

How to be sure of going to heaven after death



**How to be sure of
going to heaven
after death**

To be sure of going to Heaven, we first need to take a short test.

Score yourself on a scale of 0 to 7 on each question below.

(0 = Never, 7 = Always)

1. I give to charities



2. I pray



3. I help strangers in need



4. I read the Bible



5. I forgive people when they hurt me



6. I love and help family members



7. I am loyal with my friendships



8. I put other people first when they need me



9. I am totally honest in the things that I say and do



10. I see the best in people



Total up your score out of a possible 70. Put your score in the box below.

SCORE

68-70	Angelic	25-34	Struggling
64-67	Saintly	under 25	Seek Help
35-63	Good		

Thank you. We have found that most people like to ‘do good’, and therefore receive a ‘good’ rating on this test. They also think they are good enough to get to heaven. However, what they don’t realise is that the standard for entrance to Heaven is one big step past being ‘good’ or even ‘angelic’ – it’s perfection. The standard is so high because God and heaven are Holy. Holy just means **perfect**.

The dictionary defines perfect as ‘*entirely faultless*’ or ‘*never ever having faulted*.’ If God and Heaven are perfect, how can people at death, who are not perfect, go to live in heaven with God? Logically, it would seem impossible. Yet, there is a way and this booklet explains how. The problem of our imperfections concerns our souls.

Your Soul

Everyone has a soul. Your soul is the non-material (unseen) part of you that lives on after you die. It cannot be x-rayed or viewed with the natural eye. It is the life-force within you – the unseen part inside you that makes you uniquely

'you.' Jesus warned that you can lose your soul. He said your soul is something more valuable than the total value of the whole world.¹ When He said this, He was urging people to think seriously about what really matters in life and the critical issue of life after death. In this life you may live 60, 70, 80, maybe 90 years. Who knows? But one day you are going to die i.e. life here on earth is finite. Furthermore, if you don't like the place where you live at the moment, you can move to another town or city. In this life you can move around, but when you die all this changes.

What happens when you die?

When you die your body decomposes (or is cremated) but your soul will live on forever either in heaven or hell. Life after death is not finite, it's eternal.²

It is not God's will that anyone go to hell. In fact, He has gone to extreme lengths to make a way for literally all of us to go to heaven. Whether we end up there or not is our choice. Let me explain.

What we must do to be certain of going to heaven at death

When God created the world, He established certain unchangeable laws in the physical world e.g. gravity. He also established certain unchangeable moral laws. Six of these moral laws are relevant to this discussion.

1. The Law of Original Sin.
2. The Law of the Soul.
3. The Law of Infringement.
4. The Law of the Record.
5. The Law of the Perfect Sacrifice.
6. The Law of Forgiveness.

1. Matthew 16:26. "What good will it be for a person if they gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for their soul?"

2. Matthew 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Other references are: Isaiah 66:24; Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48; John 3:14-17.

1. The Law of Original Sin.

The Bible explains that God originally created a perfect world. The first couple, Adam and Eve, enjoyed perfect friendship with God. However, soon after they were created they chose to disobey Him, and something called ‘sin’ entered the world. The Bible calls the first sin of Adam and Eve ‘original sin.’ Not only was their friendship with God broken, but every person born from then on was born with what the Bible calls ‘a sinful nature’ i.e. we all have a natural tendency to follow the example set by Adam and Eve and do what we know to be wrong.

Usually, people don’t need much convincing that they have a sinful nature. Their conscience alerts them to the fact. There is evidence all around us that everyone struggles with ‘sinning.’ Most people seem to have little trouble with lying, cheating, stealing, selfishness, gluttony, and being dishonest in subtle and not so subtle ways. The newspaper and television screens are awash with fresh reports of the outworkings of the sinful nature: rape, murder, war, fraud, incest, child abuse, corruption, unhealthy pride, greed, jealousy, pornography, injustices of every kind – just to name a few. The worst aspect of sin is that it affects the eternal destiny of our souls

