

Scriptures in Response to Pope Francis declaring an Atheist can earn eternal salvation by a good work

<http://exploringchristianfaith.com/pope-francis-to-little-boy-pray-to-your-atheist-dad/>

Pope Francis video and words found here:

<http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2018/is-my-dad-in-heaven-little-boy-asks-pope.cfm>

What God says is true. What He sets out to accomplish, He accomplishes. What He says will come to pass, will come to pass. Pray with me as we read these scriptures and test them against what Pope Francis said to the little boy. [2 Timothy 4:3-4](#)

[Isaiah 46:10](#)

10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

[Numbers 23:19](#)

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

[John 3:3](#)

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His [a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"

Question to Pope Francis:

"A short time ago, my dad died. He was an atheist, but he had all four of his children baptized. He was a good man. Is Dad in heaven?"

Pope Francis:

That man *didn't have the gift of faith, he wasn't a believer*, but he had his children baptized. *He had a good heart.*

"God surely was proud of your father, because it is easier as a believer to baptize your children than to baptize them when you are not a believer. Surely this pleased God very much."

Heavenly Father, can we please you without faith?

[John 15:5](#), [Hebrews 11:6](#)

And without faith it is **impossible** to please God, because anyone who approaches Him **must believe that He exists** and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

How do we earnestly seek you? [John 10:27-28](#), [John 6:44](#)

44“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day

[Romans 8:7-8](#)

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do [so. 8](#) Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Pope Francis

*“What do you think? A father’s heart. God has a dad’s heart. And with a dad **who was not a believer, but who baptized his children and gave them that bravura, do you think God would be able to leave him far from himself?**”*

“Does God abandon his children?” the pope asked. “Does God abandon his children when they are good?” The children shouted, “No. “There, Emanuele, that is the answer,” Francis told the boy.”

Heavenly Father, can an unbelievers good deeds earn him eternal life?

[James 2:14-16](#), [James 2:22-24](#)

22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”[d] And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

[Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Galatians 5:2-3](#), [Romans 3:28](#)

28 [a]For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works [b]of the Law.

[Romans 4:2-5](#)

2 If Abraham was indeed justified by works, he had something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

4Now the wages of the worker are not credited as a gift, but as an obligation. 5However, to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness

John 6:28-29

28 Then they inquired, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” 29Jesus replied, “The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent.”

[John 15:5](#)

5I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing

[Luke 6:33](#)

33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that

[Romans 3:10-12](#),[Psalm 14:1-3](#),[Psalm 53:1-3](#) (The fool says in his heart there is no God)

as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.”

Pope Francis:

He had a good heart.

“God surely was proud of your father, because it is easier as a believer to baptize your children than to baptize them when you are not a believer. Surely this pleased God very much.”

Little girl asked: “When we are baptized, we become children of God. People who aren’t baptized, are they not children of God?”

Pope Francis: “What does your heart tell you?” the pope asked Carlotta. She said, they are, too. “Right, and I’ll explain,” the pope told her. “We are all children of God. Everyone. Everyone.”

Heavenly Father are we all God’s children including unbelievers?

[John 1:12](#); [11:52](#); [Romans 8:16](#); [1 John 3:1-10](#)

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Heavenly Father, what is the condition of our hearts?

[Mark 7:21-23](#) [Jeremiah 17:9](#)

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”

Heavenly Father, will an unbelievers good deeds be rewarded after death?

[Luke 6:33](#) Luke 16:24-25

24 And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

Heavenly Father, can a non-believer die and be saved outside of believing in the Son?

1 John 2:23

23No one who denies the Son can have the Father; whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

[Romans 6:23](#), [John 8:23-24](#), 47

Then He told them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24That is why I told you that you would die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

47 Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

[John 6:40](#)

40For it is My Father’s will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day

[Matthew 19:23-26](#)

23Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

25When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?” 26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

[Matthew 7:21-23](#)

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

[Acts 4:12](#)

12Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”