

Journey into Heaven

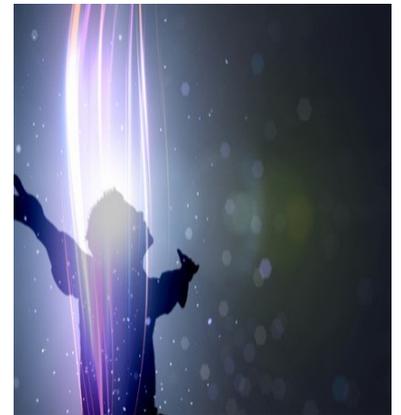
Jesus said, “You must be born again...”

If you ask people if they want to go to heaven when they die most would say yes. However when you ask the same people how they are going to get there everyone has a different answer. Some say you get to heaven by praying, others by being good or doing good. Others say you must believe in God or you must go to religious services or you must follow your parents’ beliefs. With so many different answers is it possible to know for sure that we are going to heaven when we die?

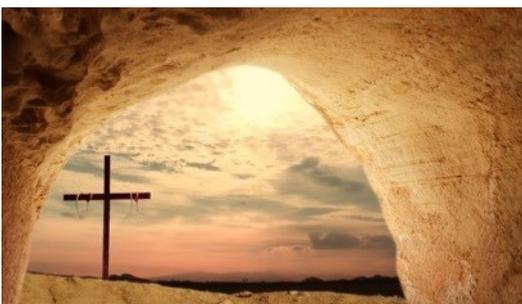


In the Bible Jesus makes an incredible claim which if true makes him central to how we get to heaven. He said “*I am the Way, the Truth and Life. No one can come to my Father in heaven except through me*”. (John 14:6). In the Bible John, who was a man whom God had sent to prepare the way for Jesus, made a similarly incredible claim about Jesus when he said ‘*whoever believes in the Son (that is Jesus) has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life for God’s wrath remains on him*’. (John 3:36).

Jesus started his ministry by proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven was near and that people should repent and believe the good news. The Bible records many healings and miracles that backed up his claim that the kingdom of heaven was somehow breaking through into people’s lives. However he also said that no one could see the kingdom of heaven unless they were born again (John 3:3). This is a term that is used for our spiritual birth and is something that only the Holy Spirit can bring about in response to our faith.



Why should the Holy Spirit give you the new birth?



The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory and that we can only be made right with God by our faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. (Romans 3:23-24). It is only by his sacrificial death that we can be rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of His Son. (Colossians 1:13). When we believe that Jesus died in our place on the cross and that he rose again, the Holy Spirit responds by giving us a new birth and

a place in his kingdom. The Bible says that Jesus, who was miraculously conceived and born of a woman, came into the world to save it and open up the way to God and heaven for us.

What do you need to do now?

You need to do two things.

Firstly confess to God with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. (Romans 10:9)

Secondly ask the Holy Spirit of God to give you a new spiritual birth into the Kingdom of God. (John 3:5-7)

You can do these two things by saying a prayer like this:

“God in Heaven, I am a sinner in your eyes. I have decided to turn away from this sinful life. I believe you sent your Son Jesus to come into the world to open the way to you by dying on the cross for my sins and rising from the dead again. It is by faith in Jesus, through Your grace, that I ask that by the Holy Spirit, you give me new birth into your Kingdom. Come Holy Spirit, make me a spiritual baby in the Kingdom of God now. Come and live in my new self as Lord and lead me in this new life. Jesus now baptise me with the Holy Spirit. Amen”



What now?



If you said this prayer in faith, believing in the work of the cross of Jesus and repented of your sins, the Holy Spirit has given you a new birth and made you a citizen of heaven. Your next call is to be baptised by water. You are now a member of God’s family and have many brothers and sisters, who together make up the church of Jesus. Find others who have made this same decision and help each other to live as citizens of heaven here on earth. You will need to learn how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. You are a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5: 17). You will find that you have a new way of thinking, speaking and behaving and that the fruit of the life of Jesus will start showing in your life. As a child of

God, first and foremost, you will realise that you were made to worship God and that the Holy Spirit is with you 24/7.

Welcome to God’s Family, the Church