2. The Law of the Soul.

The Bible also says, “The soul that is not perfect (entirely faultless or never committed a sin) shall die (go to Hell).”³ Unfortunately, because of original sin, all of us are born with imperfect souls. There are usually two thoughts people throw up in protest at this point. Some say, “Well, if God knew Adam and Eve were going to mess up, why did He create them in the first place?” The short answer is that God is a loving Person, and He created people to love and be

3. Ezekiel 18:4 “For every living soul belongs to Me, the father as well as the son – both alike belong to Me. The soul who sins is the one who will die (i.e. go to hell).”

loved. The very essence of true love is that it must be free and voluntary. If we force someone to love us, their love is not genuine. So God made people with free will so that they could freely choose to love Him and each other. Adam and Eve chose wrongly, and we are now suffering the consequences of their wrong choice.

There is a second objection some people have about original sin. They say, 'If God is all powerful, why doesn't He just get rid of sin?' He could, but because sin is so ingrained in the DNA of all people, He would have to destroy us to do it. He doesn't want to do this because He loves us so much. Accordingly, He has provided a solution to our 'sin nature' problem. This is where Jesus comes in. I will talk about Him in a moment. First, I must mention the Law of Infringement.

3. The Law of Infringement

As I mentioned at the beginning, we live in a moral universe made by God. It's not hard to prove this is true. Every culture has a strong sense of right and wrong. Every culture also values the concept of justice i.e. there has to be some kind of punishment for those who break laws. This awareness of right and wrong and a need for justice is 'built into us' before birth by God. So when we break His laws (e.g. by lying, thieving, cheating, committing adultery, etc) it is entirely reasonable to expect some kind of punishment from Him, who, being perfectly just, made us and the universe.⁴

4. Jude 1:14-15 "Look, the Lord is coming with thousands of His holy ones. He will bring the people of the world to judgment. He will convict the ungodly of all the evil things they have done in rebellion and of all the insults that godless sinners have spoken against Him."
Hebrews 9:27 "It is destined that each person only dies once and after that comes judgment."
2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

The punishment for breaking any of God's laws is eternity in Hell.⁵ Some people object to this saying, 'That seems very harsh! You mean just for one little white lie, I deserve to go to Hell?!' To God, who is perfect, all 'sin' is serious.⁶ Being Holy, His standards are infinitely higher than ours. Others object to the idea of hell by saying 'How could a loving God create a place like hell, let alone send someone there?' The illustration below helps to answer this question.

Justice and Jesus

Imagine the person you love most in your life is murdered. The murderer is caught and is brought before the judge. To your horror the judge says "This is a really bad thing you have done, but because I am a loving judge, I am just going to let you off." You would rightly be angry. Why?

Because we all know that when someone has broken the law, they must be punished, otherwise there is no justice. Can I ask you a couple of personal questions?

Have you ever told a lie? So what does that make you? Same as me – a liar. Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you, even something as small as a paper clip, a pen, a piece of paper? A piece of food that wasn't yours to eat? Doing your own work in your employer's time [which is stealing time]? etc. So what does that make you? Same as me – a thief. Now, do you think that lying thieves like you and me will get into heaven without punishment for breaking the law?

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5. James 2:10 "A person who follows all of God's law but fails to obey even one command is guilty of breaking all the commands in that law."
 6. Habakkuk 1:13 "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil."

You might say, “there is a big difference between lying and thieving and what the criminal did to the person I love!” True. But the Bible says that if we have hated someone in our hearts, we have murdered them in our hearts.⁷ I must admit I have hated someone in my life, even just for a moment. Have you ever hated anyone, even just for a moment? If so, you, like me, before God, are also guilty of murder.

When we die, God can't just say to us ‘Come on in to Heaven. Don't worry about all those laws of mine you have broken!’ If He did so, he would be unjust. God is incapable of injustice.⁸

In summary, two things prevent us from entering heaven: God's holiness and God's justice.

You may ask, “What about my friend who is a fantastic person, who helps everyone and who goes to church? She prays, has done ‘nothing wrong’ all her life, has been baptised, christened and confirmed, has given time and money to good causes and has been kind to everyone and has lived up to her motto ‘do unto others as you would want them to do unto you’ – is she not going to get to Heaven?”

