

God's Guarantee You're Going To Heaven

Q - How can you know for sure you're going to heaven?

Q - Does God want us to know we're going to heaven?

1John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Q - Can people think they're going to heaven but really be mistaken?

Matthew 7:16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day (on what day – day of judgement), 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'



Q - Did you know heaven is by invitation only and there's a guest list?

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

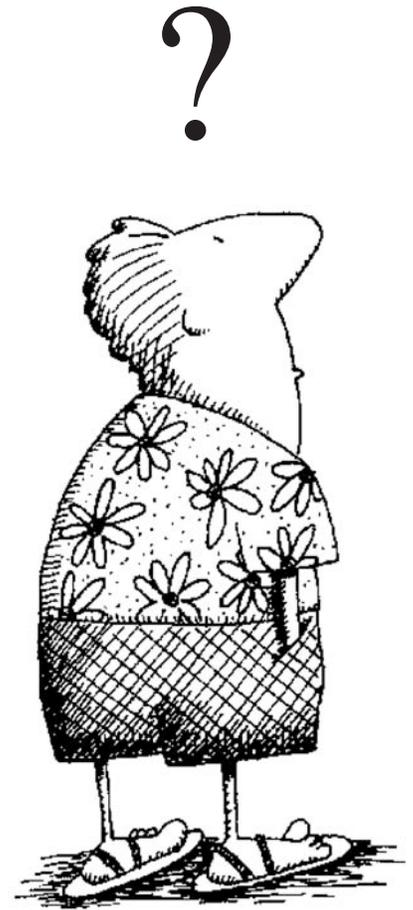
Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Q – How do you get your name in the book of life?

Q - What do you have to do to become a Christian?

If someone asked you the question –“What must I do to be saved?” What would you tell them? (write down your answer)

Q - What would you say if that person comes back a week later and tells you, “I did what you said, but I’m still not sure I’m a Christian, how can I know for sure?” What would you tell them?



Understanding the Process

We're going to look at God's saving work and our response in a step by step process.

At each step in the process there is an inner and outer response.

Step One – God to Man

Outward – hear Gospel

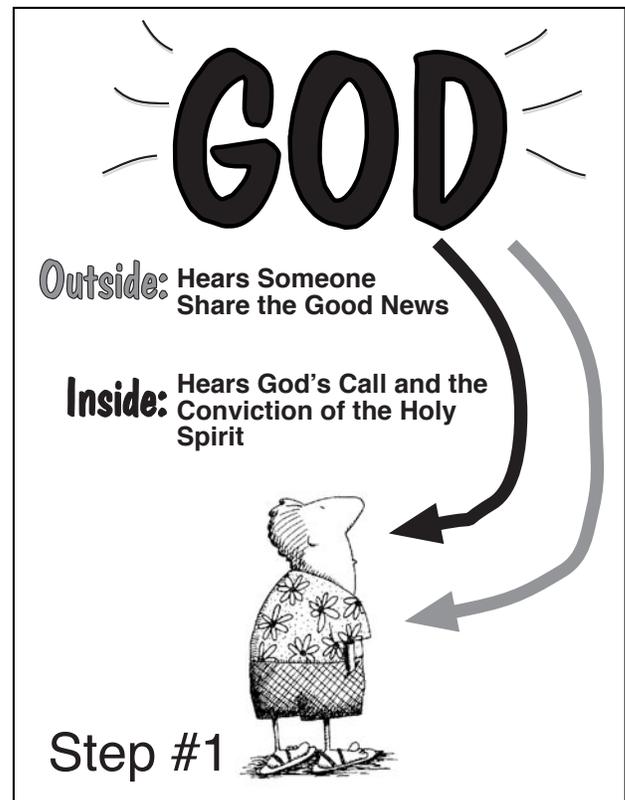
Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Inward – inner call and conviction

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Luke 24:32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"



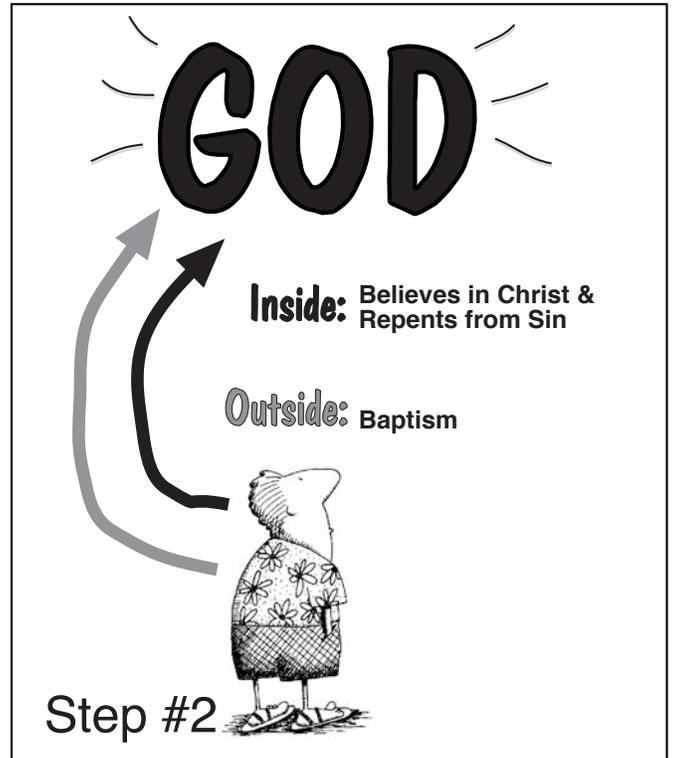
Step Two – Man’s Response to God

Inward – Faith and Repentance

Romans 10:9 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.

