

## How Can a Person Know, Without Doubting, That They Are Going Heaven?

Many sincere people wonder if anyone can truly know they are going to heaven. Some believe no one can be certain until the Day of Judgement, while others rely on personal feelings or experiences for assurance. However, the Bible teaches that a person can know. This confidence does not come from emotions or feelings, but from trusting and obeying what God has said in His word.

The apostle John wrote, *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...”* 1 John 5:13. Notice that John said, *“that you may know.”* God does not intend for His people to live in uncertainty. Instead, assurance comes from understanding and obeying the gospel.

Assurance is based on God’s promise. In everyday life, we trust promises because we trust the person making them. When a reliable person makes a promise, we believe it. Our assurance of salvation rests on the reliability of God. Scripture reminds us that God cannot lie, *“In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”* Titus 1:2.

Because God always keeps His promises, a person who obeys His instructions for salvation can trust those promises completely. The question then becomes, what does the New Testament say a person must do to be saved?

Hearing and believing the Gospel. Salvation begins with hearing the message about Jesus Christ. *“So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* Romans 10:17. When a person hears the gospel, faith can develop. That faith must be centered on Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus warned, *“...if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* John 8:24. True faith leads a person to respond to the message of Christ.

Repenting of Sin. When someone believes the gospel, they recognize the need to turn away from sin. This change of heart and direction is called repentance. *“God...now commands all men everywhere to repent.”* Acts 17:30. Repentance involves a decision to leave sinful ways and begin living according to God’s will.

Confessing faith in Christ. A believer must also openly acknowledge faith in Jesus Christ. *“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9. We see this example when the Ethiopian eunuch said, *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”* Acts 8:37.

Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. The New Testament teaches that baptism is the point at which a person receives forgiveness of sins and enters into Christ. *“Repent and let every one of you be baptized...for the remission of sins...”* Acts 2:38. Jesus also said, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”* Mark 16:16. Through baptism, a believer is united

with Christ. *"...as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death."* Romans 6:3.

Continuing Faithfully. After becoming a Christian, a person must continue living faithfully. *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* Revelation 2:10. Christians are called to walk in the light. *"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7.

Knowing we are saved. So how can a person know, without doubt, that they are going to heaven? A person can have full confidence if they have heard the gospel, believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, repented of their sins, confessed their faith in Christ, been baptized for the forgiveness of sins, and continued living faithfully. This assurance does not come from feelings, but from trusting God's word, *"He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."* Hebrews 5:9. When a person obeys the gospel and remains faithful, they can confidently trust the promises of God, without doubting.

~Ron Josselet (Assisted by ChatGPT)