Your friend has done good things and we would acknowledge that, but like all of us, she has a sinful nature and has broken God's laws.⁹ Check out the illustration on the next page.

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7. John 3:15 “Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.” See also Matthew 5:21-22.
 8. Psalm 89:14 “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”
 9. Isaiah 64:6 “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”

'Good' is a relative term. A mother and daughter are going down the road in the car. The daughter says, "Look Mum, that sheep in the green field looks so white." The mother agrees.

One week later, the mother and daughter are going down the same road and the same lone sheep is in the same field but this time snow has covered the field. The little girl says, "Mum, the sheep looks so dirty!" The mother explains that the sheep is no more dirty than it was last week. It's the background that has changed. It's the same with us.

*When we compare ourselves with ourselves, we look like the clean sheep.
But when we compare ourselves with the perfection of God, we all look dirty.¹⁰*

So far in this discussion we have explained the Law of Original Sin, the Law of the Soul, and the Law of Infringement. Now it's time to move on to the Law of the Record.

10. A lot of people struggle to admit they are sinners. Jesus urges us to be humble and make this admission. He gave the following illustration in Luke 18:10-14 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." "Justified" means 'just as if I had never sinned.'

4. The Law of the Record.

The Bible says God has a ‘record’ of all of our lives, both the good we have done ¹¹ and the laws we have broken (i.e. our sins).¹² Every time we break one of His laws, He writes it down.¹³ You can imagine, as we get older, we have a whole library written against us. The bad news is that to enter heaven, we must have a perfectly clean (i.e. sinless) record before God. The good news is that God has the power to wipe clean your record, no matter what sins you have committed on earth. This is where the Law of Forgiveness comes in.

5. The Law of Forgiveness

As I said, there is no point in sitting around grumbling about Adam and Eve’s bad choice, cursing God for allowing it to happen, or the fact that there is a place called hell. Our complaining won’t make these things go away. They are as factual and real as the law of gravity. Therefore, it’s much more profitable to focus on the solution, who is Jesus. Being perfect, He has a perfectly clean record before God. And here’s the thing: **He has the power and authority to give you a copy of His perfect record in exchange for your imperfect record.** With His record, you can now go to heaven at death. Let me explain

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11. Yes, Jesus keeps a record of not just our sins, but all the good things we have done which He delights in. For truly, Jesus is, among many other things, a God of unsurpassed love, grace, mercy, compassion, and kindness. I would rather focus on these aspects of the character of Jesus. However and unfortunately, in order to properly and honestly discuss final and ultimate destiny, the focus of this booklet is ‘the hard saying of Jesus’ which include the subjects of justice, punishment, divine accountability, and hell. These are not popular, but if I truly love you and want the best for you, I am compelled to write ‘the whole truth in love’.
 12. Matthew 12:36-37. “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” See also Romans 14:12, Hebrews 4:13, Matthew 25:14-30
 13. Revelation 20:11-15 “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

how this works. When God made the world, He decreed that ‘without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness.’¹⁴ Acutely aware of this Law, and the need for forgiveness, people down through the ages placed animals on altars, laid hands on them, and killed them. The animal’s blood was shed in place of the person who had sinned. God then forgave the person. For hundreds of years, this is how people found forgiveness. However, this approach was imperfect and cumbersome, for every time a sin was committed, a new animal had to be sacrificed. With Jesus came a better way. This is where the Law of the Perfect Sacrifice comes in.

6. The Law of the Perfect Sacrifice

When God made the world, His plan for forgiveness included the coming of the Perfect Sacrifice. For a sacrifice to be perfect, two criteria needed to be met. First, the sacrifice needed to be Holy (perfect) so as to satisfy a perfect God who lives in a perfect heaven. Second, the sacrifice needed to be a person, so as to take the place of a sinful person. Most amazing of all, God decreed that the blood of this Perfect Sacrifice would be sufficient to cleanse/wash away the record of the past, present, and future sins of any person who sincerely sought forgiveness from Him!

