

**Life's**

**2**

**? Most ?**

**Important**

**Questions**

- 1. Where will I spend eternity?**
- 2. How can I know for sure?**

Dr. Ian Stevenson, a professor of psychiatry, studied NDEs & OBEs (near death and out of body experiences) for twenty years. In a *Readers Digest* article, *Life After Death — The Growing Evidence*, he stated, “I think it prudent to prepare for the eventuality.”

Dr. Maurice Rawlings, in his bestselling book *Beyond Death's Door*, tells how he revived a postal worker who suffered cardiac arrest during a treadmill test in his office. Rawlings administered CPR. The patient would cry out, “Don't stop, don't stop! Don't you know that every time you stop, I die and go to Hell?”

“Shut up and keep your hell to yourself until I get this pacemaker installed!” Rawlings had replied. The doctor had believed death to be painless extinction. His colleagues had told him that when people die, they become fertilizer for the flowers. Rawlings, shaken by this and other experiences, wrote, “I found out it may not be safe to die!”

In the Word of God, the Bible, we find an eternal element in all mankind, the *human spirit*, that, along with the *soul* (mind, will, emotions), survives physical death, cannot be destroyed, and one day stands before the Creator, to give an account for the earthly life.

*...it is destined that men die only once, and after that comes judgment.* — Hebrews 9:27

The one determining factor in who passes the test will surprise you.

*I saw the dead, great and small, standing before God; and The Books were opened, including the **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to the things written in The Books, each according to the deeds he had done...And if anyone's name was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.* — Revelation 20:12,15

To escape Hell and make Heaven we need to look to *Jesus Christ*, the Author of this RSVP (reservation for Heaven) book. God Himself came to earth, as Jesus Christ, to remedy the separation between

God and men caused by man's sin or disobedience to God's laws, *The Ten Commandments*. The Bible has this to say:

### **The Bad News:**

*Listen now! The Lord isn't too weak to save you. And he isn't getting deaf! He can hear you when you call! But the trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God. — Isaiah 59:1-2a*

*For the wages of sin is death [i.e., eternal separation from God]...*

### **The Good News:**

*...But the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. — Romans 6:23*

*God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together by giving his life for all mankind. — 1 Timothy 2:5*

*For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out.— 2 Corinthians 5:19*

We look to Jesus, ask Him to forgive and remove our sins, and accept His blood sacrifice

on the cross as full payment for our sins. When we ask Him to come into our hearts/lives as Savior and Lord, He writes our name in His *Book of Life*. Then, the moment we die, we are taken to Heaven until that glorious day when Jesus returns to earth, giving us a perfect and immortal body like the one He has now.

The Apostle Paul, a notable Bible writer, who evidently had his own out of body visit to God's residence, Heaven, wrote:

*...I long to go and be with Christ. How much happier for me than being here.*

— Philippians 1:23b

Jesus, using a symbolic analogy, says escaping Hell, and making Heaven for eternity, is so vitally important, that if our hand or foot were to lead us astray from getting there, we should cut that offending hand or foot off!

*So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. Better to enter heaven crippled than to be in hell with both your hands and feet.*

— Matthew 18:8

God's determining factor for making His presence your dwelling place for eternity is, *What have you done with Jesus Christ?*

*And what is it that God has said? That he has given us eternal life, and that this life is in his Son. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son, does not have life.* — 1 John 5:11-12

Jesus Christ stands knocking at the door of your heart wanting in.

*Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.*

— Revelation 3:20

So, where is Jesus Christ in *your* life—on the inside—or just on the outside? And, if He isn't on the inside, wouldn't you like to pray right now and get Him in?

Pray this *World's Most Important Prayer*, aloud, and from your heart:

*Dear Jesus, come into my heart. Forgive all my sins. Wash me in your blood. Write my name in the Book of Life. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can serve and obey you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

How can I know for sure that God has heard my prayer, that He has come to live within me, and that I will spend eternity with Him? The Bible, which is God speaking to us, is backed by the reputation of God Himself. When we stand in faith on God's Word, He is faithful to fulfill His good promises. Thus, your assurance of Heaven rests on God's ability to keep His word.

*...Your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.* — Psalms 138:2b

Jesus Christ said, *And though all heaven and earth shall pass away, yet my words remain forever true.* — Luke 21:33

Look at these assurance of salvation examples from the Bible:

*But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. [And it is perfectly proper for*

*God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins].* — 1 John 1:9

*Jesus also said, I say emphatically that everyone who listens to my message and believes in God who sent me has eternal life, and will never be damned for his sins, but has already passed out of death into life.* — John 5:24

Jesus has authority over death and the world of the dead (Revelation 1:18).

In addition, God, the Holy Spirit, comes to live within us as a witness to our being a child of God, and as a down payment on our receiving resurrected bodies when Jesus returns to set up His earthly kingdom of peace and Heaven on earth.

*For the Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts, and tells us we really are God's children.*  
— Romans 8:16