

How Do I Know If I've Done Enough Good Works to be Saved? - KJV

By Karen Sue Nyquist

God wants people of all religions, cultures, and races to come to Him. The Bible, His Word, tells us how. We can turn to it to find answers to our questions.

1. How can we know that the Bible is reliable, that it was translated accurately?

a) Translators have early copies in the original languages. Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek experts have translated the newer English translations from those manuscripts, not from previous translations, ensuring their accuracy. (All verses in this article are from the King James Version. You are encouraged to check out more recent English translations if you prefer. The wording is often easier to understand.) Read the Bible! You can start with the New Testament.



b) Almighty God promised that He would preserve His word. "The words of the LORD are pure words ... Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever" (Psalm 12:6-7). Trust the Bible, it's God's Word.

2. **What about other religious books?** God kept things simple, He only wrote one holy scripture. Only the Bible is God's Word, which He preserved and kept pure. He said, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). He gave it through His Jewish prophets and apostles. Writing other books and following them as though they are sacred is definitely "adding" to His word.

3. **What does the Bible mean by "salvation" or "to be saved"?** - The Bible says salvation means to: be reconciled to God, have our sins forgiven, and have everlasting life with God in heaven. Good news! We don't earn salvation with good works, it's a gift from God. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

4. **How does Jesus Christ's death make salvation possible for us? "Christ loved us and gave himself up for us"** (Ephesians 5:2).

a) **Jesus' death reconciles us to God** - "But your iniquities (*sins, bad thoughts, and behaviors*) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (Romans 5:10). God wants to adopt us (Romans 8:15). We can even call Him, "Father" (Matthew 6:9).



b) **Jesus' death forgives our sins** - Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins. - Jesus said, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission (*payment*) of sins" (Matthew 26:28). **What should we do if we sin again?** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

c) **Jesus' death gives us everlasting, eternal life, starting here on earth** - Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him (*God*) that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). Our bodies may die, but our soul and spirit live on! **Where?** In heaven!

d) **Jesus' death allows us go to heaven to be with God** - "In my Father's house (*heaven*) are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).

5. **So, what good works should I do to be saved?** - Salvation comes from God, not from our good works. But we do need to believe the word of God. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Then, we can respond to it. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). **Conclusion:** The word of God leads us, not our heart (feelings); but our heart can respond to God's Word with faith. We can't trust our heart because, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). But we can trust the Bible!





6. **Just believing sounds too simple. Don't I have to do good works too, to be saved?** - The Bible says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his (God's) mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). We can never do enough good works to earn salvation.

a) **"The gospel of Jesus Christ" is a free gift from God** - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us" (Ephesians 2:4). It would be an insult trying to pay someone for a gift they're giving us, likewise we can't pay God for salvation even with good works. We just gratefully and humbly believe and accept it.

b) **"The gospel of works" is another gospel** - The early church was being troubled by people who were saying you must also do works to be saved. Paul responded, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Galatians 1:6). "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28). Paul warns, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4). "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5). Adding good works in order to be saved, changes the gospel into another gospel.

7. **But why then does the Bible say, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone?"** (James 2:17). - James is explaining that true faith leads to good works, but he's not saying that good works lead to salvation. Paul explains it this way. 1st - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. 2nd - When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes into us (Acts 5:32) and starts working on us from the inside, then we will do good works. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

8. **What about repentance?** - Repentance is important. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matthew 4:17). Paul wrote, "that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20). Spiritual growth is important. After salvation, we cooperate with God's Holy Spirit as He works in us. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). God is gracious, He gives us time and His help so we can grow spiritually.

9. **Do you have a spiritual hunger? A spiritual thirst?** "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

10. **We want salvation, what does God want? He wants a loving relationship with us.** He said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind" (Luke 10:27). Will we give Him our heart? Our time? Our attention? Our all? Paul was willing to lose everything he had to be close to Jesus and to know Him. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have

suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ," (Philippians 3:7-8). **Do you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?** - If so, you may pray.

Suggested Prayer: "Jesus, I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God, and that You died for my sins, then rose from the dead. I repent of my sins, Thank You for loving me and dying for me. I confess You as my Lord and Savior. Please, help me live in Your will and give me the Holy Spirit. AMEN!" Name _____ Date _____

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