

# Salvation

The **Terms**  
of the  
**Covenant**  
of  
**Salvation**



## **7 Questions** about the Covenant of Salvation

1. Will **MANY** be **SURPRISED** to find that they are
  - NOT Christians,
  - NOT permitted into heaven and
  - are assigned to Hell for eternity? (pgs. 4-6)
2. Are they surprised **BECAUSE**:
  - a. *They were NEVER truly Saved.....OR*
  - b. *Because they TURNED AWAY from the Lord?* (pgs.8-14)
3. **Biblically, can a covenant be broken?** (pgs. 16-17)
4. **What are the TERMS of the covenant of Salvation?** (pgs. 18-41)
5. **How do I have ASSURANCE that I will go to heaven** (pgs. 42-49 )
6. **Is there room in heaven for those who are weak in faith?** (pgs. 50-52)
7. **What if I am still fearful after reading all of these verses?** (pgs.54-56)



# Q.1.

Will **MANY** be **SURPRISED** to find that they are **NOT Christians, NOT permitted into heaven and are assigned to Hell for eternity?**

## Answer

A VERY CLEAR **“YES”**

Let's read 5 passages

### 1. Matthew 7:21-24

"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. **Many** will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

### 2. Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, **'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'** " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. **'Open the door for us!'** "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, **I don't know you.'** "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

### 3. Matthew 25:14-29 The Parable of the Talents

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well

done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. " 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. **And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

#### 4. Matthew 25:31-46 The Sheep and the Goats

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, **'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, **'Lord,** when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will **go away to eternal punishment,** but the righteous to eternal life."

5. Luke 12:35-46

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"

The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will **cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.**





## Q. 2.

Are they surprised because they were  
**NEVER** truly a Christian  
or  
because they **TURNED AWAY** from the Lord.

### 2 Answers

1. I honestly do **NOT know**.
2. It does **NOT MATTER**

### 2 Appeals

**APPEAL # 1** – Read **ALL** the applicable Scriptures.

There are **SO MANY Passages** that speak to this issue. One of the most interesting points about this discussion is how rarely the Word of God is systematically studied.

The **STARTING** place for a person of truth is to always read **EVERY** single Bible verse that applies to a subject **BEFORE** forming any opinions.

Just the sheer volume of passages on these two subjects is so overwhelming that it saddens my heart to hear people argue over one or two verses.

**APPEAL # 2** – **PLEASE** Hear my heart when I explain  
that it **DOES NOT MATTER**.

We will first carefully study all the applicable scriptures on whether it is possible for a Christian to renounce their salvation. We will then study the scriptures that seem to clearly say that a Christian can **NOT** ever become a Non-Christian.

At the end of the study though, the bottom line is that the **DOMINANT** scripture message is that **MANY** are deceived into thinking that they are currently Christians and will find out **TOO LATE** that they are going to Hell. Whether they never truly Christians or were Christians and renounced the covenant – **DOES NOT MATTER**. The important thing is that you and I have **FRIENDS** who may wind up going to Hell.

The answer is to make sure they understand the **TERMS** of the Gospel and to do all that we can to make sure they go to heaven. We will talk more about this under section # 4.

## **2 Studies**

We will break this down into two different studies to make it as simple as possible.

### **2A**

Let's begin with verses  
that may say that a Christian CAN  
**BREAK the TERMS of the covenant**  
**and thus**  
**RENOUCE their salvation.**

#### 1. II Peter 2:19-22

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. **If** they have **escaped** the corruption of the world by **knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** and are **again entangled** in it and **overcome**,

- they are **worse off** at the **end than** they were at the **beginning**.
- It would have been **better** for them **not** to have **known** the way of righteousness, than to have **known it** and then to **turn** their **backs** on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

Of them the proverbs are true: "A **dog returns** to its vomit, "and, "A **sow** that is washed **goes back** to her wallowing in the mud."

Brief Comment: This passage is fascinating in that it could be used to argue BOTH sides. On one hand verses 19-21 are some of the strongest verses in the Bible that it is WORSE to become a Christian and turn away than to never become a Christian. Those are extremely strong words that Peter repeats.

On the other hand, verse 22 uses two analogies of a dog and a pig and the indication is that their inner heart was never changed and they remained a dog and a pig.

#### 2. Hebrews 6:4-6

It is impossible for those who have

- **once been enlightened,**
- **who have tasted the heavenly gift,**
- **who have shared in the Holy Spirit,**
- **who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and**
- **the powers of the coming age,**

if they **fall away**, to be **brought back to repentance**, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

### 3. Hebrews 10:26-39

If we **deliberately** keep on sinning **AFTER** we have **received** the knowledge of the **truth, no sacrifice for sins is left**, but only a **fearful expectation of judgment** and of **raging fire** that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will **judge his people.**" It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Remember** those **earlier days** after you had **received the light**, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do **not throw away your confidence**; it will be richly rewarded. You need to **persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will **receive what he has promised**. For in just a very little while,

"He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And **IF** he **SHRINKS BACK**, I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are **DESTROYED** but of those who believe and are saved.

### 4. I Cor. 9:27

No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will **not be disqualified** for the prize.

### 5. 1 Corinthians 15:2

By this gospel you are **saved, IF** you **hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. **Otherwise**, you have **believed** in **vain**.

Brief Comment: "**IF**" is a HUGE word!

### 6. Hebrews 3:14

We have come to share in Christ **IF** we **hold firmly** till the **end** the confidence we had at first.

### 7. Matthew 10:22

All men will hate you because of me, but he who **stands firm to the END** will be **SAVED**.

8. Matthew 24:13

but he who **stands firm** to the **END** will *be* **SAVED**.

9. Hebrews 6:11

We want each of you to show this **same diligence** to the very **END**, in order to **make** your **HOPE SURE**.

10. John 15:1-2

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He **cuts off** every branch **in me** that **bears no fruit**, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful

11. John 15:6

If anyone does **not** remain **in me**, he is like a branch that is **thrown away** and **withers**; such branches are picked up, **thrown** into the **fire** and **burned**.

12. Matthew 13:18-23

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he **lasts** only a **short time**. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly **falls away**. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

13. 1 Timothy 1:6

Some have **wandered away** from these and turned to meaningless talk.

14. 1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have **wandered** from the **faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs.

15. 1 Timothy 6:21

which some have professed and in so doing have **wandered** from the **faith**.

16. II Timothy 2:11

If we **disown** him, he will also **disown us**.

17. 2 Timothy 2:18

who have **wandered** away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they **destroy** the **faith** of some.

18. James 5:19-20

My brothers, if one of you should **wander** from the truth and someone should **bring** him **back**, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save him** from **death** and cover over a multitude of sins.

19. 2 John 1:8-9

Watch out that you do **not LOSE** what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does **NOT CONTINUE** in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

20. 2 Peter 2:15

They have left the straight way and **wandered off** to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

21. Romans 11:22

Consider therefore the **kindness** and **sternness of God**: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, **PROVIDED** that you **continue** in his kindness. **OTHERWISE**, you **also** will be **cut off**.

22. II Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to **make** your **calling** and **election sure**. For **IF** you **do these things**, you will **never fall**, and you will receive a **rich welcome** into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## 2B

Now let's look at the verses that may indicate that some or all of those who thought they were Christians and are sent to Hell were **NEVER truly Saved!**

Before we read these verses I would like to expand on this important comment.

### Comment

Whether the person was who is SURPRISED to be sent to Hell and THOUGHT they were a Christian was:

- **NEVER** truly Saved OR
- was Saved and **chose to break** the terms of the covenant

it **DOES NOT MATTER!!!** Here is what is **IMPORTANT!!!**

These are MY FRIENDS we are talking about. These are people whom I LOVE!!

Whether they were never saved or have turned away from Jesus is NOT the most important point. The most important point is that I WANT them to GO TO HEAVEN and JESUS wants them to go to heaven.

My heart BREAKS when I hear the self centered perspective of Christians whose only motive for arguing on this subject is that they don't want to battle any fear for their OWN eternal security.

- The terms of the covenant are very clear and we will cover them later in this study.
- The "Security", "Confidence", "Assurance" of eternal life that a Christian can have is very clear and wonderful!
- In addition, Fear is often a wonderful thing if it is a Holy Fear of God!

Again, it is my goal to answer all of YOUR questions. However, before we go further, may I ask WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS?????????

If you have friends who are going to be SURPRISED in heaven because they never understood the terms of the covenant, don't we want the clearest, most helpful approach to help THEM!

