

## How does God decide if we've been good enough to get into Heaven?

God gave us the Bible in order to teach us about Him and how He works in the world, which includes telling us what He expects from us in order to have a relationship with Him and to be accepted into Heaven. The answer to this question is all over the place in the Bible; and most of the stories in the Bible are meant to point you towards this answer. So, the more you read and study the Bible, the more you will understand the answer to this question.



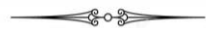
If you are trying to get into Heaven by being good enough, you will not succeed. God says **you cannot get into Heaven on your own merit.**

Let's look at what the Bible says:

**Isaiah 64:6** (NIV) *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

This verse is saying that even the things we do which we consider to be good things are considered unclean, or bad, to God.

**Galatians 3:23** (NLT) *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*



Then, why did God give us the law and Ten Commandments?

**If trying to follow them still leaves us unclean, why do we have them?"**

**Romans 3:19-20** (NLT) *Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*



So, The Bible says that God gave us the law so that He could prove to us that we cannot meet God's standard for morality. The Bible also says the following:

**James 2:10** (NLT) *For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.*

In other words if you have ever broken **any** of God's laws you have already messed up badly enough to never be able to be good enough to get into Heaven.



**So what now? Is it hopeless?** No. You can still get into Heaven. Let's look at Romans 3:21-28 to see **God's instructions on how to get into Heaven.**

**Romans 3:21-28** (NLT) *But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. **We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.** And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when*

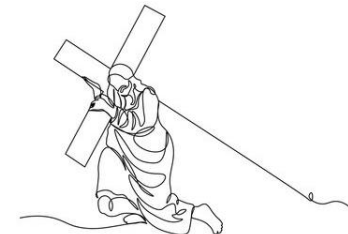
*he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.*

*Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. **So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.***

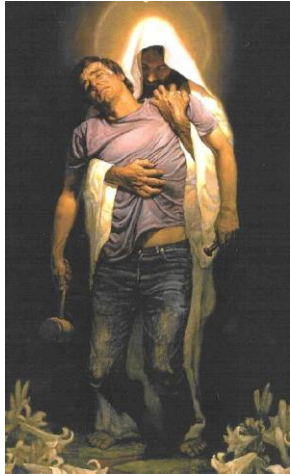
In addition, Galatians 2:16-21 says:

**Galatians 2:16-21** (NIV) *Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because **by the works of the law no one will be justified.***

*"But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners; doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*



Let's review what we learned. The question was, "How does God decide if we've been good enough to get into Heaven?" The answer is: **God knows we cannot be good enough to get to Heaven.** So, He gave us the law in order to prove to us that we cannot be good enough and to let us know that we need help, specifically, help from God, Himself. This is why Jesus came down to earth, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross in order to pay the cost for our sins so we can get into Heaven.



*Forgiven II* by Thomas Blackshear

### Now you have a choice.

- You can choose to pay God for your sins yourself. This will mean you cannot make it into Heaven.
- Or you can choose to admit that you cannot be good enough to get into Heaven on your own, and don't want to pay the consequences of your sins, yourself. Then, you just need to accept the payment Jesus already made on your behalf for sin, and enjoy the free gift of a relationship with God and entry into Heaven.

If you want to accept Jesus as your Savior and His payment for you to get into Heaven, all you have to do is believe in those truths. **God knows what is in your heart even if you don't know what to say.** However, if you would like to pray to God, it's as easy as thinking and talking. I will give you an example of what you can say to Him right now:



**Dear God, I am so sorry that I have messed up and sinned. I know I deserve punishment and that Jesus took that punishment for me. I know that I need your forgiveness and your help. I am putting my faith in Jesus and in His payment for my sins. Thank you for forgiving me and for wanting a relationship with me. In Jesus name, Amen**

If you accept Jesus' payment for your sins, you are adopted as a son/daughter of God and are on your way to Heaven no matter what, because we can know for sure that if God says something will happen, it will happen. God is not a liar and He always keeps His promises.

**John 3:14-18 John 6:39-40; John 10:27-30;  
Romans 8:31-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews  
6:18-20; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:13**

*If you are trying to get into  
Heaven by being good  
enough, you will not succeed.*

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How does  
God decide if  
we've been  
good enough  
to get into  
Heaven?



This is the most important  
question you could ever ask.