

Are we trying to get to heaven, or stay out of hell?
Written By Todd Fontaine Published March 15, 2010

I posed the question, "Are we trying to get to heaven, or stay out of hell" To an older church going woman one day and was surprised by her answer. She stated that she couldn't understand the difference. She said that as long as she got to heaven, it was all the same to her. I understand the logic in her point, but I don't understand the process by which she applies it to her life. Many religious people of all faiths live their lives based upon fear. Some may say that its not true, but listen to this. The first thing out of a man's mouth when proclaiming his dedication and worship of his faith is, "I'm a God FEARING man". When we were younger and our parents would scold and reprimand us for mischievous acts, it was said that they put the FEAR OF GOD in us. Now some may read this article and say" How dare he speak against GOD? But that's exactly my point. I'm not speaking against anyone or their faith. I'm just pointing out that fear is a motivating factor in why people do the things they do It's as if some people view their life as a race. And in this race there is a prize (Heaven) for those who finish in good standings and grace. But they also view it as a race that has a punishment (Hell) if you lose. The FEAR of the PUNISHMENT outweighs the REWARD. Could you envision yourself taking a day off from work without pay? Of course you could. Now envision yourself taking that same day off except you now had to pay your job 8 hours wages for the missed day. Seems unfair doesn't it? Why should you have to PAY for not doing work? The parallels in life are not always apparent, but are still there. Just ask a young man who is trying to turn his life around after getting into trouble and has been given a second chance. out of ten times he will tell you he is working on his education and working a few odd jobs to STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. Not to exceed, but to not go back to his old lifestyle. Some of us would like to think of ourselves as noble LOVING people at all times, but we are in fact a people that have become overcome by the fear of failure in the eyes of our GOD. But is it fair to yourself to live in a mental state where fright is a factor in your existence? Further more, what exactly is the punishment that is promised to us? Has anyone come back and told anyone about the fire of HELL? Has anyone written about what was actually seen with human eyes? And before you think about the WHITE light that people say they saw when they allegedly died for a few minutes, understand this. In order to comprehend any conscience or subconscious thought, you cannot be dead. Death shuts down the brains ability to receive and transmit any stimuli. So in my opinion, some of us live our lives based upon blind fear. What else could you call fearing something that has never been proven to exist? And as far as Heaven having PEARLY GATES, our souls would not be able to be held back by any physical structure if that were the case. So the fear and rewards of the after life take on a mythical image if you really think about it. But that's my point, you never think about anything because you are taught what to think, and not how to think. Religions of all kinds have separated and scared more people than they have brought together. And to live my life scared of an unfound punishment or an unseen reward that is only granted after I die is the greatest sin in my opinion. My state of mind while here on earth is my heaven or hell, and neither one could exist without the other. I am a composite of both .I am not scared of HELL nor valiant about HEAVEN.A desire for BALANCE is my motivation in life.