

STRAIGHT FROM
THE KJV BIBLE

WHAT DOES
GOD
WANT FROM ME?

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ETERNAL *Answers*

Introduction

What does God want from me? It is a question that most people have at some point in their life. Thankfully God has provided the answer, very clearly, in the Bible.

The Bible was written by about forty different men, from various places, at different times throughout a sixteen hundred year period. Most of these writers were totally disconnected from one another. All of the writings, however, completely agree with one another in every way. This is because they were inspired by God, through the Holy Spirit, as they wrote. This means that the Author of the Bible is God Himself!

In this short document, I present to you the overall message that God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible.

I have tried to explain things in a way that most people can understand, while staying true to the Scriptures.

In these pages you will learn about the perfection of our holy God. You will also learn of the love and forgiveness that He provides through His Son, Jesus Christ!

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God is Perfect

The Bible is very clear about many things, but the perfection of God is one thing that is crystal clear. This must be understood first, before anything else.

God is good and just in every way. Everything that is good comes from God. Nothing that is evil comes from Him.



Deut. 32:4 "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."

As humans, we often incorrectly categorize good and evil. When we do this, we make ourselves the supreme judges, but we are imperfect. Our judgment is clouded by sin.

God is the only One who is perfect. He is the only One who can correctly judge right from wrong. In God's Word (the Bible) we discover exactly what IS right and exactly what IS wrong. A humble heart will know deep-down that His Word is true, because we were created by this same God.

Let's consider a human judge. Imagine the best earthly judge. He is just and fair. Justice is always served when this judge is on the bench.

Since he is good, no crime goes unpunished. Not a single innocent person is convicted. Justice is served 100% of the time. Such a human judge does not exist because every human being is sinful. But God is not sinful! God IS a perfect judge. He is holy and absolutely righteous. He is infinitely, perfectly good. Ask yourself this: Do I want God to be good?

Whether they realize it or not, most people do NOT really want God to be good. God's goodness demands that sin be punished. "*The wages of sin is death*" (**Romans 6:23**). "Death" in the Scriptures always means separation. This death is eternal separation from God in Hell (**Psalm 9:17**).

If God is good and I have sinned (many times) and the wages of sin is death, then I must receive death. So in his heart the sinner says, "I hope God is not good!" God is infinitely more just than the fictional earthly judge we considered. He is flawless. He makes no mistakes. No crime goes unpunished and no innocent person is punished.

Mankind has a big problem. There never has been, nor will there ever be, an innocent person who has descended from Adam (the first man - **Romans 5:12**).

Condemned Due to Sin

We are all born in sin and we stand condemned as sinners (**John 3:18**). It may seem unfair to some that we are born in sin and that the wages of sin is death. The fact of the matter, however, is that we all choose to sin!

We know from Scripture that every last descendant of Adam is born with a sin nature. But God does not make us sin. We choose to sin on our own!



God is not a dictator. He could force His will upon us, but then what would He have? (A bunch of robots.) Can you love a robot? Can a robot love you? No, a robot just does what its creator programmed it to do. There is no real love there.

God wants us to love Him because we want to. He wants us to reject all that is evil, *because* it is evil. You do things that you know are wrong. We all do. If you are not convinced yet, consider the following:

Have you ever told a lie? Your answer may be "Well, yes. We all do." And you would be correct.

What do you call someone who tells lies? A liar, right?

Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you? Maybe it was something small, when you were a child. Maybe it was something that was so small that you knew nobody would ever even notice it was gone?

What do you call someone who does that? (A thief, right?)

Jesus said "*whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*" (**Matthew 5:28**). Thoughts are equal to actions. Have you ever had impure thoughts about another? If so, Jesus Himself has already judged that you are an adulterer.

Jesus said "*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him*" (**1 John 3:15**).

Have you ever had hateful thoughts toward someone? To our perfect God, that makes you a murderer.

I am guilty of all of this too. We all are. These things may seem extreme. That's because God's perfection *is* extreme to sinners, who are extremely imperfect. However, our imperfection does not change God's perfection.

You, just like myself and everyone else, are a liar, a thief, an adulterer, and a murderer in God's eyes. That is God's judgment (not mine or anyone else's) and it is sure (Isaiah 40:8).

And that's only the short list! We all have many other shortcomings! If you humble yourself and really think about it, you will agree. Your own heart will tell you.

