

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

Glorious Gospel: 1

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.
Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? NIV

What is a person's starting point?

Two diagnostic questions:

How sure are you that you are going to heaven?

If God asked, “Why should I let you into heaven,” what would you say?

(Or: What do you think God's requirements are to get into heaven?)

How sure are you that you are going to heaven?

Two typical responses:

- 50-80%: Low level of confidence.
- 95-100%: High level of confidence.

Spoiler alert:

John 3:18 Whoever believes in [the Son] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

If God asked, “Why should I let you into heaven,” what would you say?

(Or: What do you think God's requirements are to get into heaven?)

Four common answers:

I'm religious.

I've been a good person.

I do the best I can.

I have my own philosophy.

One right answer:

I've put my faith in Jesus.

Mixed answer:

Paul's resume vs. Paul's reality

Philippians 3:4-6 If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:
⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews;
in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. NIV

Philippians 3:7-9 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. NIV