

Do you know for sure that you have eternal life?

That's a question we all need to answer. Here's what the Bible says about how you can know for sure:

God's plan - A true understanding of eternity begins with an awareness of God's great plan for your life. God's plan for each of us is based in His love for us, and it includes the opportunity to live a good life on this earth and to have eternal life in heaven someday.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

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

God's desire is that we will respond to His love for us and develop a close, personal relationship with Him.

“From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” - Acts 17:24-25

Our problem - While God wants His best for us, we all are inclined toward rebellion against God. This rebellion leads to disobedience—which the Bible calls “sin.” The problem with sin is that it requires a payment, and the Bible says that the payment is “death,” or eternal separation from God

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death.” - Romans 6:23(a)

God's provision - Because God loves us and wants us to be with Him in heaven for eternity, He made a way to pay for our sin. He sent Jesus, who lived a perfect life and then died on the cross to pay for our sins. Through Jesus Christ, He offers salvation to us as a free gift.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”
- 1 John 4:9-10

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 6:23(b)

Our response - God's provision for sin is available to anyone who repents (which means to turn from sin and self and turn to God) and believes in Jesus Christ for the free gift of eternal salvation.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” - Acts 3:19

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.” - John 3:36

To “believe” in Jesus means far more than just admitting that He exists. In the Bible, to believe means to completely place your trust in Him. In the Bible, the word for “believe” is the same word as “faith.” So, to believe in Jesus is to place your faith in Him—to trust Him to pay for your sins and to give you eternal life. It also means that you are to trust Him for all areas of your life, taking Him not just as your Savior but also as your Lord.

“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.” - Romans 10:9

To “confess” means to speak something that is true. If you are ready to respond to God’s love and provision for you by taking Jesus as you Lord and Savior, you can do so right now by calling out to God in prayer.

Below is an example of a prayer that someone might pray to God for salvation:

“God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the grave. I now turn from my sins and ask you to save me and to make Jesus the Lord of my life. Thank you for loving me and giving me eternal life. Amen.”

God’s promises - Once you take this step of faith, God forgives your sin, gives you the gift of salvation, and begins a loving, faith relationship with you that will last through all eternity.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- Romans 10:13

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
- John 1:12

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”
- John 17:3

If you are willing to take this step of faith, you can answer, “Yes!” to the question on the front page. If you have questions, or if you have made this decision and want to know what to do next, please call our church office or talk to a Christian friend about it. God wants to have a lifelong relationship with you and wants you to **know** that you will spend eternity with Him in heaven. You can come to know Him and receive His promises today!

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(Would you like to know?)