

# The Two Ways to Get to Heaven



## Are You Heaven Bound?

90% of Americans believe in heaven— and a whopping 85% believe they will go to heaven when they die.\* Yet how do we know for sure if we will go to heaven? This should not be a guessing matter, after all, heaven or hell last for eternity!

God Himself wants us to know *now* how to get to heaven. That is why He left us a written, objective record of His thoughts, so we would not be in the dark. This record is the Bible—His Word. The apostle John stated the purpose for which he wrote, “I write to you so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). We can know now whether we will go to heaven or not when we die. Consider the two ways to get to heaven.

\*ABC news poll—October 5, 2005

## Plan A: Be Good, Real Good

If you want to be judged based on your good deeds, there is a plan for you. The Bible is clear though— the standard is perfection. “Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all” (James 2:10). “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Consider a simple illustration that explains falling short of heaven. Some may be able to leap further than others across a narrow ravine, but to get to heaven by our deeds, we must leap across the Grand Canyon of total perfection. God does not grade on a curve. All fall short.

Galatians 3:10 warns: “For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law to perform them.’” To avoid the curse of the law, which is eternal life in hell, you must never fail to obey all things written in the Law.

Time for a pop quiz. Have you ever hated, lied, cheated on a test, stolen, cursed, lusted in your heart, been unkind or unforgiving, gossiped, coveted your neighbor’s goods or spouse, been drunk, or had sex outside of marriage? If you have ever sinned in any of these ways, forget about Plan A—it’s already too late.

***So are you ready for “Plan B”?***



## Plan B: Believe

Fortunately, God has made a way for us to go to heaven apart from our performance. It is the way of faith—believing in Jesus Christ alone. As God says in Romans 4:5, “To the one who does not work, but believes in Jesus who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

So why does God present Jesus Christ as the object of faith? Romans 5:8-9 explains, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” It is simple, Christ died in our place so we might be forgiven.

Romans 6:23 captures our options well, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Did you notice that eternal life (going to heaven) is called a “free gift”?! Is there a catch? No, Jesus Himself said in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish (go to hell), but have eternal life (go to heaven).”



***So how do you receive this free gift?***

## What Should I Do Now?

### Receive the Free Gift!

The Bible has very good news regarding how to receive this free gift of eternal life. In John 1:12 we read, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." Receiving Christ means to believe on Him as God's only Savior from our sin. He took upon Himself the penalty of our sin, which is death—that is why He had to die on the cross. So we must personally receive His work on the cross to have our sins forgiven and go to heaven.

So talk to God, aloud or in your heart, He "hears" either way. Pray something like this, "Lord Jesus, I admit I'm not good enough, and that I've sinned against You often. I now receive you as my Savior from sin. Thank you for paying the penalty of death on the cross for my sin, so that I can be forgiven. I now receive your free gift of eternal life in Christ. Amen."

After receiving Christ, turn your life over to Him. He came to give abundant life—a more full and satisfying life, so entrust Him with everything. Commit to a good Bible teaching church and read His Word often, so that you will grow in your new faith.

If you received Christ while reading this, let us know, we want to encourage you and send you some free information on following Jesus Christ.

**Stronghold Ministry** was founded by Joe and Terri Fornear to provide spiritual support and comfort to cancer patients, their caretakers and others who are in major life crisis. We reach out through the internet, support groups, training seminars, retreats, conferences, workshops and ultimately, a retreat home.



We offer our services free to cancer patients. Stronghold Ministry is a non-profit corporation in the State of Texas and an IRS 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

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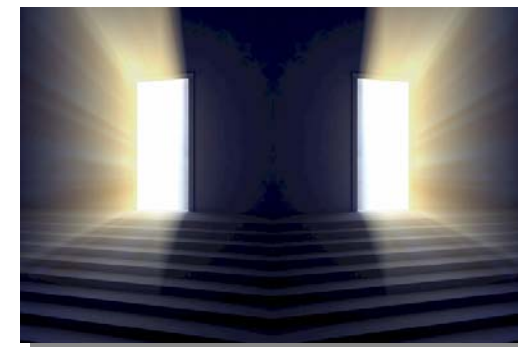
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## What Is Your Plan?