All sin is *detestable* to God! Every single sin that we commit is like spitting in God's face. It IS that bad. It is so bad that God Himself determined that the punishment for even ONE sin is eternal separation from Him in Hell (**James 2:10-11**).

Now, just imagine how many times you have sinned in your life. It makes me sick to even try to guess. Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands?

Every impure thought, every hateful thought, every action or thought that was not 100% righteous, is sin. And it only took one to secure our place away from God for eternity, in Hell.

If every person who ever lived went to Hell for eternity, it would be perfectly fair and legal in God's eyes. As a matter of fact, the wages that God owes you (and me and everyone else who has ever lived) MUST be received. Either by you (eternally, away from God in Hell) or by a perfect, sinless, substitute.

This substitute would have to be 100% man. He would have to live on this earth and be tempted just like you, yet not give in to those temptations.

That means he would have to live his entire life without sin. Then, he would have to die in your place, receiving the wages of sin that were due you, by God.

It is almost unbelievable that anyone would offer to do this for you, isn't it? You might even say that there isn't a single person on this earth who would even meet these qualifications, let alone do that for you. And you would be right.

It would have to be God Himself because all descendants of Adam (all of mankind) are born with a sinful nature! God would have to come to earth, fully God, but also fully man. Then He would have to live a perfect life without sin, and then die for you, as your substitute.

That is exactly what He did! He died for all and because of the blood He shed, as our sinless substitute, God can legally dismiss our case! Now, all who repent of their sin (regret it and turn from it) and trust in Him may be saved (**Mark 1:15**)!

Amazing Grace!

Have you ever heard the song "Amazing Grace?" It is one of the best songs ever written. It describes what God did in the person of Jesus Christ for sinners like you and me! It describes the moment in time when the writer of the song (John Newton) came to faith in Jesus Christ and was saved by the blood that He shed on that cross!



Although our righteous God would have been completely just in sending every last one of us to an eternity in Hell, God is also love! Because of His love, He had mercy on us! He did this, not by setting aside His justice, but by satisfying it.

You see, about 2,000 years ago, God became man in the person of His own Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, free from sin, and willingly gave Himself to die on a cross for all who put their faith in Him! Three days later He rose from the dead, He is alive!

All of the sin (past, present and future) of all who put their faith in Him, was nailed to that cross and died with Him! He **became** sin for those who would believe in Him!

2 Corinthians 5:21 *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

1 Peter 2:24 *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*

1 Peter 3:18 *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"*

God's justice and love met and were exemplified on that cross, as His Son was crucified, so that criminals like us may be saved! We may now be declared righteous in God's eyes through the righteousness of Jesus Christ!

Now sinners can be saved! All of those thousands and thousands of sins that you have committed, can be counted as nailed to that cross, forgiven, as if they never happened!

Because of this love and the amazing grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who IS the righteousness of all who have faith in Him, sinners may truly be saved!

Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him."*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

What is "Faith" in Jesus Christ?

But what does it really mean to "believe" in Jesus Christ? Is it simply believing that Jesus Christ really was born, lived a life without sin, was crucified and rose again?

No. Even Satan and his demons believe that (James 2:19). It is more than an intellectual faith in Jesus Christ that saves a person.



God wants our hearts!

This heart faith agrees with God and rests fully on His Son, who paid for our sins with His blood sacrifice on Calvary's cross. This faith is always accompanied by repentance.

When a person has a repentant heart he regrets his sin and turns from it. He truly does agree with God, and he seeks Him. He cries out to the Lord to save him. He falls at the foot of the cross and there he meets God's saving grace, in Christ.

It is not something that you produce. God Himself does the saving (see ***Ephesians 2:8-9***). No amount of good deeds, trips to church, or water baptisms will save you. You must be born again (***John 3:3***). This is impossible with man but very possible by God's grace, in and through Christ Jesus, only because of what He did on that cross.

John 3:3 *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

John 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

Matthew 18:3 *"... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"*

But again, a repentant sinner who seeks the Lord Jesus Christ is inviting that rebirth... that conversion!

John 6:37 *"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

Matthew 7:7-8 *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."*

What faith of the heart really comes down to is desiring and embracing what is right (which is defined in the Bible). That means taking God at His Word, repenting and fully trusting in Him. Jesus Christ is the embodiment of all that is good.

