



HOW DO I RECEIVE FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness cannot be earned! Going to church, praying, living a 'good' life and helping others are good things but none of them can give you a perfect record permanently before God. To receive this forgiveness you must...

1. Admit that you have offended God by your attitudes and actions.
2. Accept that you can do nothing to save yourself.
3. Be willing to turn away from anything that offends God (God will help you do this).
4. Trust that Jesus Christ died for your sins (past, present and future) on the cross and rose from the dead.
5. Through a prayer of faith (trust) give God control of your life.

If you are willing to accept God's gift of forgiveness you must also accept the cost.



THERE IS A COST!

Jesus warned us about counting the cost before deciding to follow Him: *"But don't begin until you count the cost..."* (Luke 14:28)

He made it clear that we are to submit to Him and be willing to face suffering and tough times just like He did. However, as a Christian, God enters your life by the Holy Spirit and teaches, encourages, strengthens, guides and helps you even in times of failure. As you surrender control of your life to Him He will give you new desires and the power to change...this is a life long process.



SUMMARY

If you have counted the cost of being a Christian, want to become a follower of Jesus and accept the gift He offers you then the following is a suggested prayer...

Dear God,

I confess that I have rebelled (sinned) against You many times and am truly sorry. I now turn away from those things that offend You and ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to take the consequences of my sin (past, present and future) on Himself. Please enter my life by Your Spirit and help me be the person You want me to be, Amen.

To help you grow as a Christian, read the Bible daily, obey what it says, join a Bible believing church, be baptised and tell others about your decision. Talk to God as much as possible, He hears and answers prayer. For more information go to

www.questionsoflife.com



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THE



TEST



THE TEST...

Many Kiwi's believe that they are good enough to get to heaven when they die. Are you one of them? We have prepared a test for you...

Please tick the boxes if your answer is 'yes' to the following questions:



1. *Have you ever told a lie?*

2. *Have you ever stolen something (the value is irrelevant)?*

3. *Have you ever dishonoured your parents by disobeying them?*

4. *Have you ever hated someone and wished they were dead?*

5. *Have you ever used the name of Jesus or Christ as a swear word?*

The above questions relate to just 5 of God's Ten Commandments. How many boxes did you tick?



QUESTION?

IF GOD JUDGES YOU BY THE STANDARD OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, WILL YOU BE INNOCENT OR GUILTY?

The Bible makes it clear that we are all guilty of breaking God's laws and rebelling against Him (the Bible calls this 'sin'): *"...all have sinned..."* (Romans 3:23).

Not only are we guilty of breaking God's laws by our actions but also by our thoughts and motives. Nothing is hidden from God's sight.

When we disobey God it shows that we would rather live without His loving rule over our lives. In reality, we are rejecting our all-knowing, all-powerful Creator.

If this attitude towards God continues until death there are serious consequences.



QUESTION?

WOULD YOU GO TO HEAVEN OR HELL?

God is not only loving but holy (perfect) and just. He cannot overlook or leave our lawbreaking unpunished. If He did this He would be like a judge who let all criminals go free. No good, honest judge would do that. To a holy God our sin is so serious that He cannot and will not let it enter His perfect heaven.

The truth is, none of us are good enough to get to heaven and by our own efforts there is nothing we can do to change this fact.



WE NEED HELP!

Fortunately, God has done something incredible for us.



QUESTION?

IF THERE WAS A WAY TO BE FORGIVEN WOULD YOU WANT TO KNOW?

Instead of giving us what we deserve God actually wants to forgive us. He does not want anyone to go to hell and has made a way for us to be forgiven.

This forgiveness was made possible when He sent Jesus Christ (the Son of God) to earth. Jesus willingly suffered and died on a cross to take the punishment we deserve on Himself (we broke the law and Jesus paid our fine). God then raised Him from the dead three days later and now offers forgiveness (a perfect record) and new life to everyone.

However, this is not automatic, like any gift, we must receive it.