

Bible Questions and Answers

These are some questions that have come in from what is on the website. <https://hnslack.wixsite.com/mysite>

Q1: “God said that 1000 years are as one day, and a day as a thousand, so (if) there is no time in heaven. when babies go to heaven will they get older?”

A1: We should distinguish between our physical bodies as they are in this life, and the spiritual existence that we will have “on the other side”. We do believe there will eventually be a resurrection of our bodies, but they will not be these mortal and frail and corruptible bodies we have now. See 1 Cor. 15. For the Christian to die is to be loosed from the shackles of illness, old age, and infirmity into the glorious liberty of living in God’s presence. We do not believe that an old cancer-stricken or senile person will still be that way in heaven, nor do we believe that a baby will be a perpetual infant, or that a retarded person will remain in their mental incompetence. We should not speak too definitely about what the Bible has not made clear, but it seems obvious that in the place of old age and infirmity we will have “youth” and vigor (in some spiritual sense), and that those who die in infancy or even in the womb will “grow up” to that same state. We will all be capable of active enjoyment and comprehension of God’s presence, and fellowship with loved ones, with none of the physical restrictions that we suffer before death.

Q2: “Now what I’ve read about death and where we go after death: do we go to heaven or hell after death? If so, why is there a judgment, if we are already where we are supposed to be?”

A2: In the OT, “Sheol” is the Hebrew word for the grave, or the place of departed spirits. It is sometimes translated hell. In the NT we get a fuller understanding of the subject. After death the righteous go to “Paradise”, or “Abraham’s bosom”, and the unrighteous go to “Hades”. Paradise is a place of rest and comfort, where Hades is a place of fiery torment. (See Lk. 16, about Lazarus and the rich man) “Hades” is usually translated “hell”, but this is not to be confused with Hell or Gehenna, the lake of fire.

God will judge all men at the time of the end. He does not formally judge men every time someone dies, and yet He knows their ultimate destination, and so separates righteous and unrighteous at death. We may think of both Paradise and Hades as temporary places for the dead, while earthly history unfolds. Currently none are in the lake of fire, but at the time of the end, Satan and his angels will be cast into it. Then there will be a great judgment where Hades is “emptied out” and all stand before God to receive formal judgment, and are cast into the lake of fire. The righteous will likewise be judged and enter into a “new heavens and new earth”, living in the very presence of God.

It might help to think of Hades and the final judgment with the analogy of a jail’s “bull pen”. A person has been caught in guilt and thrown in the bull pen, but their ultimate disposition awaits a trial and sentence. Of course this analogy fails in one respect – sometimes a person in the bull pen is actually innocent, whereas in Hades there is no real question of guilt, just a fearful waiting for that final judgment.

It is important to note that while we will be judged for the things we have done in this life, our destination after death (Paradise or Hades, and ultimately heaven or the lake of fire) depends not on our works, but solely on whether or not we have received Christ as Savior and Redeemer. We are saved only by grace through faith in Christ’s death, shedding his blood as a pure and holy Substitute. He bore the penalty of our guilt, and we receive forgiveness and life, and we are counted as righteous before the Father.

For a fuller study, see the notes from the website:

Christian Teachings

The Kingdom of God

Study #7: What happens when we die? False views of the afterlife; What CAN we know, from the scriptures, about the time between a person's death and the final judgment?

Q3: “When you get saved, do all Christians speak in tongues, because God said “and these will be the signs, they will speak in tongues, cast out demons”. But if not all Christians can do these things, are we still his?”

A3: The Bible distinguishes between becoming a believer in Christ (“becoming a Christian”, being “redeemed”, getting “saved”, or “converted”), and a subsequent experience we call the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is what occurred in Ac. 2, 8, 10, and 19. Mk. 16:15-18 does say “... And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues ...”, and this certainly applies to what occurred in the book of Acts.

While it is God’s intention that every Christian should receive this indwelling of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by the sign of speaking in tongues, not all do. This is partly because of ignorance (they don’t know, and have not been instructed about it), or because their understanding has been poisoned by the teaching of some churches and preachers that deny its validity for today. Put plainly, many people are afraid of the experience because of what they have been taught.

A person does NOT need to receive the Holy Spirit baptism (with tongues) to be saved. The Baptism is an experience AFTER salvation, for the purpose of empowering us for effective witness and ministry, and to make us like He is (holy). We cannot be saved at all without the working of the Holy Spirit (giving us faith, conviction, and repentance) and it is He that gives us spiritual life, but there is a difference between having the Holy Spirit with us (to save), and in us.

For a fuller study, see the notes from the website:

Christian Teachings

Christian Basics

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Yet another study in the book of Acts, dealing with frequently recurring themes. This teaches what the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is, how it is described in Acts, its purpose, its evidences, and how to receive it.