Romans 10:17 *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

A person with a repentant heart (which coincides with faith) does not just reject sin because they have to. A repentant heart rejects sin because they hate their sin, just like the Lord Jesus Christ!

You do not have to read the Bible to be saved (although you certainly should read it). You do not even have to own a Bible to be saved. But you do have to hear, and believe, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which comes from His Word. The same Gospel I have just given to you in this document (***Romans 1:16***)!

God is sovereign (over all), omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful) and omnipresent (everywhere at all times). None are without excuse. We see His creation and we know in our hearts that we are accountable to our Creator, that we are guilty sinners before Him.

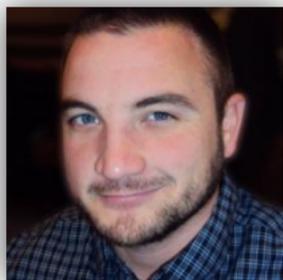
Romans 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse"

You have read (heard) the Gospel. Will you take it to heart?

The Author's Testimony

My own conversion is my strongest confirmation of these Biblical truths. After years of proclaiming to be Christian due to intellectual belief, yet never truly believing God's Word deep down in my heart, I started to question my purpose on this earth. Why am I here? Why is anyone here?

I started to read God's Word because (although, in my heart, I didn't know what I really believed) I knew in my heart that the "sin" that the Bible spoke of, was truly bad. I knew that I did things that were wrong. I also knew that something was missing ... I wasn't whole. Although I didn't completely believe yet (in my heart), what I did know of the Bible just seemed right in my heart.



I began to notice that the Lord Jesus Christ very frequently spoke extremely harshly about sin. And that God's judgment on sin (clearly seen in both the Old Testament and New Testament) is very real! I already knew sin was bad, but I started to realize, it is SIN that has brought on all of the pain and suffering in this world. This caused me to look at MY sin.

He even said, in **Matthew 5:48** "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*"

So I tried to be perfect (and I still desire to be perfect, although I know I will never be, until I'm with Him). I tried to stop sinning. I don't know if you've ever tried to STOP sinning (which includes never having another impure thought, hateful thought, covetous thought etc., since thoughts are equal to actions - **Matthew 5:21-30**), but it is not possible.

The Lord made the statement above, to the multitudes that followed Him, to get the point across that God is perfect (infinitely holy, absolutely righteous) but we are not. The point is that without Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), nobody can enter Heaven. To be saved, we must receive HIS perfection as a gift. This is Grace!

I did not understand that at the time and I believe very few, if any, of the multitudes who were following Him did either. I believe that was as He intended.

That statement by our Lord causes people to realize how very short they fall from perfection! Then they see how imperfect they are. Then they see how much they need the Lord Jesus Christ and His perfection if they are to be saved!

Once I realized that no matter how hard I tried to keep myself from sinning, I still sinned one way or another, I found myself in a predicament! God demands perfection,

but I am not perfect! ALL sin condemns me, and I sin. I realized "I AM CONDEMNED!"

Before then, I really didn't see sin in its true light. I didn't see just how horrible sin was. I didn't realize that sin isn't just something that is in the Bible ... just a detail. Sin is what condemns people to Hell. If there were no sin, there would be no death, disease or suffering! God would be in our presence at all times and nurture us, as He did with Adam and Eve before they sinned.

For quite a while I was depressed and felt like a completely worthless individual (and I still am, without Him). Not only was I dealing with the fact that I was a condemned sinner, I had financial issues and other personal anxieties I was dealing with.

To top it all off, one cold December afternoon, there was a horrible mass-murder that took the lives of over 20 small children. This was all over the news. I had a baby at home and a five year old boy, so that broke me down like I had never been broken down before in my life.

I was more desperate than I had ever been in my life. I was spiritually and mentally broken. I said a long, desperate prayer that day and begged God to just take my soul. I wasn't suicidal, but I was done with this sinful, cruel world and my own sin.

I begged Him as a worthless sinner who could not stop sinning as much as I wanted to. As someone who was

asking for something, but had absolutely nothing to offer in exchange. That evening something happened! God heard my prayer.

I had a sin problem and I knew it. I then came across an online article that brought me to Paul's letter to the **Romans**. There were many verses through the entire epistle that I read that night. *But in a moment, a split second*, as I was reading Romans chapter 7, I realized something. Jesus Christ saves sinners! I AM A SINNER! It's not my own righteousness that saves me, it's HIS! At that moment in time, for the first time in my life, I BELIEVED IN MY HEART and really trusted Him!