- Aren't THEY WORTH taking the time to study every verse carefully.
- Aren't THEY WORTH taking the time to not rushing to quick decisions just to avoid being uncomfortable.
- Aren't THEY WORTH taking the time to understand clearly the covenant of salvation so that you can help them to go to heaven?

Thus, please study what the Bible says about WHAT we must believe in FAITH in order to be saved (*The Terms of the Covenant*) for your Friends as well as for yourself.

## 2B

Now let's look at the verses that may indicate that some or all of those who thought they were Christians and are sent to Hell were **NEVER truly Saved!**

I found three passages that support this position.

### 1. Matthew 7:21-24

"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. **Many** will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, **'I NEVER knew you.** Away from me, you evildoers!'

### 2. I John 2:19

They went out from us, but they did **not really belong to us.** For if they had belonged to us, **they would have remained with us;** but their going **showed** that **none** of them **belonged to us.**

### 3. I John 3:6,9-10

v.6 **No one** who lives in him **keeps on sinning.** **No one** who **continues to sin** has either seen him or **known him.**

v.9-10 **No one** who is **born of God** will **continue to sin,** because God's seed remains in him; he can **not go on sinning,** because he has been born of God. This is **how we know who the children of God are** and who the children of the devil are: **Anyone** who does **not** do what is **right** is **not a child of God;** nor is **anyone** who does **not love his brother.**





## Q.3

### Biblically, can a **Covenant** be **Broken**?

**Every** covenant has “**Terms**” / “**Conditions**” / “**Requirements**”. Either party can break the covenant by breaking the “Terms”. There are a few times when the Lord promises that HE will never break the covenant. However, it is very clear that WE can break the covenant.

1. Jeremiah 11:1-4 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD : "Listen to the **terms** of this covenant and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem. Tell them that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: '**Cursed** is the man who does not obey the **terms** of this covenant- the **terms** I commanded your forefathers when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the iron-smelting furnace.' I said, 'Obey me and do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God

2. Jeremiah 11:10 They have returned to the sins of their forefathers, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both the house of Israel and the house of Judah have **broken** the **covenant** I made with their forefathers.

3. Jeremiah 31:32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they **broke** my **covenant**, though I was a husband to them, " declares the LORD.

4. Jeremiah 34:18-20 The men who have **violated** my **covenant** and have **not fulfilled the terms** of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces. The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, I will **hand over to their enemies** who seek their lives. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth.

5. Ezekiel 17:19 " the Sovereign LORD says: As surely as I live, I will bring down on his head my oath that he despised and my **covenant** that he **broke**.

6. Genesis 17:14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has **broken** my **covenant**."

7. Deuteronomy 31:20 they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and **breaking** my **covenant**.

8. Psalms 89:39 You have **renounced** the **covenant** with your servant and have defiled his crown in the dust

9. Isaiah 24:5 The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and **broken** the **everlasting covenant**.

10. Hosea 6:7 Like Adam, they have **broken** the **covenant** — they were unfaithful to me there.

11. Hosea 8:1 "Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the LORD because the people have **broken** my **covenant** and rebelled against my law.

12. Zechariah 11:10 Then I took my staff called Favor and **broke** it, **revoking** the **covenant** I had made with all the nations.

13. Psalm 50:16 But to the wicked, God says: "**What right** have you to recite my laws or take my **covenant** on your lips?"

14. Nehemiah 1:5 Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who **keeps his covenant** of love **with those who** love him and obey his commands,

Imp. Comment: "**With those who**" is a very clear and often repeated concept when the Lord talks about his covenant. These words clearly state that the covenant is ONLY effective for those who keep the *TERMS / Conditions / Requirements* of the covenant!

15. Psalm 103:17-18 But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children- **with those who** keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

16. Isaiah 56:4 For this is what the LORD says: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, **who** choose what pleases me and **hold fast** to my **covenant-**

17. Isaiah 56:6 And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who **hold fast** to my **covenant-**

18. Daniel 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who **keeps** his **covenant** of love **with all who** love him and obey his commands,

# Q. 4

## What are the **“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”** of the Covenant of Salvation?

NOTE: Please give extra attention to this section.

This is the **“Most. Important”** section in this entire Bible Study..

The word the Bible uses most often for the *“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”* of Salvation is the word: **“BELIEVE!”**.

When you use the word **“Believe”** it is eternally important to be CLEAR about WHAT I have to believe? People often quote the phrase, “We are saved by FAITH!” Again this is ONLY correct if you are CLEAR about WHERE you place your faith.

~ If you *“Believe”* that *“Aliens are coming to earth”*, that Belief will **NOT** save you!  
You have to *“Believe”* the GOSPEL MESSAGE as it is clearly laid out in God’s Word.

~ If you have **“BELIEVE”** a **Twisted Version** of the Gospel such as **“BELIEVING”** that:

Jesus will forgive you of your sins  
while still letting you  
have **control** over your **own life**;

that Faith will **NOT** save you because it is not Faith based upon the Gospel. It is important to have Faith in the Gospel message and to **“BELIEVE”** based on the *“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”* of the Gospel.

The good news is that **MOST** Christians **AGREE** on the *“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”* of the Covenant of Salvation. This wonderful agreement actually brings a lot of peace between two opposite camps. In general BOTH those who:

- Believe in *“Once Saved / Always Saved”* AND
- Those who believe that *“You Can Renounce Your Salvation”*

**BOTH** usually **AGREE** on the *“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”* of the covenant.

The **DIFFERENCE** is that when one **no longer fulfills** the *“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”* of the covenant,

- the *“Once Saved / Always Saved”* person would say that they never experienced true salvation,

- while the “*You Can Renounce Your Salvation*” group would believe that they had broken and renounced the covenant by refusing to keep the “*Terms*” / “*Conditions*” / “*Requirements*” of the covenant.

The MOST IMPORTANT thing is to READ the scriptures and to carefully understand the covenant through a careful study of all of the Word of God.

The **Two Clear Bible Components** of “**Believe**” are

**“Believe” = 1. “Die to Self” + 2. “Receive His Life”**

Doing **BOTH** of these Bible Requirements is what the Bible sums up in the word “**BELIEVE**”.

**Important Note:** Although “*Die to Self*” and “*Receive*” are the two halves of “**BELIEVE**” they are really ONE function. It is like the two halves of **EXHALING** & **INHALING** form the function of **BREATHING!**

“*Die to Self*” explains:

1. How **Lordship** is a **BY-PRODUCT** of “*Die to Self*”
2. Not understanding “*Die to Self*” is why some Christians are **NOT hungry, NOT passionate** and **NOT aggressively seeking** more of God in their lives. When you understand “*Die to Self*”---**Passion, Zeal** and **Hunger for God** are **AUTOMATIC**
3. How the root of **all TEMPTATION** is tied to not understanding what it means to “*Die to Self*”
4. That not understanding “*Die to Self*” explains **EVERY instance** of a Christian
  - Backsliding
  - Being a WEAK Christian
  - or Wandering away from the faith

My personal guess is that this Bible Study on what “*Die to Self*” means Biblically, is the deepest reason why some people will spend eternity in Hell, when they THOUGHT that they were Christians.

Thus, I appeal to you to please read and study this next section with extra attentiveness.

## **1. First half of “BELIEVE” ----- “Die to Self”**

Do you understand sin? The book of Romans spends the first seven chapters explaining sin so that you can understand the Gospel. You can NOT understand the gospel until you understand sin.

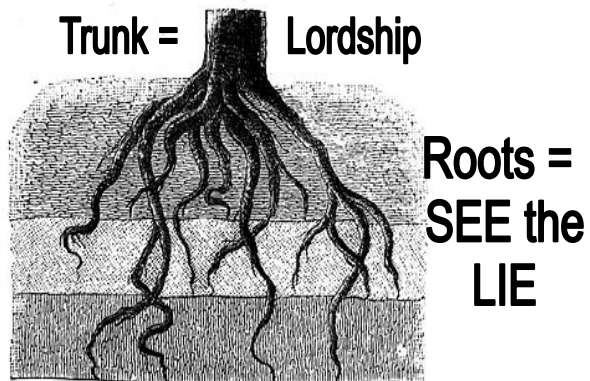
The root of all SIN is self rule. (Is. 53:6) Even a good deed done with a determination to run your own life is sin. We were created to be extensions of the living God. Thus to REPENT is to turn away from self rule and accept the Lordship of Jesus in our lives.

The Lordship of Jesus is the TRUNK of “Die to Self” but it is NOT the ROOT of the tree. Lordship is a clear requirement of salvation. Yet it is possible to teach on Lordship and to Not Understand that there is a LIE that people have swallowed that is KEEPING THEM from accepting the Lordship of Christ in their lives.