Jesus was and is the Perfect Sacrifice.

Being God, He was the only person who ever lived who didn’t have a fallen nature. As such, while He lived on earth, He lived a sinless life. He was also the only person who ever lived who had a perfect record before God. When He died an agonising death on a cross 2000 years ago, He was innocent. We, on the other hand, are all guilty. He literally shed His blood to take your place and my place.¹⁵ His sacrifice was an act of supreme love and compassion.¹⁶ Jesus literally volunteered Himself to be crucified in order to take the punishment

14. Hebrews 9:22 “...without the shedding of the blood there is no forgiveness.”

15. To be forgiven, we must ask for this forgiveness. I explain how this happens below.

16. Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

we justly deserve for our lawbreaking and to make a way to reverse the curse we inherited from Adam and Eve. How cool is that! How do we know this is all true? Well, He rose from the dead to prove it. And how do we know the resurrection really happened? The historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is overwhelming¹⁷

Herein lies the central point of Christianity: when anyone is genuine in asking Jesus to forgive them, He freely gives them a copy of His perfect record. It is impossible to enter heaven without His record. Anyone who has Jesus' perfect record is forgiven for life. As such they can be absolutely certain of going to heaven at death. It's that simple.

It is a tragedy beyond words that many people spend their lives trying to 'be a good person', all the while thinking God will let them enter heaven at the end of life on the basis of their goodness.¹⁸ But here's the thing - how 'good' do you have to be? Where is the 'cut off' point for entry to heaven? Unable to answer these questions, and living with haunting uncertainty, they strive harder and harder (often subconsciously) to please God. And the harder they try, the further they move from deep and genuine peace with God.

I hope it's clear by now that it's impossible to get to heaven by striving harder, trying to work your way there. Rather, it's simply about Jesus forgiving you and giving you a copy of His perfect record.

The concept of 'God forgiving us and giving us a copy of His perfect record,' is clarified in the three illustrations below.

God's book about your life

Based on what the Bible teaches, we could say the following:

When you ask Jesus sincerely to forgive you, God takes your book with the

17. e.g. <http://www.xenos.org/classes/papers/doubt.htm>

18. Please don't misunderstand this. God applauds good works, lives, and attitudes. In fact, such things are the fruits of genuine believers. However, these things will not give you the perfect record you need to enter heaven. Only Jesus can give you this.

record of everything you have ever done wrong. He rips out the pages within the cover and throws them into the deepest sea so they can never be seen again. He doesn't even remember what was written on those old pages. He then takes a copy of Jesus' perfect record and puts it inside the cover of your book. This book, with your name on the cover, now has a copy of Jesus' perfect record inside. This new book about you is stored in Heaven like a library book ready for the day you die.

Between the point at which you were forgiven and death, your book is not touched again, even though you will break more of God's laws after you have asked to be forgiven. When you die, you will come up before Jesus at Judgment. Everyone does. He will command the angels to get your book with the record of your life. They will open it and exclaim, "You were perfect!" You will say, "No I wasn't!" Smiling, Jesus will say, "I know that, but I see you as perfect in My sight. I forgave you completely, once and for all, the day you asked Me to forgive you. Welcome to Heaven!"¹⁹

God's great love and forgiveness

In some parts of the world, people are executed by capital punishment (e.g. the electric chair or lethal injection). Imagine you're in the electric chair for the laws you have broken and just before they're about to turn the power on, Jesus bursts into the room and offers to take your place. This is an illustration of the love and forgiveness He is offering you today.²⁰

To explain the big difference between having a perfect record before God and being a perfect person on earth.

In many countries, if a person has been convicted of a serious drug charge, they are unable to travel overseas. Imagine that the Prime Minister or

19. Colossians 2:14 "Having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross."

20. John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free!"

President of the country that the criminal comes from takes pity and wipes the criminal record clean. The criminal would have a clean record and would be free to travel again but would still not be a perfect person. It's the same with becoming a Christian. God offers to clean your record and to completely forgive you, but you will never become a perfect person on this earth.

Many people ask the question "What must I do to be forgiven for life, and receive Jesus' perfect record?"

