DIE TONIGHT



ARE YOU GOING TO HEAVEN?



IF YOU DIE TONIGHT ARE YOU GOING TO HEAVEN?

To discover if we are going to heaven when we die we need to start with a short test. Please tick the boxes if your answer is 'yes' to the following questions:

1. *Have you ever told a lie?*



2. *Have you ever stolen something (the value is irrelevant)?*

3. *Have you ever dishonoured your parents by disobeying them?*

4. *Have you ever hated someone and wished they were dead?*

5. *Have you ever used the name of Jesus or Christ as a swear word?*

The above questions relate to just 5 of God's Ten Commandments. How many boxes did you tick?

THE PROBLEM

If you're like most people you have probably ticked a number of boxes, if not all of them.

The Bible makes it clear that we are all guilty of breaking God's laws and rebelling against Him (the Bible calls this 'sin').

*"...all have sinned..."
Romans 3:23*

Not only are we guilty of breaking God's laws by our actions but also by our thoughts and motives. Nothing is hidden from God's sight.

When we disobey God it shows that we would rather live without His loving rule over our lives. In reality, we are rejecting our all-knowing, all-powerful Creator.

If this attitude towards God continues until death there are serious consequences.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Firstly, our choice to reject God on this earth will be made permanent at death. This means we will be separated from the source of all love and goodness forever. By rejecting God we are also rejecting heaven.

Secondly, God knows everything including what is best for us. By rejecting God's guidance we hurt ourselves and others e.g. Sex outside marriage can lead to unwanted pregnancies, abortion, broken homes, STD's and neglected children. Drunkenness can lead to health problems, traffic accidents, violence, addiction and poverty. Pride can lead to the illusion that we are in control of everything and not accountable to God for our lives.

The truth is, none of us deserve to get to heaven, we all deserve hell. By our own efforts there is nothing we can do to change this fact. We need help! Fortunately God has done something incredible for us.

THE SOLUTION

Instead of giving us what we deserve God actually wants to forgive us. He does not want anyone to go to hell and has made a way for us to be forgiven.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

This forgiveness was made possible when He sent Jesus Christ (the Son of God) to earth to take the consequences of our lawbreaking on Himself. Jesus willingly suffered and died an agonising death on the cross to take the consequences of our lawbreaking on Himself. He was then buried in a tomb and 3 days later God bought Him back to life again. Through Jesus death God has made a way for all of us to be forgiven.

However, forgiveness is not automatic, like any gift, we must personally receive it.