

## **How to have confidence that you will be with God in heaven**

### **1. Can you say plainly and mean it in your heart that Jesus is Lord?**

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.<sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.<sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."<sup>NIV</sup> Romans 10:9-10*

Scripture says that when you confess, that is when you declare and say plainly that Jesus died for your sins and is Lord of your life that you will be saved. Believing in your heart is truly meaning what you say aloud with your mind and spirit. Being saved means that God is rescuing you from punishment in hell for your wrongdoing, your sins. It does not mean praying a prayer and then it is life as usual. It means that Jesus will now lead your life and you will follow in obedience.

### **2. How has your heart or mind changed since trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior?**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!<sup>NIV</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Look back on your life before you made a commitment to Jesus and then look at it now. You should notice some changes, even if they are small. Perhaps you started enjoying Christian books or you wanted to make an effort to treat others better. It may be simply an attitude change that you notice first; fruit and good works will naturally follow. Usually it will be an encouragement to look back and see all the changes that you have made with God's help.

### **3. Who is a good example of having confidence in eternal life?**

*That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.<sup>13</sup> What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.<sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you-- guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.<sup>NIV</sup> 2 Timothy 1:12-14*

Even though the apostle Paul was suffering in prison and felt everyone had deserted him, he writes that he knows and believes in Jesus. Therefore he is not ashamed and knows the power of Jesus to protect him on Judgment Day. He is speaking to you also and saying that you must keep the pattern of sound teaching with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit (the gospel) with the help of the Holy Spirit.

#### 4. What does the Holy Spirit say to your spirit?

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.* <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 8:16-17

The Holy Spirit will testify, that is, He will show you that you are a true child of God. He will give evidence to support that you are an heir of God and co-heir with Christ. The Holy Spirit may touch your spirit in different ways to confirm this truth such as your love of God's Word, your willingness to obey and follow Jesus or your desire to quietly dwell in His presence. Even though you are not perfect, you understand the Spirit confirming that you belong to God.

#### 5. Do you know and reply on the love God has for you?

*We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.* <sup>NIV</sup> 1 John 4:13-16

God is love. He loves you and wants you to rest in His promises of eternal life. He also wants you to know that His Spirit will help you to testify, that is to show others how to be a true child of God. He will help you give evidence with your life of fruit and good works. Rest and rely on God's love to live the abundant and pure life. He will strengthen you to walk in His ways, His power and His love. Simply trust God.

We hope that this has given you confidence that you truly belong to God. If you are still concerned about your salvation, we pray God will use the Scripture and questions to bring you into saving faith and fervent discipleship. Amen.

*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* <sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 1:6