Receiving a perfect record and being completely forgiven for life for breaking God's Laws doesn't happen automatically. The Bible teaches that for this to happen, each of us must choose to do three things. Please turn to the next section to find out what these are.

**To be forgiven,
we must 'admit',
'turn' and 'surrender'.**

To be forgiven we must do three things:

1. "Admit."
2. "Turn away."
3. "Surrender."

1. Admit.

I admit that I have broken God's Laws and God would be justified in punishing me.²¹

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

2. Turn Away.

I am genuinely sorry for breaking God's Laws and I sincerely desire to turn away from the wrong ways of my past, including a lifestyle of ignoring Jesus.

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

3. Surrender.

I want to surrender to Jesus and make Him the main focus of my life. I want to allow Him to take control so I can follow His plan for me.

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

When we 'admit', 'turn away,' and 'surrender' we do so by something the Bible calls 'faith.'

21. Romans 2:2 "God, in His justice, will punish anyone who does such things."

Faith.

What does 'faith' mean? When we believe and trust the truths discussed in section one, and we 'admit', 'turn' and 'surrender,' even though we have not personally seen Jesus die on the cross, or hear Him audibly tell us why He died for us, the Bible says we believe "by faith."²²

To be forgiven, God asks us to trust and accept the truths found in the Bible "by faith."

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

How did you go? Write in the box what you scored out of three.

/ 3

If you scored 3/3 'by faith' you are ready to be forgiven and receive Jesus' perfect record.²³ You can do this by saying a simple prayer. Any who has received Jesus' perfect record is a Christian.

22. This does not mean we throw our brains away when we become a Christian. The Bible is an intellectually defensible historical document. Everyone ought to do their own research and study to test this fact.

23. If you couldn't agree with 1-3 above, or accept these truths by faith, perhaps you need to do some more thinking. Don't give up. Ask God to help you or ask an enthusiastic Christian to clarify these truths. Thinking, asking questions and reading will help you on your journey to becoming a Christian.

We have put together a suggested prayer for you, which will help you start your new life as a Christian and your relationship with Jesus.

“Dear Jesus, by faith I believe you died on the cross to take my punishment for Your laws which I have broken. For the sake of justice, I admit I deserve to be punished. I want to turn away from the things I know are wrong in my life. I want to surrender to you and start following your plans for my life. Please forgive me, and give me your perfect record. Amen.”

You should conclude your prayer by asking God to come into your life and fill you with His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help you to live to the fullest the new life you have chosen. Here is a suggested way to do this. “Holy Spirit, I invite You to come into my life, to fill me and empower me to live for God. I want everything You have for me! Thank you, in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

Praying this prayer is like going through a gateway – forgiven, cleansed and empowered – to a new life as a follower of Jesus.

What now?

We encourage you as a new Christian to . . .

1. Start reading your Bible regularly to gain insight and understanding into God's awesome plan to guide, bless, enrich and prosper your life.
2. Find a good Christian church in your neighbourhood and attend it regularly. A good church is one where you come away feeling lifted up, closer to God, challenged and encouraged to follow the plan Jesus has for your life. You will sense that the people in the church have a genuine, living, vibrant and growing relationship with Jesus.
3. Share with others what you have done and encourage them to do the same.

Genuineness

There have been people who have just ‘ticked the boxes’ and ‘prayed the prayer’ but have not been genuine in their decision to become a Christian. If you are genuine, then points 1-3 on page 19 will happen naturally and will continue to happen for the rest of your life. This will be the evidence of your sincerity to follow Jesus.²⁴ Our hope and prayer for you is that your decision will be genuine, your life will change and that you will experience a close friendship with Jesus.

It would be good to contact the person who gave you this booklet and let them know what you have done. This will really encourage them. If they didn’t leave a phone number or email address, please email seeyouatthetop@xtra.co.nz, and tell us your story.

So far we have discussed why we need to be forgiven, how Jesus can forgive us, and what we must do to be sure of going to heaven.

But is there more to the Christian life than getting to heaven? Absolutely!

