

What three things testify we go to Heaven?

1. **I JOHN 5:3-13**: “*This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? **Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***”

A. Indeed, **Romans 10:9** says, “*That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*” SO, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SAY THE WORDS, “**JESUS IS LORD**” AND I’LL BE SAVED?

B. **NO**, Jesus went on to say in **Matthew 7:21-24**: “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven. Many will say to Me on that Day (Judgement), ‘Lord, did we not prophecy in your Name, and in your Name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me you evildoers!’ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the Rock (AND **I CORINTHIANS 10:4 SAYS JESUS IS THAT ROCK**). NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS THE WORDS “**JESUS IS LORD**” TRULY BELIEVE HE IS. IF THEY DID, THEY WOULD “**OBEY HIS COMMANDS!**” SO, IF I CAN’T JUST SAY THE WORDS, “**JESUS IS LORD,**” WHAT SHOULD I SAY AS A “**CONFESSION**” ?*”

C. Remember, in **Matthew 16:15-18**, when Jesus asked Peter “*who do you say that I am? And Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by My Father in Heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter (“petros” or movable stone), and on this Rock (“petra,” or “immovable rock” — which was the Confession Peter made, that Jesus was “the Christ, the Son of the living God”), I will build My Church.*” JESUS TOLD PETER THAT HE WOULD BUILD HIS CHURCH ON THE **CONFESSION THAT PETER MADE (WHICH WAS GIVEN TO HIM THROUGH DIVINE REVELATION BY GOD HIMSELF)**, THAT JESUS WAS “**THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**”

D. So, as Paul told Timothy in **I Timothy 6:12**, we must make the “**Good Confession.**” AND “**JESUS IS THE CHRIST THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD**” is the **only Confession that Jesus said He would build His Church upon, and that came directly from God, Himself, not any man.**

2. **AS VERSE 6 CONTINUES**: “*This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood.*”

A. So, after I “**BELIEVE**” that Jesus not only died on the cross for my sins, and rose on the third day proving that He was the Christ, the Son of God; and then I make that

“GOOD CONFESSION:” that *“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God”*
—WHAT DO I DO NOW?

(1) **Mark 1:9-11** confirms that Jesus didn’t just come by blood (dying on the cross) but also *“by water”* when John the Baptist baptized Him in water because it was God’s *“will”* that even Jesus had to obey.

(2) So, as **Acts 8:26-38** shows us, if you wanted to become a Christian and you believed that Jesus died for your sins (**“BLOOD”**) and rose from the dead (proving He was the **“CHRIST”**), you were to **“CONFESS”** it with your mouth, and be baptized in **“WATER”** in obedience to God’s command or **“WILL.”**

READ ACTS 8:36-38: *“They (Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch) came to some WATER and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If you BELIEVE with all your HEART, you may.’ The eunuch answered, ‘I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.”*

3. AND VERSE 6 ADDS: *“And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the Truth.”*

A. In other words, **The Word of God is made up of words spoken by the Holy Spirit to God’s Apostles and Prophets.** **Ephesians 3:1-5:** *“For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the **mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.** In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy Apostles and Prophets.”*

(1) **II Peter 3:2** tells us the **“Apostles”** received the Spirit’s words for the **New Testament**, and the **“Prophets”** for the **Old Testament:** *“I want you to recall the words spoken in the past (Old Testament) by the Holy Prophets, and the commands given by our Lord and Savior (New Testament) through your Apostles.”*

B. Paul also told Timothy in **II Timothy 2:15:** *“Be diligent to present yourself approved unto God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the Word of Truth.**”*

C. This is why Jesus said in **John 4:23:** *“True worshipers worship in Spirit and in Truth.”*

(1) **True worshipers (John 4:23)** will not go beyond what is written (**I Corinthians 4:6**) by the Apostles and Prophets, whom the Holy Spirit revealed special revelations (**Ephesians 3:1-5**) that combined into the **Word of Truth** or New Testament Scriptures, which they will *study and handle accurately*

(II Timothy 2:15) . They will not *pervert* this Gospel of Christ (*Galatians 1:7*) by adding new revelations or taking original revelations from it (*Revelation 22:18,19*), claiming that they too are *apostles* and directed by *angels* to make such changes (*Galatians 1:8,9*). They will recognize that “*Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.*” And, therefore, will “*not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings,*” that are neither from the Holy Spirit, nor in the Word of Truth (*Hebrews 13:8,9*). For Jesus told us that if we *obeyed His teachings* both **He** and **God** through the **Holy Spirit** would *make their home within us* (*John 14:23-25*), and would *guide us into all Truth* (*John 16:16:13*)!

