

Can a person live like the devil and still be saved?

If one wants to live like the devil, he is not saved. Saving faith includes belief plus trust (Jas 2:19). An individual can know who is father is by taking an inventory of his desires. Jesus said: You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do (Jn 8:44).

Each person should ask of himself: *Is my life devoted to the Lord or is there an idol that comes between God and me?* God must be enthroned in a man's life and his will must be dethroned. Jesus is the Lord. Each should ask himself: *Is he my Lord?* Adrian Rogers said, "You cannot have a 'come in Savior' and a 'stay out Lord'.

One will love his idol or he will love God. Jesus said: No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other (Lk 16:13). Everyone has a master. If one's master is not the Lord then he is an idolater.

Idols must come down in one's life before God can rightfully be enthroned in his heart. The apostle Paul praised the Thessalonians: You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God (1 Th 1:9).

Christians believe, trust and obey God. Jesus said: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me (Jn 10:27). They receive his word with gladness (Jn 8:56).

The wicked are described as those who: desire evil (Pr 21:10) and refuse judgment (Pr 21:7). They are cruel (Pr 12:10), far from God (Pr 15:29), and their way is one of darkness (Pr 4:19) They sell themselves to wickedness (1 Ki 21:25), become strengthened in wickedness (Ps 52:7), and refuse to turn from it (Jer 44:5). They will fall by their deeds (Pr 11:5).

A Christian washes his heart of wickedness (Jer 4:14). He struggles against it (Eph 6:12); He is fearful of committing wickedness (Ge 39:9), does not dwell in it (Ps 84:10), prays to be rid of it (Ps 7:9) and confesses his wickedness before God (1 K 8:47).

Some think: *I trusted in Jesus. My sins have been forgiven as far as the east is from the west so I'll go to heaven no matter how I live.*

Such thinking is presumption not faith. Presumptuous sin is dangerous (Ps. 19:13). God has *not* forgiven men for sins that they have not yet committed (1 Jn 1:9, Lk 17:3, Ac 11:18, Ps 32:5, Pr 28:13).

Some think God has promised them safety to they can sin as they please. They should realize that God has promised no such thing: Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy (Jon 2:8).

Satan asked Jesus to go to the pinnacle of the temple and jump off. God would catch him. Satan quoted scripture but he misused the verse. Jesus replied: You shall not tempt the Lord your God (Mt 4:7).

One can have presumptuous or he can have faith. Sometimes people pull out the word *faith* when they want to get their own way. The word they are looking for is presumption.

The thing Jesus said not to do--was to test God. It would be foolish to assume God will do something that he has not promised.¹ Jesus saves those who abide in him (Jn 15:4). He does not save those who don't (Jn 15:6).

Everyone has a relationship God. The question each individual should ask himself is--is it a *right* relationship? Jesus will be one's Savior (Jn 3:16) or he'll be his Judge (Jn 3:18, Re 20:11-15).

Some believe they have a right relationship with God yet their works do not prove it (Jas 2:18). They will hear from him on judgment day: I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness (Mt 7:23).

The apostle John wrote: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9). Confession of sins is necessary to be in a right relationship with God (Nu 5:6, 7).

Jesus said: You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free (Jn 8:32). Men are freed from sin's dominion in their lives. If one does not trust in Jesus, God's wrath abides on him (Jn 3:36). Each must humble himself from the pride of his heart to be saved (2 Chr. 32:26).

God expressed his will in the entirety of the Old Testament. His law is summed up in the New Testament by Jesus: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Mt 22:37-40).

Having a right relationship with God means a person's conscience is pricked if he sins (Ps. 38:18). A conscience functioning as God intended is evidence of a new nature in Christ (Ac 23:1, 1 Ti 3:9). If one sins habitually--if his life is unchanged, he does not have a new nature (1 Jn 2:4).

¹ Ferguson, Darrell. Theology Class (Basic Level) Part 1: Survey Questions 1-11: 1 Apr 2014.

An evil conscience fails to judge rightly on moral issues (Heb. 10:22, 1 Co 8:7, 1 Ti 4:2). If this state persists, the conscience of the unbeliever finally dies (Prov. 30:20).

When one has trusted the Lord, he obeys him from a sincere heart (Rom. 6:17). The Holy Spirit enables him to obey (1 Pet. 1:22).

Men are responsible not for what they don't know; they are responsible for what they do know (Jn 9:39–41). If one persists in sin (Matt. 23:31–35), he will finally be rejected by God (Matt. 10:11–15).

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