To explain this life changing truth let's take a few minutes to study the subject of **TEMPTATION.**

The **LIE** of **ALL TEMPTATION** is that **SIN SATISFIES!**

The ROOT of the Bible truth of “Die to Self” is to **SEE** the **LIE.**



Let's look at “Die to Self” through five different Bible studies

1. The book of “Ecclesiastes”.
2. The study of “Temptation” in a perfect world (3 times)
3. The subject of “Fantasy vs. Reality”
4. The “Addiction” of Sin
5. What the word “Repent” actually means.

### **1. Ecclesiastes.**

Solomon had more wealth, power and wisdom than any other man. He tried to use all of this to find satisfaction apart from God in power, wealth, sensual pleasure, scientific productivity and found all of them MEANINGLESS and EMPTY. This is the entire message of the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Unlike Solomon, the reason that many Christians swallow the lie that SIN would SATISFY is that they are basing their belief on a FANTASY. They have never had any sin that satisfied, but if Satan can keep the FANTASY in their brain then he can get them to swallow the lie.

FANTASY is the opposite of REALITY!

These Christians have never had a sin SATISFY for six months, much less sixty years. Yet, they DREAM in their mind of a Future where this sin would satisfy. (*By the way, Satan still fantasizes that he will overthrow God in the end.*) The difference with Solomon is that he used REALITY as a test and not FANTASY.

Chuck Swindoll has a terrific book and series of teachings on the book of Ecclesiastes called LIVING ON THE RAGGED EDGE if you want to study this Ecclesiastes in greater depth.

## **2. Temptation in a PERFECT World (3 Times)**

THREE times, God will have his creation turn away from Him in a PERFECT world.

### **1. In Heaven (Lk 10:18, Rev. 12).**

For millions of years, Lucifer had worshiped our God in heaven. He KNEW that God is good and all things about God are good. YET, Lucifer believed the LIE that SELF RULE would SATISFY.

### **2. In the Garden of Eden (Gen. 1-3).**

Adam and Eve KNEW that God is good and all things about God are good. YET, they believed the LIE that SELF RULE would SATISFY.

### **3. At the end of the thousand year reign of Christ on the Earth (Rev. 20).**

The people on Earth will experience one thousand years with NO sin and with Jesus himself ruling on the earth. YET, after these thousand years, many will turn against God because they believe that LIE that SELF RULE will SATISFY.

EVERY Victorious Christian has come to the place where they understand that ALL SELF-rule produces **Emptiness, Misery, Pain and Death**. When they “BELIEVE” that any action they take apart from God will make them **miserable, empty, pain-filled and dead**; then they **SEE the LIE!**

When temptation entices a Victorious Christian they pray for the Lord to open their eyes to SEE the LIE. Once you SEE the LIE then the temptation is gone! This is a major point of daily victory in Christ. THIS is HOW Victorious Christians walk by Grace! This is why Victorious Christians are never fooled into thinking they can earn heaven by their own Works or Effort.

We explain more about this at the Conclusion of Q. 4 when we answer the question: “HOW can I SEE the LIE?”.

Foolish, weak, backslidden and wandering Christians and most Non-Christians ACTUALLY swallow the lie from Temptation that one day in the future in their FANTASY:

- Self Rule will Satisfy
- Anger will Satisfy

- Sensual Pleasure will Satisfy
- Love of Money will Satisfy
- Pride will Satisfy

The reality is that the more you sin: the **emptier**, more **miserable**, more **self-centered** and more **filled with death** everything in your life becomes, yet in this FANTASY, temptation tell us that one day in the far off future this sin will SATISFY us.

### **3. The subject of “Fantasy vs. Reality”**

In our end times society, TV, Movies and Video Games have greatly blurred the difference between “FANTASY” & “REALITY”. It is very hard for this end times society to sort out the difference between the “REALITY” of their life and the “FANTASY” of what they WISH their life would be.

In this “FANTASY” obsessed society it is much easier for Satan to convince a person that SIN SATISFIES because they NEVER TEST the actual REALITY of this truth.

Thus the promise that the end times will be a time of great deception is coming true.

1. Mt. 24:3-4  
the ***end of the age?*** Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one ***deceives*** you.
2. Matthew 13:22  
The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the ***deceitfulness*** of ***wealth*** choke it, making it unfruitful.
3. Romans 7:11  
For ***sin***, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, ***deceived me***, and through the commandment put me to death.
4. Romans 16:18  
For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their ***own appetites***. By smooth talk and flattery they ***deceive*** the minds of ***naive*** people.
5. 2 Corinthians 11:3  
But I am afraid that just as Eve was ***deceived*** by the ***serpent's cunning***, your ***minds*** may somehow be ***led astray*** from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

6. 2 Timothy 3:13  
**evil men** and **impostors** will go from bad to worse, **deceiving** and **being deceived**.
7. Hebrews 3:13  
that none of you may be **hardened** by **sin's deceitfulness**.
8. Revelation 20:10  
And the **devil**, who **deceived them**, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur,

The saddest part of our end times fantasy obsessed society is that most people live in a fantasy world on the subject of ETERNITY. Usually they have NOT carefully and humbly searched the scriptures.

Most people will put over 100,000 hours into the fantasy world of TV, Movies and Internet over the course of an average life time. Yet many of these same people have never put 10 hours into searching God's word about where they will spend eternity.

Psalm 4:2 **How long** will you **love delusions?**

#### **4. The "Addiction" of Sin**

The more you sin, the more you will CRAVE the sin like a heroin addict craves heroin. Sin doesn't just DECEIVE you; it causes you to become ADDICTED to the sin. If you want to see how deeply addicted you may be to sin then try a very simple fast.

##### **Fast idea**

Abstain from all Movies, TV and Internet Surfing for one month. If you have the courage to try to leave your fantasy world for one month, you will be overwhelmed with a 'REALITY' picture of how empty your life has truly become.

If you partake of this fast, please be aware of weak excuses. Before you convince yourself that you NEED this entertainment, please remind yourself that people lived without all of this for many thousands of years. Please keep your head in the world of reality enough to honestly look at the true state of your soul for one month.

The Bible is clear that the more ADDICTED you become to sin, the more you lose your ability to THINK and simply become a Brute Beast living to try to satisfy desires that will never be satisfied.



1. 2 Peter 2:10,12 This is especially true of those who follow the **corrupt desire** of the **sinful nature**. They are like **brute beasts**, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like **beasts** they too will **perish**.
2. Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the **cravings** of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
3. 1 John 2:16 For everything in the world—the **cravings** of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.
4. Eph. 5:6 Let no one **deceive** you with **empty** words
5. 1 Peter 1:18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the **empty** way of life handed down to you from your forefathers
6. II Peter 2:18-19 For they mouth **empty**, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are **slaves of depravity**—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him
7. John 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a **slave to sin**
8. Romans 6:19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in **slavery** to impurity and **to ever-increasing wickedness**, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness
9. Eph. 4:19 Having **lost all sensitivity**, they have **given themselves over to sensuality** so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a **continual lust for more**.

##### **5. What the word “Repent” actually means.**

The Bible word for “Repent” does **NOT** mean a “*WILL POWER decision to do better*”! The Greek word for “Repent” in the N.T. is the word metanoeo {met-an-o-eh'-o} which means to “*Change the way you THINK*”

This word metaneo {met-an-o-eh'-o} is used 34 times in the New Testament. If you went back and reread every verse in the New Testament on the word "Repent" and changed your internal definition of this word

**from:** "WILL POWER decision to do better"!

**to:** "Change the way you THINK"

It could greatly change the way you approach this subject.

If you give up TV, Movies and Internet for one month, then you will have plenty of time for rich Bible Studies. (*Smiles of Encouragement*)

When you "THINK" that: Self-Pity, Complaining, Anger, Pride, TV, Money or Being in Charge of your own life will SATISFY then you have NOT yet "Repented".

- When you SEE the LIE that anything you do (Apart from God) produces emptiness, misery and death then you have "Repented" because you now "THINK" differently.
- When you SEE the LIE that you can NOT even be a Good person in your own strength; then you have "Repented" because you now "THINK" differently.

~ Once you see the lie, it is automatic to RECEIVE Jesus offer of Abundant Life.

~ Once you think clearly, it is automatic to receive the Jesus authority over your life as Lord and King.