Is Christianity just ‘pie-in-the-sky-by-and-bye’? Absolutely not!

In the next section, I explain what Jesus plans to do for you between the point of forgiveness and death.

24. James 2:14 & 17 “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

John 15:8 “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Other references are: Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 3:8 & 10, Acts 26:19-20.

**The plans Jesus has
for your life**

When you become a Christian, the Bible says you are 'saved'.

What does that mean?

The Bible talks about being saved in three ways:

1. We **are** saved

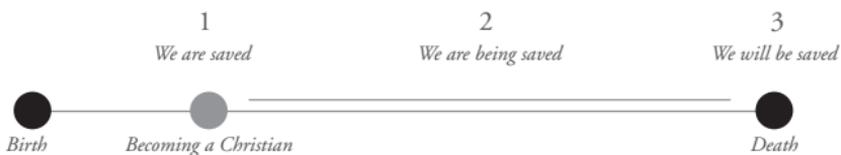
Something that happens the moment you are forgiven by Jesus – a point in time

2. We **are being** saved

Something that happens over a period of time – a process

3. We **will be** saved

Something in the future that happens after death



1. We are saved²⁵

This is a point in time decision and happens instantly the moment we become a Christian. In Heaven, Jesus exchanges our imperfect record for His perfect record and we know for sure we are going to Heaven at death. Instead of being a lost soul, Jesus saves our soul.

We are forgiven once and for all. The truth is this - when we know we are forgiven, and unconditionally loved and accepted by Jesus, irrespective of our 'performance', our behaviour will change radically for the better.²⁶ Furthermore, we can also rest in the fact we are saved from the consequence of breaking God's Law and original sin, which is eternity in Hell.²⁷ We also start

25. Ephesians 2:8 "You have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God."

26. The Bible teaches that 'The goodness of God (rather than punishment) leads to repentance.' (Romans 2:4)

27. Colossians 1:21-23, Galatians 3:10-14, Ephesians 2:1-8.

a journey through this life with Jesus, who adopts us into His family as His precious son or daughter.²⁸ He commits Himself to working with us so that we can make a success of the life He has planned for us, which in turn brings honour and glory to Him – which is what life is ultimately all about.

2. We are being saved²⁹

This is a process and happens between becoming a Christian and death. During this time, God works through us and in us to ‘clean us up’. He wants to rid us of things which have the potential to ruin our lives and which take away from the quality of life. Certain things (the negative) take away from this quality of life and certain things (the positive) add to it. Look at the table below.

1. Things in us that take away from life	2. Things that God wants to bring into our lives
3. The Negative	4. The Positive
5. lying	6. instead of being a liar, He wants to make you a person of truth.
7. cheating	8. instead of being a cheat, He wants to make you a person of honesty.
9. lust	10. instead of lust, He wants to make you a person of love.
11. anger	12. instead of anger, He wants to make you a person of peace.
13. jealousy	14. instead of jealousy, He wants to make you an encourager.
15. pride	16. instead of pride, He wants to make you a person of humility.
17. greed	18. instead of greed, He wants to make you a person who is generous.
19. selfishness	20. instead of being selfish, He wants to make you kind.
21. laziness	22. instead of being lazy, He wants to make you hard working.
23. resentment	24. instead of being bitter and resentful, He wants to make you able to forgive.
25. and so on	26. and so on ...

28. Ephesians 1:5.

29. 1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

When we do the things that take away from life, we don't feel too good. On the other hand, when we are truthful, honest, loving, encouraging, generous etc we feel truly alive. Let's face it, most of us struggle with the negative and we know we are not living to our full potential. Why is this? Each of us is our own worst enemy. If we look back over our lives, we can see that many (but certainly not all) of our problems, heartaches and disappointments are the direct result of our own choices or attitudes.

Why are we our own worst enemies?

