



ASKING FOR A FRIEND

Tough Questions, Honest Answers

The NIV version of the Bible is used for all questions.

1. In John 3:16, when the Bible says that whoever believes will have eternal life, what does it mean to believe? What is the opposite of this in regard to a person's salvation?
2. What is "Lordship" salvation? What is the problem with this teaching? Can you think of any verses in scripture that tell us that our salvation is not by doing good works?
3. Read John 10:26-30. In this passage, who are the sheep? What does it say Jesus gives to his sheep? Read John 3:16, 5:24, and 6:47. According to these verses, when is a person given eternal life by God? According to John 10:28, what can never happen to a sheep that has eternal life? What does this mean? According to verses 29 and 30, why is it that they will never perish? So what is Jesus teaching in this passage?
4. Read Romans 8:31-39. What do you think it means when it says we cannot be separated from the love of Christ? Who is separated from the love of Christ? According to what this passage says, could a person separate himself from the love of Christ? Why or why not? So what truth can we take from this passage?
5. Read John 14:15-17. What promise does Jesus make in this passage? Once the Holy Spirit comes into us, how long did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would be with us? Read Ephesians 1:13,14. When do we receive the Holy Spirit promised by Christ in John 14? How does this truth guarantee our salvation cannot be lost?
6. How should the fact that we are eternally secure in our salvation affect our motivation to be obedient to God?
7. Some people would say that if you tell people that they are eternally secure in their salvation, then they will just use it as a "license to sin" since they can never go to hell. What would you say to this idea?

ANSWERS

- 1. The Greek word for believe is "pisteuo" which means to trust, to rely on. It is the same Greek word translated as "faith" in our English translations. It is more than just assenting that certain facts are true, it is to rely upon. God tells us we must rely upon Christ and his death on the cross for our salvation, to have eternal life. This means we in no way any longer rely on anything we can do, which is the opposite of what it means to believe. Those who believe their behavior needs to meet a certain standard to be saved are relying on themselves and their ability to obey God to be saved and not on Christ alone. Salvation comes by faith alone in Christ alone.*
- 2. Lordship salvation is the idea that you must make Christ Lord, or ruler, of your life in order to be saved. To make Christ ruler would mean that you obey everything the New Testament says a believer should do as a Christian. This becomes trusting in good works to save you, which is not what it means to believe, as discussed in question number one.*
- 3. In the context of chapter 10, the sheep are believers, those who were following Christ. If you have trusted Christ as savior, then you are a sheep. This passage says that Jesus gives eternal life to his sheep. According to the verses in John, those who believe in Christ are given eternal life. In John 10:28 Jesus said that none of his sheep would ever perish, which means they would never die spiritually and go to hell. The reason he says that they will never go to hell is that they are in His and the Father's hands, and since they are greater than anyone and everyone, no one can be lost from their hands. We are kept save by God's power, to get out of God's hand you would need to be more powerful than God. This passage is saying if you are a sheep, you cannot lose your salvation.*
- 4. To never be separated from Christ's love means to never be separated from Him for eternity, it is unbelievers that will be separated from Christ's love forever. Since this passage says that nothing in all creation can separate you from Christ's love, and you are a part of creation, then no, you cannot separate yourself from Christ's love. This passage assures us if you are joined to Christ, you are eternally secure.*
- 5. In John 14 Christ promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to be in us and that the Holy Spirit would then be with us forever. Ephesians 1 tells us that when you trusted in Christ as savior is when the Holy Spirit took up residence inside of you. So if God ever sent you to hell, the Holy Spirit would have to go with you to hell because Christ promised once he came, he would be with you forever, which would be ludicrous to think.*
- 6. The fact that we are secure in our salvation means we do not have to serve God out of fear of being condemned if we sin; this means I serve him out of gratitude for his great love for me and because I grow to love him, which is what he wants from us.*
- 7. When you trust Christ as savior, you are born into God's family, he is now your Father. You can try to live however you please, but does any good parent allow their kids to do anything they want? Hebrews 12 describes how God deals with his children. If you try to live in rebellion to your heavenly father, then good luck, he will make sure you are miserable in your life, as any good parent makes their children miserable when they are disobedient. But the punishment is never that he kicks you out of his family. Once you are born, you cannot be un-born.*