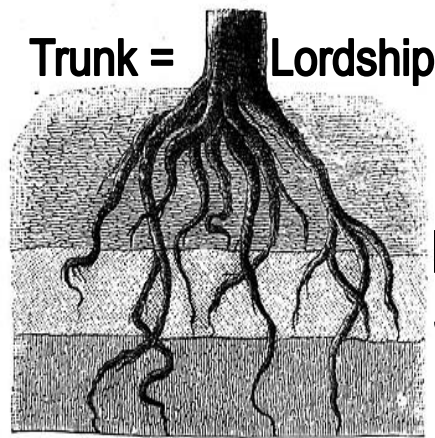
~ Once you realize that Jesus is the only source of life, you then become very passionate for Him.

This understanding of what the word "Repent" actually means again shows how Victorious Christians live by Grace, are able to Trust God for His strength and do NOT count on their own strength or effort to get them to heaven.

Thus, to "Die to Self" means to Die to the **FALSE HOPE** that ANYTHING of ME, apart from God will every satisfy.

When a person **SEES** the **LIE** and DIES to the FALSE HOPE that ANYTHING of ME apart from God will ever satisfy,

then the **LORDSHIP**  
of Jesus  
is **AUTOMATIC.**



## Quick Quiz

If you easily understand these next two statements, then you understand the power of “*Die to Self*” as the first half of what it means to “*Believe*”

1. Any person who believes that Jesus is the **BEST** choice will eventually **GO BACK** to **SIN**.

Just the fact that they used the word “*Best*” shows that this person is deceived and they have not yet SEEN the LIE.

2. Any person who serves Jesus because that is what they **SHOULD** do will eventually **GO BACK** to **SIN**. Just the fact that they used the word “*Should*” shows that this person is deceived and they have not yet SEEN the LIE.

It is when we believe that Jesus is the **ONLY** hope

- for joy,
- for fulfillment,
- for peace,
- for anything that satisfies,
- for LIFE

that we have “***Died to Self***”.

You can see that a Biblical understanding of “***Died to Self***” produces Great PASSION, HUNGER, ZEAL, & AGGRESSIVE determination to seek Him.

Mt. 5:6 Blessed are those who ***hunger*** and ***thirst*** for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Now we are ready to move on to the **SECOND HALF** of what the Bible means by the word “**BELIEVE**”.

**Important Note REPEATED:** Although “*Die to Self*” and “*Receive*” are the two halves of “**BELIEVE**” they are really ONE function. It is like the two halves of **EXHALING & INHALING** form the function of **BREATHING!**

## **2. Second half of “BELIEVE” ----- “Receive”**

“Receive” is an ACTION word. It implies an aggressive determination to take hold of that which is being offered to you. There are TWO important parts of “RECEIVING”. They are:

1. Receiving the **FREE Gift of Eternal life** and our sins forgiven which is offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

I John 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**.

2. Receiving **STRENGTH** to follow the Lord **today!**

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may **receive** mercy and find grace to help us in our **time of need**.

At this point, there is a **VERY MAJOR TRUTH** that is important to understand. The “Die to Self” part of the “BELIEVING” is even BIGGER than you may have realized.

The “Die to Self” part of the “BELIEVING” **INCLUDES:**

believing that we do  
**NOT** have the **POWER**  
to **OBEY GOD**  
in our **OWN ABILITY**.

If you try to walk with Jesus in your own strength you will be a constantly frustrated person who fails.

You have not yet “Died to Self”.

Romans 7:15-19

I do **not understand what I do**.  
For what **I want to do** I do **not do**,  
but what **I hate I do**.

And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that

**nothing good** lives **in me**, that is, in my **sinful nature**.

For I have the **desire** to do what is **good**, but I **cannot** carry it out.

For **what I do** is **not** the good I want to do;  
no, the **evil** I do **not want** to do—**this I keep on doing**.

Paul went on from this painful passage to write the amazing eighth chapter of Romans. In that chapter the Holy Spirit is mentioned more than any other chapter in the Bible. Paul learned that God's Spirit could live THROUGH him!

When you have "Died" to any ability to obey Jesus in your **OWN strength**, then the promises in scripture that we can **"RECEIVE"**

- His **Love**,
- His **Word**
- His **Spirit**
- His **Mercy**
- His **Grace**
- His **Peace**
- His **Wisdom**
- His **Truth**
- His **Heart**
- His **Strength**-----**All** come **alive**.

Again, this is when you see PASSIONATE, HUNGRY Christians! When Jesus is our ONLY option for anything that will SATISFY, then we become more aggressive in our faith.

We forcefully take hold of His promises. We forcefully take hold of his presence, peace and grace.

We RECEIVE!

## A Great Analogy



If you were walking along a path in the woods and your face brushed against a rope hanging from a tree. That rope might irritate you since it interrupted a pleasant walk. As you watched you noticed that the rope was slowly being drawn up into the tree.

Out of curiosity, you might grab the rope and let it draw you up into the tree. Eventually though, you would return to the ground since the ground is familiar and safe.

Now, if your eyes were opened and you saw that you are NOT standing in a comfortable path, but are actually in quicksand up to your nose, this changes your reaction to the rope. You would CLING to that rope with all of your strength.

Once we SEE the LIE of our true condition, then we RECEIVE His grace with a deep passion.

This is the Gospel!!!

“Die to Self” (**Exhale**) and “Receive” (**Inhale**) His Eternal Life and His Daily Strength.

If you “BELIEVE” in this Good News message you will spend Eternity in Heaven.

Having defined the Terms of the Covenant of Salvation, we are going to study approx. 40 major passages on salvation in the New Testament. The goal of such an extensive study is to protect us from bias and twisting the Gospel by over-emphasizing a few verses.

In these verses we will look at key words for four different themes.

### 1. *(Terms)* **“Terms” / “Conditions” / “Requirements”**

The Bible makes it clear that there are “*Terms*” / “*Conditions*” / “*Requirements*” to receive the covenant of salvation.

There are HUGE phrases in many verses. Phrases such as the words:

- “*Must*”
- “*If*”
- “*Everyone*”, “*No One*” etc

Each time a phrase gives this message we will aid your study by adding *(Terms)* near the phrase

### 2. *(Die to Self)* **Die to Self**

“*Die to Self*” is “*BELIEVING*” that anything of ME apart from God will produce Misery, Pain, Emptiness and Death. As a result I TURN AWAY (*Repent*) of Self control, automatically submit to the Lordship of Christ and thirst for His Strength. (**Exhale**)

Each time a phrase gives this message we will aid your study by adding *(Die to Self)* near the phrase

### 3. *(Receive)* **Receive**

The Second half of “*BELIEVING*”. Receiving His Gift of Eternal Life. Receiving His Strength. (**Inhale**)

Each time a phrase gives this message we will aid your study by adding *(Receive)* near the phrase

### 4. *(Punishment)* **Punishment**

When anyone refuses to obey the terms of the covenant, the punishment is made clear!

Each time a phrase gives this message we will aid your study by adding *(Punishment)* near the phrase

NOTE: Many phrases have multiple meanings, When a phrase has multiple meanings we will stack the comments right next to each other. *(Terms)* *(Die to Self)* *(Receive)* *(Punishment)*

1. Matthew 10:37-39

"**Anyone** *(Terms)* who loves his father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me;** *(Punishment)* **anyone** *(Terms)* who loves his son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me;** *(Punishment)* and **anyone** *(Terms)* who does **NOT take his cross** *(Die to Self)* and **follow me** *(Receive)* is **not worthy of me.** *(Punishment)* **Whoever finds his life** will **lose it,** *(Punishment)* and **whoever** *(Terms)* **loses his life** *(Die to Self)* for **my sake** *(Receive)* will **find it.** *(Receive)*

2. Mt. 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If **anyone** *(Terms)* would come after me, he **must** *(Terms)* **deny himself** *(Die to Self)* and **take up his cross** *(Die to Self)* and **follow me.** *(Receive)* For whoever wants to **save** his life will **lose it,** *(Punishment)* but whoever **loses his life** *(Die to Self)* **for me** *(Receive)* **will find it.** *(Receive)*

3. II Cor. 5:15

And he died for all that those who live should **NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES** *(Die to Self)* but **for HIM** *(Receive)* who died for them and was raised again.

4. II Tim. 2:19

Never the less, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription, the Lord knows those who are his and **EVERYONE** *(Terms)* who **confesses the name** *(Receive)* of the Lord **MUST** *(Terms)* **TURN AWAY** from **WICKEDNESS.** *(Die to Self)*

5. Romans 10:9

That **if** *(Terms)* you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is **Lord,**" *(Die to Self) (Receive)* and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, *(Receive)* you **will be saved.** *(Receive)*

Note: Lord meant "Slave Master"

6. Romans 6:10-11

The death he died he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he LIVES TO GOD. In the **Same way** *(Terms)* count yourselves **DEAD to Sin** *(Die to Self)* and **alive to God** *(Receive)* in Christ Jesus.