4. VERSE 7 GOES ON TO SAY: “*For there are three that testify: The Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept man’s testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which He has given about His Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about His Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this (eternal) life is in His Son. He who has the Son has (eternal) life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have (eternal) life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*”

A. “SPIRIT”

(1) *Romans 8:9-11:* “*You, however, are controlled not by your sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness (doing right). And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life (eternal life) to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.*

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to our sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die (spiritually); but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body (sinful nature), you will live (eternal life in Heaven).

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit who makes you sons. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory (Heaven).”

(2) *Ephesians 1:13,14:* “*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the Word of Truth (which is the Spirit’s words), the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (place in Heaven)...”*

(3) If we choose to follow the Spirit's Truth, and obey Christ, He will give us the Holy Spirit who guarantees us a place in Heaven! **So, how do you get the Holy Spirit?**

B. "WATER"

(1) ***John 3:5***: "Jesus answered (Nicodemus), 'I tell you the Truth (which is the Spirit), **unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.**'"

(a) *Immediately after Jesus told Nicodemus this, He went with John the Baptist to baptize more people in water according to **John 3:22**: "After this, Jesus and His disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized. Now John (the Baptist) also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water."*

(2) **Jesus, Himself, was baptized in water before the Holy Spirit ascended on Him according to *Mark 1:9-11***: "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was **baptized** by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw Heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove."

(3) **Jesus' last command to His Apostles is found in *Matthew 28:19,20***: "Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing (water) them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

(4) **Peter obeyed Jesus' command and baptized (in water) the first 3,000 people who wanted to be Jesus' disciples or Christians according to *Acts 2:37,38***: "When the people heard this (Peter's sermon), they were cut to the heart (they had crucified the Son of God) and said to Peter and the other Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' '**Repent and be baptized (water), every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.'

(a) **How can you be sure Peter baptized in water? *Acts 10:44-48***: "While Peter was still speaking these words (about Jesus' baptism (water) and anointing with the Holy Spirit according to verse 37), the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message (first Gentiles). The circumcised believers (Jews) who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, '**Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have (on the Day of**

Pentecost in Acts 2). So he ordered that they be baptized (water) in the name of Jesus Christ.”

(5) According to Acts 19:1-5, Even Paul made sure everyone was baptized in water to get the Holy Spirit: “There he (Paul) found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism (water) did you receive?’ ‘John’s baptism,’ they replied. Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized (water) into the name of the Lord Jesus.”

(6) So, why should we get baptized in water for the Holy Spirit? Besides the obvious examples of Jesus, Peter, Paul, and the first Church, Romans 6:3-5 says: “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized (water) into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism (water symbolizes the grave) into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in His death (baptism in water), we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection (baptism in water symbolizes a death, burial and resurrection)!”

(7) If the water and the Spirit guarantee us a place in Heaven, why do we need the blood? And how do we get it?

C. “BLOOD”

(1) In John 6:53-54 Jesus said: “I tell you the Truth (which is the Spirit), unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life...(56) Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him.”

(a) Just a few days later, on the first day of Passover, Jesus showed His Apostles what He meant in Matthew 26:26-28: “While they were eating (Passover meal), Jesus took bread (unleavened because no yeast or leaven was allowed during the week of Passover), gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is My body.’ Then He took the cup (which had grape juice without yeast — meaning not fermented wine), gave thanks and offered it to them saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the Covenant (New Testament or Covenant or Truth or Spirit that replaced the Old Testament), which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

(2) Drinking His blood also ensures us eternal life. This is why Jesus instituted Communion or the Lord’s Supper, forgiving the sins of all Christians who

remember His sacrifice for our sins in this way. **If we *remain in Him* (obeying the *New Covenant*, or the *Truth* that comes from the *Spirit*); in return, He will *remain in us*, and guarantee His promise that He will give us *eternal life*!**

5. WHAT'S THE CONCLUSION? LET'S SUMMARIZE: When we believe that Jesus died for our sins on the cross, rose on the third day proving that He is the Christ; we then confess this "*Good Confession*" before people, that "*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*" We then prove we believe this Confession by obeying the "*will*" of God. **HOW DO WE KNOW WE HAVE OBEYED GOD'S WILL AND WILL THEREFORE GO TO HEAVEN?** The *Spirit*, *water* and *blood* testify that we can *know* we have *eternal life in Heaven!* If we follow God's *commands* given to us by the *Spirit* as the only *Truth*, we will be *true worshipers* of Jesus Christ in God's sight. We therefore follow Christ's own example and commands to be *baptized in water*, and to *drink His blood* through Communion, in order to have and keep His *Spirit* which guarantees us *eternal life* in Heaven!