

What Is the Meaning of Life?

Q1: I have asked myself that question. Doesn't everyone have their own meaning or purpose for life?

A: The Bible makes a profound statement about life:
Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.
Psalms 16:11

Q2: This promise sounds wonderful. Does this verse teach that everything is fine between God and me?

A: No. Actually, the Bible teaches that we have all sinned against God and that we all are under His wrath.
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
Romans 1:18
But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
Isaiah 59:2

Q3: These statements are pretty negative. Why should I listen to the Bible?

A: The Bible is the Word of God, directly from God Himself for all mankind.
For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
2 Peter 1:21
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
2 Timothy 3:16

Q4: If I am a sinner, is there a punishment for sin?

A: The punishment for sin is death. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God, which is sin, and died the day they sinned.
But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
Genesis 2:17
The Bible teaches that the whole human race also has already died.
And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ... Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
Ephesians 2:1, 5

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

1 Peter 4:6
And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
Colossians 2:13

Q5: Doesn't the Bible say that man is "spiritually dead"?

A: The Bible never uses language like "spiritually dead" or "physically dead". The word "spiritually" has to do with the spirit and "physically" has to do with the body. According to the Bible, mankind is already both spiritually and physically dead. His body is already dead as we read in these two verses:
And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:10
Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?
1 Corinthians 15:29

1 Corinthians 15 talks about the coming resurrection of the believer's body which is already called "dead" 3 times in verse 29.

Q6: How can I already be dead? I feel very much alive.

A: The first step to answering this question is to understand that the Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God Himself, is "life".
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.
John 11:25
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
John 14:6

Q7: I don't understand. How can Jesus or God be 'life'?

A: The Bible defines 'life' and 'death' differently than man does. The Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, is life. In fact, the Lord Jesus is even called "eternal life".
And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.
1 John 5:20

Q8: What does it mean to be alive?

A: The Bible defines being alive or life for mankind in terms of his relationship to God, who is life.
He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.
1 John 5:12
The "son" in this verse is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is God Himself.

Q9: What about people who do not follow the Lord Jesus. Are they are not "alive"?

A: The Bible teaches that every person, while he is in this world, has a relationship with God to some degree.
For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
Acts 17:28
The "in him" is "in God". While we are in this world we are "in Him", and we "move" in God and have "our being" in God. While he is in this world, man is not completely separated from God and His wonderful blessings upon mankind. The Bible says that man in this world is "alive" because he is "in God" who is "life".

Q10: Then, what is "death" for mankind?

A: We saw that God is "life" and that for mankind "life" has to do with his relationship to God. So, "death" is separation, specifically from God. We see these truths in many verses. Here are a few examples:
Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.
John 6:53
John 6:53 is talking about when God saves us. Before God saves us, we "have no life" in us. We have conscious existence, but we do not have God, who is life, dwelling in us. When God saves us, He comes to indwell us according to the Bible.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
1 John 3:14
If we do not love our brethren we "abide in death". We abide in separation from God, which is death.
Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:15
The Lord Jesus Christ is the "eternal life" that abides in us upon salvation.
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
John 5:24

Upon salvation, we have not "passed from non-existence to existence". Rather, we have passed from separation from God, to God dwelling in us.
So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name.
Psalms 80:18
The word "quicken" is the Old English word "to make alive". Upon salvation God does not make us exist, but rather gives us the Lord Jesus, who is life, to dwell in us. In that sense, God will "quicken us".

Q11: Doesn't a corpse signify death?

A: According to the Bible, a "corpse" is a body sleeping in the dust. When our body fails the Bible speaks of that body as sleeping in the dust.
So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.
1 Kings 2:10
So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.
1 Kings 16:28
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
1 Thessalonians 4:14

Q12: Then why does the Bible say that we die?

A: When our body fails and there is no more consciousness in our body, the Bible says that our body "sleeps in the dust". At that point, Acts 17:28 no longer applies to us. We no longer "move" in God. Corpses do not "move". So, we are no longer "in Him". We are further separated from God who is "life". This is the Biblical definition of death for mankind.

Q13: How do we know that when our body returns to the dust that this is not the end of us?

A: The Bible teaches that the bodies of both the saved and unsaved will "awake" to consciousness and that they will "hear" the voice of God and will come out of their tombs. This happens at Judgment Day at the end of the world.
Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.
John 5:28-29
And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
Daniel 12:2

Q14: What will happen to the unsaved at Judgment Day?

A: The Bible teaches that the unsaved will awake to consciousness in their bodies at Judgment Day and

appear before the Judgment throne of God as we read in these verses:

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:10-12
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

Q15: This sounds scary. What is God's judgment upon the unsaved?

A: The Bible teaches that God will cast the unsaved into hell to suffer forevermore because of their sins.

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 14:9-11

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. ... 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10,15

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me. **Proverbs 1:26-28**

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.

Romans 2:8-9

These and many other verses speak of the conscious affliction that all of the unsaved must endure in hell for evermore. In addition, there is strong Biblical evidence that Judgment Day could be coming very soon.

Q16: Will God show any mercy on Judgment Day?

A: Sadly, the answer is no. Today is the day of God's mercy but at Judgment Day there will be no mercy.

For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

James 2:13

Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:17

Q17: This is horrible. Is there any escape?

A: Yes, there is an escape. God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is also God Himself, to take upon Himself the sins of those that have come to trust in Him as their savior, and to make payment for those sins.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

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.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Q18: But, what does it mean to believe on Christ? Does it simply mean that I agree with everything that the Bible says about Him?

A: Believing on Christ means a whole lot more than simply agreeing in our mind with the teachings of the Bible. It means that we have come to trust and obey the Bible, as the Law of God, with all of our heart.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Psalms 119:1-2

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 2:3

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Q19: What about other religions and philosophies? Can those save me?

A: The Bible teaches that only the Lord Jesus Christ can save us because He alone, being God, was able to make the full payment for sins.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

Q20: What can I do to become saved?

A: The Bible says that those that believe in Christ in their heart will be saved. However, the Bible also says that before salvation that our heart is very evil and all of our works of righteousness are corrupt.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 64:6

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:10-11

Q21: Is there any hope for me?

A: Yes. Today there is great hope. Because of man's sinfulness and rebellion, God has taken all of the action to save man and to apply that salvation to him. Even the faith to believe in Christ is a gift that comes with salvation.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:8

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Titus 3:4-6

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in

my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Q22: Can I pray that God might save me?

A: Yes. The Bible gives many illustrations of people crying out to God for mercy and God saving them. Also, God saves through His Word, the Bible, so we want to carefully read the Bible with an attitude of obedience.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Luke 18:13

Q23: Can you give an illustration of someone crying out to God for salvation?

A: Yes, the people of ancient Nineveh about 2,500 years ago were told that God would destroy them and the whole city cried out to God for mercy and God had mercy upon them. The king commanded the people:

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3:8-10

THERE IS A GREAT HOPE OF SALVATION TODAY FOR THOSE THAT READ THE BIBLE AND CRY OUT TO GOD FOR MERCY

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

Lamentations 3:26

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