7. II Tim. 2:11-12

Here is a trustworthy saying: **If** <sup>(Terms)</sup> we **died with him**, <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> we will **also live with him**; <sup>(Receive)</sup> if we **endure**, we will **also reign with him**. <sup>(Receive)</sup> **If** <sup>(Terms)</sup> we **disown him**, he will **also disown us**; <sup>(Punishment)</sup>

8. Col. 3:3

For **you died** <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> and your life is now **hidden with Christ** in God. <sup>(Receive)</sup>

9. I John 2:3-6

We know that we have come to **know him** <sup>(Receive)</sup> **if** <sup>(Terms)</sup> we **obey** his commands. <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> <sup>(Receive)</sup> The man who says, **"I know him,"** but does **not do** what he **commands** is a **LIAR** <sup>(Terms)</sup> and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is **how** we **know** we are **in him**: <sup>(Terms)</sup> Whoever claims to **live in him** <sup>(Receive)</sup> **must** <sup>(Terms)</sup> **walk** as **Jesus did**. <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> <sup>(Receive)</sup>

10. John 12:25,26

The man who **loves** his **life** will **lose it**, <sup>(Punishment)</sup> while the man who **hates** his **life in this world** <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> will **keep it** for **eternal life**. <sup>(Receive)</sup>

11. Matthew 7:19-21

**Every** <sup>(Terms)</sup> tree that does **not** bear good **fruit** is **cut down** and **thrown** into the **fire**. <sup>(Punishment)</sup> Thus, **by** their **fruit** you will **recognize them**. <sup>(Terms)</sup> Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only** <sup>(Terms)</sup> he who **does** the **will of my Father** <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> <sup>(Receive)</sup> who is in heaven.

12. Hebrews 12:14

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy, **without holiness** <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> <sup>(Receive)</sup> **No one** <sup>(Terms)</sup> will see the Lord.

13. John 13:13

"You call me 'Teacher' and **'Lord,'** and **rightly so**, <sup>(Terms)</sup> for that is what I am

14. John 14:15

**"If** <sup>(Terms)</sup> you **love me**, you will **obey** what I **command**. <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> <sup>(Receive)</sup>

15. John 14:21

**Whoever** <sup>(Terms)</sup> has my commands and **obeys them** <sup>(Die to Self)</sup> <sup>(Receive)</sup> he is the one who **loves me**. He who loves me **will be loved** by my Father, <sup>(Receive)</sup> and **I too** will **love him** <sup>(Receive)</sup> and **show myself** to him." <sup>(Receive)</sup>



16. John 14:23

Jesus replied, "**If anyone** (Terms) **loves me,** he will **obey** my teaching (Die to Self) (Receive)

17. John 14:24

He who does **not love** me will **not obey** my teaching. (Terms)

18. John 15:10

**If** (Terms) you **obey** my commands (Die to Self) (Receive) , you will **remain** in my love (Receive)

19. John 15:14

You are my **friends** **if** (Terms) you **do** what I **command**. (Die to Self) (Receive)

20. Romans 6:15-23

What then? **Shall** we **sin** (Terms) because we are not under law but under grace? By **no means!** (Terms) Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are **slaves** (Terms) to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to **obedience** (Die to Self) (Receive) , which leads to **righteousness?** (Receive) But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you **wholeheartedly obeyed** (Terms) (Die to Self) (Receive) the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been **set free** from **sin** (Receive) and have become **slaves to righteousness**. (Die to Self) (Receive) I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now **offer** them in **slavery to righteousness** (Terms) (Die to Self) (Receive) **leading to holiness**. (Receive) When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become **slaves to God,** (Terms) (Die to Self) (Receive) the benefit you reap **leads to holiness,** (Receive) and the result is **eternal life**. (Receive) for the **wages of sin is death,** (Punishment) but the **GIFT** (Receive) of God is **eternal life.** (Receive)

21. Romans 8:5-6

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their **minds set** on what the **Spirit desires.** (Die to Self) (Receive) The **mind of sinful man is death,** (Punishment) but the mind **controlled** (Die to Self) (Receive) by the **Spirit is life and peace;** (Receive)

22. Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying,  
"**Repent,** (Terms) (Die to Self) for the kingdom of **heaven is near.**" (Receive)

23. Matthew 3:10

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and **every** (Terms) tree that does **not** produce **good fruit** will be **cut down** and **thrown** into the **fire.** (Punishment)

24. Matthew 4:17

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent,** (Terms) (Die to Self) for the kingdom of **heaven is near.**" (Receive)

25. Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole **body** to be thrown into **hell.** (Punishment)  
And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your **whole body** to go into **hell.** (Punishment)

26. Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples** (Terms) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to **obey everything** I have commanded you. (Die to Self) (Receive) And surely I am **with you always,** to the very end of the age." (Receive)

27. Luke 3:8-9

**Produce fruit** (Terms) in keeping with **repentance.** (Die to Self) And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and **every** (Terms) tree that does **not** produce good **fruit** will be **cut down** and thrown into the **fire.**" (Punishment)

28. Luke 14:33

In the same way, **any** (Terms) of you who does **NOT GIVE UP EVERYTHING** he has (Die to Self) can **NOT** (Terms) be my disciple.

29. John 1:12

Yet to **all** (Terms) who **received** (Die to Self) (Receive) him, to those who **believed** (Die to Self) (Receive) in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God** (Receive)

30. John 3:3, 5

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, **no one** (Terms) can see the kingdom of God unless he is **born again.**" (Die to Self) (Receive) Jesus answered, "I tell you the

truth, **no one** (Terms) can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the **Spirit**. (Die to Self) (Receive)

31. John 3:16-21

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes** in **him** (Die to Self) (Receive) shall not perish but have **eternal life**. (Receive) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever **believes** (Die to Self) (Receive) in him is **not condemned**, (Receive) but whoever does **not believe** stands **condemned already** (Punishment) because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth **comes** into the **light**, (Die to Self) so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through **God**." (Receive)

32. John 3:36

Whoever **believes** (Die to Self) (Receive) in the Son has **eternal life** (Receive), but whoever **rejects** the Son will **not see life**, for **God's wrath** remains on him." (Punishment)

33. John 5:24

I tell you the truth, whoever **hears my word** (Die to Self) and **believes** (Receive) him who sent me has **eternal life** (Receive) and will **not be condemned**; (Receive) he has crossed over from **death** (Die to Self) to **life**. (Receive)

34. John 6:35, 40

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will **never** go **hungry**, and he who **believes** in me will **never** be **thirsty**. (Die to Self) (Receive) For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and **believes** (Die to Self) (Receive) in him shall have **eternal life**, (Receive) and I will raise him up at the last day."

35. John 9:39

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the **blind** (Die to Self) will **see** (Receive) and those who see will become **blind**." (Punishment)

36. John 10:10

The thief comes **only** to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**; (Die to Self) I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the **full**. (Receive)

37. John 10:27-29

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they **follow me**. (Die to Self) I give them **eternal life**, (Receive) and they shall **never perish** (Receive); no one

can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

38. John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever **lives** (Die to Self) and **believes** (Die to Self) (Receive) in me will **never die** (Die to Self).

## **Conclusion of Q. 4-----“HOW can I SEE the LIE?”.**

If you don't see HOW everything of self *(apart from God)* always winds up in misery, emptiness and pain,.....but you WANT to SEE, the answer is very simple.

If you want to move from living in a Fantasy world into the world of reality, it requires a sincere season of asking God to open your eyes will allow you to SEE the LIE!

II Cor. 3:16 But whenever anyone **turns** to the **Lord** the **veil** is **taken away**.

If you **ask** the Lord, **sincerely** and **consistently**, to show you the truth of how empty, miserable and hopeless your life is apart from Him, He will open your eyes. You will not pray this prayer 100 times before you see the quicksand. *(quicksand comes form the analogy on page 28.)*

The word sincere in the New Testament means “Pure”. If your motives are *pure* or *sincere* then you will be willing to put forth sincere effort to seek God's help.

### 5 Tools

We are going to give you five tools that will strip away all FANTASY from your life and allow you to see reality. These five tools are two fasts and three specific prayers.

Please be aware that these five tools will hurt a lot. They strip away Fantasy like someone stripping paint off of an old piece of furniture.

### Warning

God makes it very clear that He does **NOT** have any obligation to respond to those who seek him **half-way** and only put “**Some**” effort into seeking Him.