As I mentioned earlier in this booklet, we all have a sinful nature. This means we have a built in tendency to do wrong. This tendency is first seen in childhood, e.g. children do not need to be taught to do wrong. It just seems to be 'in them'. Doing wrong takes away from the quality of life. This tendency to do wrong can be reversed through the knowledge and experience of Jesus' forgiveness, grace, unconditional love and acceptance. The more this tendency is reversed, the more real life we will experience. In fact, Jesus said His intention for all people is that they really live. In the movie Braveheart, William Wallace (Mel Gibson) said, "All men die, but not all men live." Jesus wants you to really experience a full, vibrant, purposeful life.³⁰

3. We will be saved³¹

This happens at death and is in the future. Here, the decision we made to ask Jesus for forgiveness and a copy of His perfect record at some point in our lives is confirmed or ratified. Instead of going to Hell, we go to Heaven. All suffering and pain finally ceases once and for all.

30. John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

31. Romans 5:9-11 "So through Christ we will surely be saved from God's anger, because we have been made right with God by the blood of Christ's death. While we were God's enemies, he made friends with us through the death of his Son. Surely, now that we are his friends, he will save us through his Son's life. And not only that, but now we are also very happy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we are now God's friends again."

So far in this section, we have discussed how Jesus ‘cleans us up’ and ‘saves us’ while we live on earth. I want to finish this booklet by explaining something very important.

Over the years, many people have asked the question ‘what is life all about?’ or ‘what must I do to make life more meaningful?’ Jesus would answer these questions by saying, “ First, I want you to personally experience my great and endless love for you”. Second, “I want you to experience what it is like to love Me.”

1. For us to personally experience His great and endless love for us.

Jesus wants us to personally experience His great love for us. He wants to establish and develop an intimate friendship with us, and to help us succeed and flourish all through life. In the period between becoming a Christian and death He wants to:

- Restore us to wholeness and heal us from past hurts and disappointments
- Give us vision and strong hope for the future
- Help us experience deep happiness, joy, and fulfilment in this life
- Reveal His particular plan for our life

He does these things in four ways: through the Bible, as you read it day by day; through the Holy Spirit, who will live in you and help you; through the love of fellow Christians; through suffering – seeing Jesus turn our sorrows and painful experiences into His victories through His guidance, love and grace.

But here’s the thing – we have to let God love us. We have to ‘let Him in’. He will not barge in, or force Himself on us. Trusting Jesus, and allowing Him to love us is a choice, much like we choose to trust and allow a surgeon in the hospital operate on us. The more we do this, the better life gets, and the more it makes sense.

2. He wants us to experience what it is like to love Him.

When we commit ourselves to loving Jesus, knowing Him, and enjoying Him, life truly becomes rich and meaningful.

When we do this, we 'glorify Him'. What does this mean? It means that what we say and do points people who don't know Jesus to Him.

The famous nun, Mother Theresa, was someone who glorified Jesus. She wasn't quiet about Him or ashamed of Him. She lived for Him and His purposes and spoke often of Him to others. It was obvious in the way she lived and how she chose to live her life that she loved Him. This doesn't mean we have to be a nun or a monk in order to become a Christian. We don't have to leave our job, or wear special clothes or eat special food. But what it does mean is that we will have a heartfelt dedication to Jesus in whatever we are doing with our lives whether at work, University, school, home or in recreation. We live to make Jesus known and for others to do the same. The more we love Him and seek to glorify Him, the better life gets and the more it makes sense.

Summary. A Christian is a person who:

- Has received Jesus' perfect record by admitting, turning, and surrendering to Him.
- Doesn't have to 'perform' 'strive' or 'work' in order to qualify for heaven.
- Has been forgiven once and for all.
- Has perfect peace between themselves and God.
- Recognises they are saved, they are being saved, and they will be saved.
- Experiences the love of Jesus.
- Lives to glorify Jesus.
- Opens their life to Jesus, and allows Him to love them and guide them through life.
- Can be absolutely certain of going to heaven at death.

Is all this true? How can I know? Where do I look if I want to explore some more? Check out the following website...

www.gotquestions.org

Here you will find answers to questions on . . .

Other religions

Creation and Evolution

The Bible – Is it really true?

Are there contradictions in the Bible?

Abortion

Relationships

Christian Living

Sex

...and much more

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