

Only One Way

By Tricia Scribner

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men
by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12 NIV*

Aren't there many roads to heaven? Don't all religions contain truth? A recent conversation with an acquaintance revealed that many believe so. When I asked what she believed it took to enter heaven, she said she believed in God and in Jesus. She also believed in teachings from other religions, as well.

Her comments raise an important question: What does it mean to *believe*—in a saving sense? The New Testament word for “believe” means to trust in, to rely upon. Intellectual assent is not enough, for Scripture teaches that the demons believe there is one God (James 2:19). In fact, they recognize Jesus Christ's identity (Matt. 8:28-32). Yet, they do not *believe in*, or submit in faith, to Him.

On what or whom are you relying to gain entrance into heaven? Your good works? Your church membership or baptism? In Matthew chapter seven, Jesus said that in the end many will call Him, “Lord, Lord,” claiming they've done great works for Him, but He will respond, “Depart from Me, I never knew You.”

The Bible asserts that knowing Jesus Christ personally through faith provides the only access to heaven and the only way to peace with God the Father (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). God the Father Himself requires belief in Jesus, His Son: "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

How can we know Christ personally through faith? First, we can acknowledge our sin to God: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Second, we can acknowledge that while we deserve punishment for our sin, we accept the free gift of salvation offered by faith in Jesus Christ: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Third, we can turn away from our sin—from living our lives our way—and submit in faith to Jesus Christ: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. . . . (Acts 3:19).

Would you like to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Just ask and trust Him to keep His promise.

Lord, I'm a sinner and deserve death. I have lived my way, not Yours. I turn from my sin and by faith invite You to forgive my sins, and be my Savior. Amen.