1. Deuteronomy 4:29

But **if** from there you **seek** the LORD your God, you will find him **if** you look for him with **all** your **heart** and with **all** your **soul**.

2. 2 Chronicles 7:14

**if** my people, who are called by my name, will **humble** themselves and pray and **seek** my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, **then** will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

3. Psalm 14:2  
The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to **see** if there are **any** who understand, **any** who **seek** God.
4. Psalm 119:10  
I **seek** you with **all** my **heart**, do not let me stray from your commands.
5. Proverbs 8:17  
I **love** those who **love me**, and those who **seek** me **find me**.
6. Isaiah 58:2  
For **day** after **day** they **seek** me out; they **SEEM eager** to know my ways,  
  
Note: If you study Isaiah 58, you will see that they were PRETENDING to seek the Lord but were NOT seeking the Lord with their whole heart.
7. Zephaniah 2:3  
**Seek** the LORD, all you **humble** of the land, you who do what he commands.  
**Seek righteousness, seek humility;** perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.
8. Hebrews 11:6  
And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who **EARNESTLY seek** him.
9. Matthew 22  
Teacher, which is the **greatest commandment** in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

### Here are the five tools:

We explain each tool in detail below.

#### 2 Fasts:

1. A one month Fast from all media entertainment.
2. A 1-2 Day Fast from selfishness.

#### 3 prayers.

3. Lord please show me the ugly MOTIVES of my heart.
4. Lord please show me LONG Term vs. SHORT Term.
5. Lord please show me the Battle.

## 1. A one month Fast from all media entertainment

No TV, movies, video games or internet surfing (*Other than what is required for your job*) for one month. The first couple of weeks may be some of the most miserable days of your entire life. You may be like a cocaine addict going through withdrawal symptoms. It is often a painful and ugly process to see reality and to face how truly empty our lives are.

We **STRONGLY SUGGEST** that you find 1-2 of the most Joyful, Passionate, Loving and Faithful Christians you know and ask them to **JOIN** you on this fast. They can meet with you multiple times each week to study God's Word and discuss different books you are all reading. You will have plenty of time. ☺

## 2. Lord please show me the ugly MOTIVES of my heart

If you truly want to see the quicksand of your own misery, then ask the Lord to show you the selfish, ugly MOTIVES of your heart.

Prov. 16:2

**All** a man's ways **seem innocent** to **him**,  
but **motives** are weighed by the **LORD**.

As you pray this prayer, be aware that your OWN Heart is the one thing that has LIED to you more than all other people combined. The Bible is very clear that your heart INTENTIONALLY is determined to DECEIVE you! In the verse above, it was your heart that told you that you are innocent and have pure motives.

Jeremiah 7:24 But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the **stubborn inclinations** of their **evil hearts**. They went **backward** and **not forward**.

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart** is **deceitful** above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

The truth is that some of your motives are so ugly and selfish that you will feel great shame when you see clearly your own heart. This misery and pain is part of the death process of "Die to Self". It is part of becoming a person of truth!

When you feel this Shame and Disgrace of seeing the ugly motives of your heart, please remember that the Lord offers to EXCHANGE your shame and disgrace for a double portion of His JOY.

If you never acknowledge the shame and disgrace of your own ugly motives, then you have NOTHING to exchange with the Lord. However, when you take Ownership of the ugly motives of your heart, the Lord offers to exchange your shame and disgrace in Isaiah 61:7.

Isaiah 61:7

**Instead** (As an exchange) of their **SHAME** my people will **RECEIVE** a **DOUBLE PORTION**

And **instead** (Again an exchange) of **DISGRACE**, they will **REJOICE** in their inheritance.

And so they will inherit a **double portion** in their land

And **everlasting JOY** will be theirs.

### **3. A 1-2 Day Fast from Selfishness**

It may be that you have believed the most FOOLISH of all the lies that your heart has ever told you. It may be that you actually have a FANTASY that you are a “Good” Person.

The truth is that each person who stands before God on their own merit will have to answer for tens of millions of sins of selfishness. The word “Good” implies “PURITY”. In Genesis chapter 1, when God created the different aspects of the earth before sin, he looked at them and proclaimed them “Good”. Every thing that God made was perfect & pure. It was “Good”.

When the rich young man was flattering Jesus by flippantly using the word “Good”, Jesus challenged him on the truth of the word “Good”. Jesus wanted to know if the man understood that he was talking to God in the Flesh or if he was flippantly paying a false compliment.

Mark 10:18

***“Why do you call me good?”***

Jesus answered. ***“NO ONE is good—except God alone.***

Romans 3:12

All have turned away, they have together become worthless;  
there is ***NO ONE*** who does ***good, not even one.***”

If you have considered yourself a “Good” person than you have given yourself a FALSE COMPLIMENT!

If you want to strip away the lie of being a “Good” person from the world of Fantasy and move into Reality than this Fast will open your eyes wide.

For 1-2, try to be a Good person in **EVERY thought** and **action**.

Make sure that you do **NOT ask** for **God’s help** in this fast. Asking for God’s help would remove your credit.

- For 1-2 days, have ONLY loving kind thoughts toward every person.
- For 1-2 days, do NOT think about yourself other than basic needs of sleep and food.
- In every thought and action make sure that you treat each person as more important than yourself.

- Set aside your wants and preferences and do all that you can to bless and serve each person.

Note: We were originally going to ask for a one WEEK fast. However, we recognized that no human can last an entire week trying to be a “Good” person. Thus, we shortened the length to 1-2 days in the hope that some will actually want to find out the REALITY of how much selfishness is in the heart.

#### **4. Lord please show me LONG Term vs. SHORT Term**

The longer anyone sins, the emptier they become. To live in the Fantasy world you have to always look at your sin in the context of IMMEDIATE PLEASURE and NEVER, EVER EVER EVER look LONG TERM.

When you look at your attitudes and actions through the eyes of an old person or through the eyes of eternity, then the pain of selfishness becomes very clear.

I would like to tell you a story about this verse.

Romans 6:21

***What benefit*** did you receive at ***that time*** (*Years ago*)

From the things you are ***NOW*** (*Future perspective*)

***Ashamed*** of ? Those things ***result*** in ***Death.*** (*Misery, pain, emptiness etc.*)

1981 was the first year that I began memorizing chapters of God's Word. The first chapter I memorized was Romans 6. This chapter greatly opened my eyes to how deeply the subject of “Die to Self” is the starting part of Faith in Jesus.

To this day I quote Romans 6 every week. Every week, Romans 6:21 remind me that part of the LIE of SIN is that SIN tries to make us look at a SELFISH IMMEDIATE focus.

Will you please ask this question that Paul gives in Romans 6:21? ***“What BENEFIT are you currently receiving from that things that one day in the future you will be so very ASHAMED of?”***

Thirty years from now when everyone around you has suffered deeply from your stubborn determination to do your own thing, how will that BENEFIT you?

When you stand before God and you see how much these sins have COST you, how will you look at these sins then?

#### **Psalm 73**

Psalm 73 is an entire psalm about a man who was DECEIVED for a season into believing that SIN SATISFIES. In the first 16 verses, this man is battling bitterness that the way of sin SEEMS more satisfying.



Then in verse 17, he enters into God's presence. When he is in God's presence, it is like a veil is lifted off of his brain and he can see clearly. He begins to see clearly how miserable, nervous and fearful are the people who walk in the way of sin.

He also sees how he was in a fantasy or like a person who was dreaming. He was not living in REALITY but in a FANTASY. This is a powerful Psalm and I highly recommend studying it.

Psalm 73:20-22 As a **dream** when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as **fantasies**. When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, **I was senseless** and **ignorant**, I was a **brute beast** before you.

Please ask the Lord to show you the CLARITY that a LONG term perspective brings.

### **5. Lord please show me the Battle.**

As you ask the Lord to move you from the world of FANTASY to REALITY, it would be very wise to expect some resistance. There will be a battle on multiple fronts.

#### **5a Your own sin will battle against you.**

As mentioned earlier, the selfishness of sin is addictive. It does not let go easily. The longer and deeper you have given in to sin, the harder it is to get it out of your life.

I Pt. 1:12

***sinful desires***, which ***war*** against your ***soul***.

#### **5b Satan and this World will battle against you.**

You can't watch 40 hours a week of TV, focus on areas of lust and constant pleasure and regain your mind. This world system is designed to KEEP you in the world of FANTASY.

Somewhere inside you spirit is the calling of a warrior. Yes, it may be a great battle to regain your mind and to live in Reality. Just because it is a battle or hard does NOT mean that it is NOT Satisfying. Some of the most satisfying and fulfilling things are the ones that involve the greatest battle.