Before that divine moment I had faith intellectually (just like Satan and his demons). That faith only convicted me of my sin. Now, however, I believed with my heart. It is heart faith, in the redemptive blood of the Perfect Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, that saves a sinner! I was SAVED! REDEEMED, BORN-AGAIN, and I knew it! The guilt was gone. I was forgiven!

A chair provides a great illustration of the different between the intellectual faith that I had previously and the heart/trusting faith I had at that moment. You can look at a chair without ever having say in it, and believe it is a good chair. But you are not trusting it until you squat down and trust that it can support you. I finally just let go and trusted that he could support me!

It was LITERALLY like God touched me! (**Matthew 8:3, 8:15, 9:29-30, 20:34**). ALL of the anxiety was gone. ALL of my worries were gone. ALL of my guilt was gone. It seemed as if all the weight of the world was lifted from me!

I could identify with John Newton. "I was lost, but NOW I'm found!" "I was blind, but NOW I see!" JESUS CHRIST PAID IT ALL FOR **ME**! His blood washed my heart. I am now counted righteous and perfect in God's eyes because of the blood that Jesus Christ shed on that cross for me!

I have not been the same since that day. Being "born-again" is not just a nice religious word. It is literal. When you are born-again, you have a new heart with new desires. You BELONG to your Lord. You are a part of His family forever! HALLELUJAH! I was then baptized at Sherwood Hills Baptist Church in Indianapolis, IN. Becoming a member of that local body, worshipping and serving with them, was the natural next step.

I also began to meet (and continue to meet) many others who, after hearing my testimony, were filled with love and joy because they had been born again as well and knew exactly what I was talking about.

Not Sure if You're Saved?

There are two things that you must understand if you are not sure that you are really saved:

1. All testimonies are different, but they all have some things in common, like:

A point in time. Being re-born is not a gradual process.

Intellectual faith can be gradual, but not saving faith... heart faith. When a person is born-again, it happens in an instant. This is when the Holy Spirit comes into your heart, at that very moment.



The awareness of forgiveness of your sin. That sin burden is lifted and you know in your heart that you are forgiven (**Acts 10:43**). The burden is rolled away.

Isaiah 38:17 *"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back."*

Peace comes into your heart. When the Holy Spirit comes into your heart, there is a peace that comes into your heart that surpasses all understanding. You won't always have perfect peace for the rest of your life, but when He comes, you know it! And although I can still get anxious

or depressed at times, there is a certain indescribable peace that I always have deep down, that I didn't have before.

Change. A person who is born-again is now being conformed into the image of the Son of God. The Holy Spirit will begin a work in you that changes you.

You will still have that sinful nature, which Paul explains very well in **Romans 7:15-25**, but you will constantly strive to walk with the Lord. This is what Paul is saying in **Philippians 2:12**, "*... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*" This does not mean that you work to be saved from the eternal penalty of sin. If you're born-again, you're judicially innocent from that point forward.

This is referring to the present tense of salvation ... working to reject sin in order to be saved from the power of sin ... walking with the Lord.

Consider a felon who has his felony expunged from his record. He cannot say that he is not guilty of the crime, but that judge has decided not to hold it to his account any longer. How grateful is that criminal to that judge!

If you are born-again, you will reject sin and desire to walk with the Lord because "*ye are bought with a price*" (**1 Corinthians 6:20**).

2. The Lord promises, "*him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*" (**John 6:37**), and "*Ask, and it shall be given*

you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (**Matthew 7:7**).

If you have taken God at His Word, turned from your sin and you truly desire all that is good and right and true (Jesus Christ IS all that is good and right and true) you can trust in Him as your Savior. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved ..." (**Acts 16:31**), i.e. **John 1:12** and **Psalms 2:12**.

If you are not sure that you are really saved, or if you are convinced that you are not saved, read God's Word and pray. (Seek Him seriously on a regular basis!)

Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

If you would like to speak with a Pastor today, contact details of a local church have been stamped on the back of this booklet.

Although the eternal state of your own soul is ultimately between you and God, a Pastor and local church body can help guide you and should be seriously considered.

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."



If you would like to hear more from our ministry, we invite you to visit our website at: EternalAnswers.ORG, where we provide answers to many of life's big questions directly from God's Word.

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