John 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Outward - Baptism

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

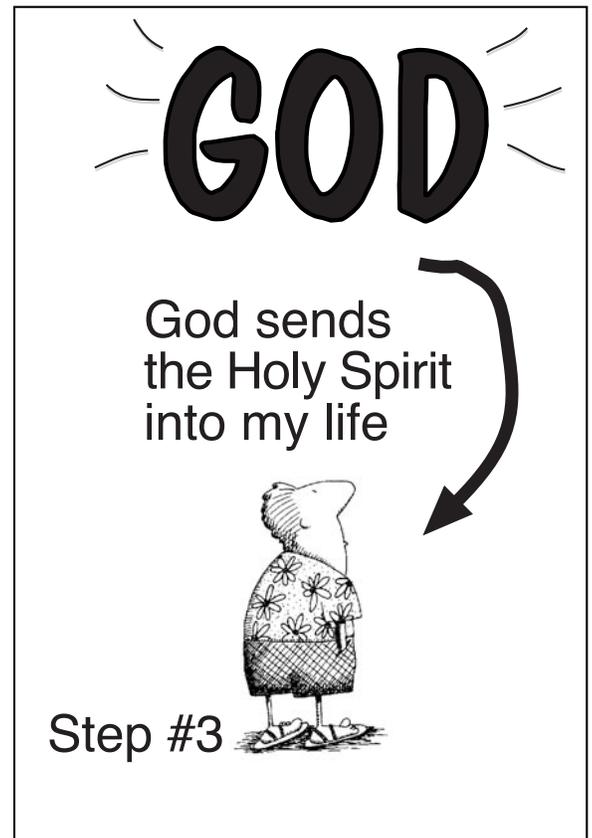
Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Observation - Many times we stop here

Step Three – God's confirmation to Us

The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that we belong to Him and are going to heaven.

- 2 Corinthians 1:21b-22 He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
- 2 Corinthians 5:5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
- Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.



- 1John 3:24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.
- 1John 4:13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- Acts 19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

So...what then would be the question?

How do I know I have the Holy Spirit in my life?

There will be inner evidence and outer evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life

The inside evidence

The Holy Spirit Convicts

John 16:7-8 But I tell you the truth: It is good that I go away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement:

The Holy Spirit Guides us into all Truth

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

The Holy Spirit gives a desire to know and live for God

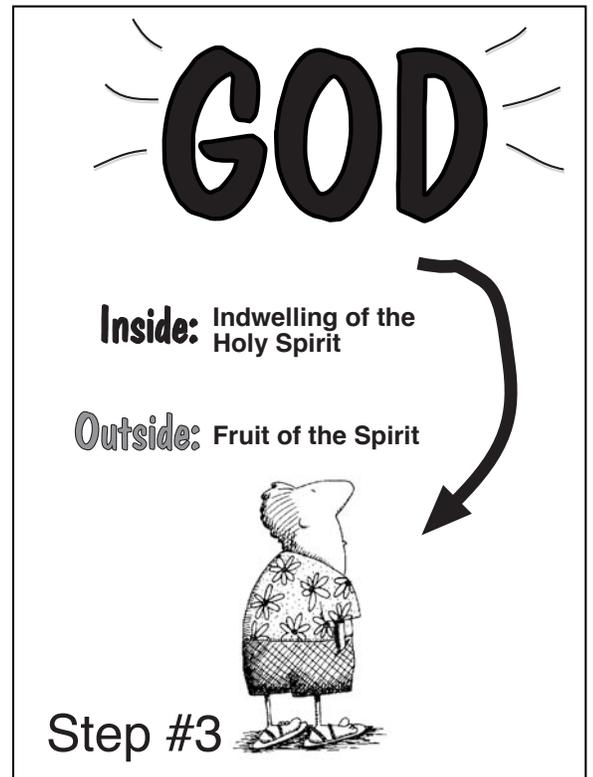
Ezekial 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

The outside evidence

Q - The Bible often speaks of the outside evidence of our faith as fruit. What kind of fruit would you expect to be evidence that the Holy Spirit is in your life?

The outside evidence of the Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.



Another evidence is the Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Another evidence is a life increasingly free from the control of sin

Romans 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Q – If you were convicted of having the Holy Spirit in your life, would there be enough evidence to convict you!

Putting it Together

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Step One – God to Man

Outward – hear the Gospel
Inward – inner call and conviction

Step Two – Man's Response to God

Inward – Faith and Repentance
Outward - Baptism

Step Three – God's Confirmation to Us

God giving us the Holy Spirit.