If you are willing to recognize that Satan hates you and wants desperately to keep your mind in the FANTASY zone, then you have already won half of the battle.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the **devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is **no truth in him**. When he **lies, he speaks his native language**, for he is a **liar** and the **father of lies**.

Thus, these five tools will greatly help you to SEE the LIE that SIN truly does NOT Satisfy.

**2 Fasts:**

1. A one month Fast from all media entertainment.
2. A 1-2 Day Fast from selfishness.

**3 prayers.**

3. Lord please show me the ugly MOTIVES of my heart.
4. Lord please show me LONG Term vs. SHORT Term.
5. Lord please show me the Battle.

When you SEE the LIE, then scriptures like these will become very dear to you.

Timothy 6:19

so that they may take hold of the **life** that is **TRULY life.**

II Cor. 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to **show** that **this all-surpassing power** is **from God** and **not** from **us.**

# Q.5.

How do I have **ASSURANCE** that I will go to heaven?

**IF** you have understood and accepted the terms of the covenant --- the Bible lists two areas of obedience that will cause you to grow in confidence / assurance that you are going to heaven. These two areas listed in God's word are the two Greatest Commands to any Christian. Thus, obeying in these areas is very critical to showing by your life that you are sincerely Born Again.

## Two Commands

1. **Serve well your church family**
2. **Know the Holy Spirit, Be Filled with the Spirit, Walk in the Spirit**

### Command # 1. Serve your church family.

Here are the Bible studies that we will cover under command number one!

- i. The **emphatic emphasis** of **God's Word** on this command
- ii. The **proven fruit** of so many Christians
- iii. The **reasons** that you have had a **hard time** in a **local church**.
  - a. If you spend time listening to slander instead of serving...
  - b. You were being TESTED & TAUGHT by the Lord.
  - c. You may have not yet learned that it is IMPOSSIBLE to live the Christian life under your own strength – You NEED the Holy Spirit's daily strength, presence and heart.
- iv. The **scriptural truths** that can help you **avoid some pain** in **servng your church family**.

## Command # 1. Serve your church family well.

### i. The emphatic emphasis of God's Word on this command

The dominant message of the New Testament is to receive the offer of Eternal Life through faith in the covenant of Salvation paid for by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The **second** most dominant message in the New Testament is to prove the fruit of your faith by serving your church family! There are **over 3,000 verses** and **121 Full chapters** in the New Testament devoted to this direct subject.

Here are the full chapters devoted to this subject.

Matthew 5-7, 10, 18,19, Luke 6, 10-12, 15-17, John 10, 13, 15, 17, 21, Romans 12-16, All of I Corinthians, All of II Corinthians, All of Galatians, Ephesians 3-6, All of Philippians, All of Colossians , All of I Thessalonians, All of II Thessalonians, All of I Timothy, All of II Timothy, All of Titus, All of Philemon, All of James, All of I Peter, All of II Peter, All of I John, All of II John, All of III John, All of Jude.

Here are some KEY verses.

#### 1 Timothy 3:13

Those who have **served well** gain an excellent standing and **great assurance** in their **faith** in Christ Jesus.

This is a very clear verse. The entire chapter is about serving your church family. Paul makes it clear that the better job you do of serving your church family – the greater assurance you have in your faith. It is NOT that our work of serving makes us confident of salvation. It is that we are proving that we have turned away from running our own life by our intense focus on obeying God's dominant command to Christians to prove our commitment to Jesus by serving our church family well.

#### Gal. 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially** to those who belong to the **family** of **believers**.

Paul makes two things very clear in this verse. Our TOP priority is to serve our church and that our church is supposed to be a *family*!

#### 1 John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does **not love** his **brother**, whom he **has seen**, **cannot love God**, whom he has not seen.

#### Acts 26:20

First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the

Gentiles also, I preached that they should **repent** and turn to God and **prove** their **repentance** by their deeds.

Luke 3:7-8

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **Produce fruit in keeping with repentance**

We prove our repentance from running our own life by producing the fruit of serving well our church family.

John 21:15-17

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me** more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "**Feed my lambs.**"

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you **truly love me**?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "**Take care of my sheep.**"

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, **do you love me**?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "**Feed my sheep.**"

Luke 10:25-28

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to **inherit eternal life**?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; **and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.**' " "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Please notice that Jesus repeatedly connected these two commands as one command. The second is the outward proof of the inward heart of the first!

## **Command # 1. Serve your church family well.**

### ii. **The proven fruit of so many Christians**

People spend so much time pointing out negatives that they miss the MILLIONS of Christians who have quietly served their local church family with excellence and appreciation for decades. Their proven fruit and security in their eternal destiny is great proof of the fruit of obeying Jesus first command.

Matthew 7:16 By their **fruit** you will **recognize** them

## Command # 1. Serve your church family well.

### iii. The reasons that you have had a hard time in a local church.

#### a. If you spend time listening to slander instead of serving ---

then you will **always** have a hard time in your local church.

The media LOVES to bash Christian Churches.

People who want to EXCUSE their reason for NOT serving well in their local church LOVE to bash Christian Churches.

People who serve well do NOT spend time bashing churches because:

#### i. They are **TOO BUSY** serving well.

1 Thess. 4:11-12

Make it your ambition to lead a **quiet life**, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

#### ii. They **FEAR God!**

Romans 14:4

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Mt. 18:33-35

Shouldn't you have had **mercy** on your **fellow servant just as I had on you?** In **anger** his master turned him over to the jailers to be **tortured**, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is **how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.**"

Mt. 5:22

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in **danger** of the **fire of hell**.

b. You were being TESTED & TAUGHT by the Lord.

There are many people who sincerely get wounded through un-healthy church situations. Having seen hundreds of thousands of these situations – it is obvious that “*Unhealthy or Immature*” souls are attracted to other “*Unhealthy or Immature*” souls

The Pastor may have been controlling and critical but the person may have been a people pleaser. The person wounded may have gone to an unhealthy church in the hopes of being the hero or being someone important.

It is EXTREMELY important to recognize that **EVERYONE** has been hurt or wronged in some church situation at some time.

This is how the Lord matures us, teaches us to recognize Healthy Churches and it is also how he searches the MOTIVES of our heart.

**AFTER** you were wronged by some church situation – did you **CONTINUE** to serve in another healthier church family with even more excellence and passion? Or - - - is the focus on the pain an excuse for **DIRECTLY DISOBEYING** Jesus greatest command to prove our obedience to Him by serving well our church family!

1 Chronicles 28:9

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the **LORD searches every heart** and **understands every motive** behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Proverbs 16:2

All a man's ways **seem innocent to him**, but **motives** are **weighed** by the **LORD**.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will **expose the motives** of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

c. You have not yet learned that it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to live the Christian life under your **own strength** – You **NEED** the Holy Spirit's daily strength, presence and heart.

Serving well in a church family is the **most important** thing you will ever do.



Serving well in a church family is also the **HARDEST** thing you will ever do.

EVERYTHING **ELSE** is very **EASY** compared to this.

- It is EASY to be a **champion athlete**, compared to serving well in a local church family!
- It is EASY to be a **millionaire business person**, compared to serving well in a local church family!
- It is EASY to have a **great marriage** or **great kids** compared to serving well in a local church family!

You can do all of those other things with**OUT** a daily dependency on the Holy Spirit.

You can **NOT** serve well in your local church without a daily dependence on the Holy Spirit.

This may be the **most important moment** in the entire section of understanding the ASSURANCE of salvation. If you disobey God's greatest command to prove your love for Him by serving well in your local church - you will **NOT NEED** the Holy Spirit.

The real daily presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the other great assurance of our eternity in heaven.

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The **Spirit himself testifies** with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

Serving real people well in a real church situation will **ALWAYS** be ABOVE your human abilities.

- People are complex.
- People are un-predictable.
- People are confusing! ☺

This is one of the main reasons WHY this is God's greatest command. This is HOW God teaches us to KNOW Him and to KNOW His Spirit!



## **Command # 1. Serve your church family well.**

### iv. **The scriptural truths that can help you AVOID some pain in serving your church family.**

All of us will face SOME pain. The wise person wants to avoid **all UN-NECESSARY Pain!**

Here are six signs of a healthy Church and areas where you can study these truths on our web site – [www.LibertyChurch.org](http://www.LibertyChurch.org)

#### i. **ARP – Advice Requires Permission**

You can begin a study in this subject on our web site by reading the two written scripture studies on *Teachable/ Humble* and on our *Core Values*.

