



**Question:** Do we go to heaven right away when we die? If not, where does our spirit go?

A person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior goes immediately to “heaven” to be in the presence of the Lord. Though their body is in the grave and decomposes or has been cremated their soul and spirit (the immaterial part, the real person) goes immediately into the presence of Christ. See Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

**Question:** Are there different rewards for people in heaven for their life on earth?

First, we need to establish that heaven is a place prepared for those who have placed their trust in Christ Jesus as Savior. See John 3:16; John 14:6; Titus 3:4-7. As Christians, we believe we are saved solely by the grace of God. God saves us based not on anything we could do (or have done), but based instead on the free gift of salvation offered by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Our works play no role in our salvation. We cannot earn our way into Heaven, this is a gift of God. See Ephesians 2:8-9.

As authentic Christ followers, we will not be judged according to our sin — because our sin has been forgiven. We are justified in Christ — there is no condemnation. See Romans 8:1-2.

While we, as Christians, don’t believe our works have anything to do with our entry to heaven, we do understand our works have everything to do with our reward once we get there. The Bible supports the view that rewards are distributed to believers in accordance with the nature of their lives on earth. See Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.

**Question:** What does the Bible say about being cremated instead of being buried? Will I still go to heaven if I’m cremated?

The Bible doesn’t directly address the issue of cremation. The origin of this question probably arises from the idea that burning in fire is a sign of God’s judgement. See Leviticus 20:14; Numbers 11:1-3. But what about believers who die in a fire, or were burned at the stake for their Christian faith? Would they not be allowed in heaven?

Some get hung up on the idea of cremation because of their view of a bodily resurrection (1 Cor. 15). So let’s understand something about our physical bodies after death. See Genesis 3:19. The human body decomposes at varying rates — depending on many factors. But those only delay the inevitable, a returning to dust. Cremation simply speeds that process up.

Some of the concern about cremation has to do with God reconstituting our bodies. Nothing of our previous bodies are used to create the new resurrected body. The imperishable is sown into the ground and is raised imperishable.

**Question:** If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and love God with all your heart but live a worldly life, would you still go to heaven?

The challenge with this question is that it assumes you can love God with all your heart AND love the world, living according to its standards. See 1 John 2:3-6, 15-17. This is a question of eternal security and there is no easy, short answer to the issue of eternal security. But I think a better question is: “why would I want to intentionally live a life that is contrary to God’s will?” Jesus calls us to an “all-in” sort of spiritual life. See Matthew 16:23-26.

My interpretation of Scripture is that following Christ is an exercise of the freewill God has given us. He desires that we use that freewill to follow Him with all our heart but we also have the option to use that freewill to live in absolute rebellion to his will and ways and suffer the temporal and eternal consequences of that lifestyle. See Matthew 7:16-23.

**Question:** For those who are in a second marriage, what will God say to us regarding this situation? Who will we be one with in the kingdom?

For a basic understanding of how God views divorce, see Malachi 2:16 and Matt. 5:31-32. Jesus addresses the topic of marriage in heaven. See Mark 12:18-25.

**Question:** I had a friend that had taken her own life. Does God forgive suicide? How could she ask for forgiveness before she did the deed?

One of the 10 commandments states “do not murder.” Self-murder, suicide, is never God’s plan for human life. The Bible doesn’t clearly communicate what becomes of those who choose to commit suicide. But we can glean some principles from the truth of Scripture.

Is suicide the unpardonable sin? I believe suicide is a sin but I don’t believe it is the unpardonable sin. The Bible only records one sin as the unpardonable sin — blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:30-32). Make no doubt, suicide is sin. If a person who has never accepted Christ as Lord commits suicide, they will spend eternity separated from the Lord they have denied in a very literal hell.

Will a Christian, who commits suicide in a moment of hopelessness, go to hell? Let me ask you a question before we go further into this question. How does God view the variety of sins we commit? Are some sins more sinful than others? Or is a sin as sin?

Will my last act on earth define the quality of my whole existence as a Christian? Will my last sin committed before I die nullify my salvation? Salvation for any person rests in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, not in abstaining from sinful acts. I believe that committing suicide in and of itself does not condemn us to eternal punishment any more than does any other sin for which we have not asked forgiveness at the time of death. **Please hear me. This isn’t permission. Suicide isn’t your the only option.** BUT...here’s a bigger point. Why would I want to gamble with my eternity? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

you asked for it.