#### ii. **Small Groups**

You can begin a study in this subject by reading the book of Acts and many great Christian books on this subject. Healthy churches always focus on ways to help their people build deep relationships.

#### iii. **A Passion to reach the Lost.**

Having a heart for those who don't know Jesus keeps a church outward focused. A church with a vision to reach others for Jesus has great motivation to stay healthy and relevant. You can begin a study in this subject on our web site by listening to the sermon on *Evangelism is like Fishing*.

#### iv. **Expectations**

**Assumed** Expectations are the root problem of every on-going tension. The healthier the church – the better they are at explaining expectations BEFORE you become a member.

You can begin a study in this subject on our web site by listening to the audio sermon series on *Expectations*.

#### v. **Co-Dependency**

Co-dependency causes tons of strife in church. Healthy churches teach people how to avoid being Co-dependent.

You can begin a study in this subject on our web site by listening to the audio sermon series on *Co-dependency*.

#### vi. **Peace vs. Agreement**

You do NOT have to resolve every issue with every person. This truth can help you avoid a lot of pain. You can begin a study in this subject on our web site by listening to the **first** audio sermon in the series on *Anger*

## **Command # 2. Know the Holy Spirit, Be Filled with the Spirit, Walk in the Spirit**

### Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The **Spirit himself testifies** with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

### 2 Corinthians 1:22

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.

There are four studies in the audio sermons section of our web site that I recommend that can get you started in this life in the Spirit.

### **1. The Holy Spirit**

This is a study of the 55 references to the Holy Spirit in the book of ACTS and how the only "STORY" book in the Bible that shows us how Christians should ACT is filled with each Christian having an intimate friendship with the Holy Spirit.

### **2. Addictions pt. 4**

This is a sermon on how the Holy Spirit wants to build walls of integrity and character in our lives. This sermon is the lead sermon to our 4 year School of Spiritual Strength. This sermon also talks about practical plans for daily Bible reading.

### **3. How to hear the Voice of God**

This is a study on learning to hear God's voice.

### **4. Memorizing the Bible**

This is a sermon series that explains how to memorize 30 chapters in 30 years and to quote those chapters weekly in a way that allows you to spend hours daily in the presence of the Holy Spirit

## **Conclusion!**

If you obey God's command to serve your local church family with love and excellence, you will be forced to rely daily on the Holy Spirit to accomplish this task.

These two rivers bring GREAT CONFIDENCE in your eternal destiny – once you have received the covenant of Salvation.

## Q.6.

Is there room in heaven for those who are **weak** in **faith** ?

### **2 Answers:**

1. Yes Definitely! The Scripture make this point clearly.
2. If however, you are asking if you can PLAN on disobeying and INTENTIONALLY STAYING weak and still be assured of heaven, the answer is “No”.

### **Answer # 1 -- Scriptures on “Weak” Christians.**

1. Romans 14:1  
Accept him whose faith is **weak**, without passing judgment on disputable matters.
2. 1 Corinthians 8:9  
Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the **weak**.
3. 1 Cor. 8:11-13  
So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their **weak conscience**, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.
4. 1 Corinthians 9:22  
To the **weak** I became **weak**, to win the **weak**. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.
5. 1 Corinthians 12:22  
On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be **weaker** are indispensable
6. 2 Corinthians 11:29  
Who is **weak**, and I do not feel **weak**? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?
7. Thessalonians 5:14  
And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the **weak**, be patient with everyone.
8. Hebrews 4:15  
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **sympathize** with **our**

**weaknesses**, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

**Answer # 2 --** If however, you are asking if you can **PLAN** on **disobeying** and **INTENTIONALLY** STAYING weak and **still be assured** of heaven, the answer is **“No”**.

1. Hebrews 10:26-39

If we **deliberately** keep on sinning **AFTER** we have **received** the knowledge of the **truth, no sacrifice for sins is left**, but only a **fearful expectation** of **judgment** and of **raging fire** that will consume the enemies of God.

2. 1 John 3:9-10

**No one** who is **born of God** will **continue** to **sin**, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

3. 1 Cor. 3:12-15

If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the **fire will test the quality of each man's work**. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is **burned up**, he will suffer loss; **he himself** will be **saved**, but only **as one escaping through the flames**.

Brief comment 1 Cor. 3:12-15 is a key passage. Please note that this person who escaped through the flames was NOT a weak Christian. This person was a Pastor, a Leader or someone who had “Built” the kingdom of God. However this person had built God’s kingdom with selfish motives and had NOT asked God to show them the true motives of their heart.

4. Luke 12:47-48

"That servant who **knows his master's will** and does **not** get ready or does **not** do what his master wants will be beaten with **many blows**. But the one who does **not know** and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with **few blows**. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Brief comment The passage above (Luke 12) and the passage below (John 15) both make a fascinating comment. They basically say that we will be judged according to the measure of light or understanding that we have.

For those reading this document these verses are actually a sober point. If you are reading this document then you have more light, more understanding and a more clear explanation of the Gospel than 99% of the people who have ever lived. That means that you are judged by the HIGHER standard of having more light.

5. John 15:22

**If** I had **not** come and spoken to them, they would **not** be **guilty** of sin. **Now, however,** they have **no excuse** for their sin.

6. I Cor. 3:1-3

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—**mere infants in Christ**. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are **still worldly**. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Brief comment: Please note that the weak are called "Infants" which gives the expectation that they will grow up.



# Q.7.

What if I am **still fearful** after reading all of these verses?

## **2 Answers:**

1. **Godly Fear** is a **Good** Thing. There are **53** references to “Fear” connected to our relationship to God in the New Testament.
  - a. **2** of those references MIGHT have a cautionary aspect warning us to not have an Un-Healthy fear of God or fear of death.
  - b. **51** of these references encourage and healthy fear of God as a strong base of our faith.
2. The Lord wants you to have **great assurance** of your faith.

## **1. Godly Fear is a Good Thing.**

1. Luke 1:50  
His **mercy extends** to **those** who **fear him**, from generation to generation.
2. Luke 12:5  
But I will **show** you **whom** you **should fear**: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to **throw you** into **hell**. Yes, I tell you, **fear him**.
3. Acts 5:5, 11  
When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And **great fear** seized all who heard what had happened. **Great fear** seized the **whole church** and all who heard about these events.
4. Acts 9:31  
Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, **living** in the **fear** of the **Lord**.
5. Romans 3:13-18  
"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know."  
"There is **no fear** of **God** before their eyes."

6. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

For we must **all appear** before the **judgment seat** of **Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **Since, then**, we know what it is to **fear the Lord**

7. Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue** to work out your salvation **with fear** and **trembling**,

8. 1 Peter 1:17

Since you call on a **Father** who **judges** each man's work **impartially**, live your lives as strangers here in **reverent fear**.

9. 1 Peter 2:17

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, **fear God**, honor the king.

10. Revelation 14:7

He said in a loud voice, **"Fear God** and give him glory, because the **hour** of his **judgment** has **come**. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

11. Revelation 19:5

Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who **fear him**, both small and great!"

**The fear of God teaches me to:**

1. Understand the Covenant
2. Serve His People Well.
3. Walk daily within His Spirit
4. NEVER allow any un-forgiveness in my heart against anyone!

**2. The Lord wants you to have great assurance of your faith.**

1. 1 John 4:18

There is **no fear** in **love**. But **perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

2. 1 Peter 3:14

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not **fear** what they **fear**; do **not** be **frightened**."



3. Hebrews 2:15  
**free** those who all their lives were held in **slavery** by their **fear** of **death**.
4. Romans 8:15  
 For you did **not** receive a **spirit** that makes you a **slave again to fear**, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."
5. Romans 13:3  
 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you **want** to be **free** from **fear** of the one in **authority**? Then do what is right and he will commend you.
6. Luke 1:74  
 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to **enable us** to **serve** him without **fear**
7. Ephesians 3:12  
 In him and through faith in him we may **approach God** with **freedom** and **confidence**.
8. Hebrews 4:16  
 Let us then **approach** the **throne of grace** with **confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
9. Hebrews 10:19  
 Therefore, brothers, since we have **confidence** to **enter** the **Most Holy Place** by the blood of Jesus
10. 1 John 3:21  
 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have **confidence** before **God**
11. 1 John 5:13-15  
 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**. This is the **confidence** we have in **approaching God**: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

**The more you walk in these four things**

1. Understand the Covenant
2. Serve His People Well.
3. Walk daily within His Spirit
4. NEVER allow any un-forgiveness in my heart against anyone!

– the **more** you will have **His confidence** in your eternal destiny.