

How Good of a Muslim Are You?

Will You Make It to Heaven?

*An honest look at what the Qur'an and the hadith say about
the Day of Judgment — and a question every sincere heart
deserves an answer to.*

Qur'an quotations: Saheeh International translation (as published on quran.com).
Hadith quotations: Sahih al-Bukhari, English translation by Muhammad Muhsin Khan
(as published on sunnah.com), using sunnah.com numbering.

A Question From a Friend

As-salamu alaykum, my friend. Peace be upon you.

If you are reading this, you are probably someone who takes God seriously. You may pray five times a day, fast in Ramadan, give zakat, and hope one day to make Hajj. You want to please Allah, and you want to be with Him in Paradise. I respect that deeply. I am a Christian, and I write not to mock you or your faith, but because I believe the question on the cover is the most important question any of us will ever face.

So let me ask it plainly, as one person who will stand before God to another:

How good of a Muslim are you? Good enough? And how do you know?

Most Muslims I have met answer honestly: “I hope so. Only Allah knows.” That honesty is admirable. But it raises a serious question. If even our best efforts leave us only hoping, then what are we really trusting in when we die?

In the pages that follow, we will look only at your own sources — the Qur’an and the most trusted hadith collection, Sahih al-Bukhari — and let them speak for themselves. Every quotation is given with its reference so you can check it yourself. Please do. Then, on the very last page, I will share with you the hope that changed my life: a promise of certainty, not just hope.

I ask only one thing: read with an open heart, and ask God to show you the truth.

1. Can Anyone Know They Will Reach Paradise?

Let us begin with the most faithful Muslim of all — the Prophet Muhammad himself. If anyone could be sure of Paradise, surely it would be him. Yet listen to what the Qur'an commands him to say:

Say, "I am not something original among the messengers, nor do I know what will be done with me or with you. I only follow that which is revealed to me, and I am not but a clear warner." —
Qur'an 46:9

The same uncertainty appears in one of the most moving accounts in Sahih al-Bukhari. When the companion 'Uthman bin Maz'un died, a woman named Umm al-'Ala' said over his body that Allah had surely honored him. The Prophet corrected her:

"How do you know that Allah has honored him? ... By Allah, though I am the Apostle of Allah, yet I do not know what Allah will do to me." — **Sahih al-Bukhari 3929 (see also 1243, 2687)**

Umm al-'Ala' was so shaken that she said, "By Allah, I will never assert the piety of anyone after him."

In fairness, some Muslim scholars point to Qur'an 48:2 ("That Allah may forgive for you what preceded of your sin ... and what will follow") as a later assurance for the Prophet personally. But notice: even then, that is a special word to one man. Where is such a word for you?

Ask yourself: *If 'Uthman bin Maz'un — an early emigrant and close companion — could not be declared saved, and if the Prophet himself said "I do not know what Allah will do to me," on what basis can I say I will be saved?*

Not even by his deeds

Many Muslims hope that if they do enough good — enough prayers, enough fasting, enough charity — Allah will let them in. But the Prophet taught that deeds, by themselves, will not save anyone:

“The deeds of anyone of you will not save you (from the (Hell) Fire).” They said, “Even you (will not be saved by your deeds), O Allah’s Messenger?” He said, “No, even I (will not be saved) unless and until Allah bestows His Mercy on me.” — Sahih al-Bukhari 6463

“The good deeds of any person will not make him enter Paradise.” ... They said, ‘Not even you, O Allah’s Messenger?’ He said, “Not even myself, unless Allah bestows His favor and mercy on me.” — Sahih al-Bukhari 5673

This is a remarkable admission. Your deeds cannot save you. Only Allah’s mercy can. That is true — and Christians agree! But here is the problem: in Islam, you are never told whether that mercy will be given to you. You must work, and wait, and hope.

Ask yourself: *If my deeds cannot get me into Paradise, and I have no promise that mercy will be shown to me, then what do I actually have, except hope and fear?*

The scales and the Fire

The Qur'an describes the Day of Judgment as a weighing of deeds:

And the weighing [of deeds] that Day will be the truth. So those whose scales are heavy — it is they who will be the successful. And those whose scales are light — they are the ones who will lose themselves for what injustice they were doing toward Our verses. — Qur'an 7:8–9

And those whose scales are heavy [with good deeds] — it is they who are the successful. But those whose scales are light — those are the ones who have lost their souls, [being] in Hell, abiding eternally. — Qur'an 23:102–103

No one knows today how their scale will tip. And the Qur'an says every person will come to Hell:

And there is none of you except he will come to it. This is upon your Lord an inevitability decreed. Then We will save those who feared Allah and leave the wrongdoers within it, on their knees. — Qur'an 19:71–72

To be fair: the Saheeh International note explains “come to it” as “be exposed to it,” and many scholars understand this as passing over the bridge above Hell, adding that the people of Paradise will not be harmed. Still, the verse says no one escapes coming to it — and only “those who feared Allah” are saved. Who can be sure he feared Allah enough?

...And no soul perceives what it will earn tomorrow, and no soul perceives in what land it will die. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Aware. — Qur'an 31:34

“But I have said the Shahada...”

Some Muslims answer, “Whoever says the Shahada sincerely will be saved.” There is a hadith that says something like this, and it is only fair to quote it:

“There is none who testifies sincerely that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is his Apostle, except that Allah, will save him from the Hell-fire.” Mu‘adh said, “... Should I not inform the people about it so that they may have glad tidings?” He replied, “When the people hear about it, they will solely depend on it.” — Sahih al-Bukhari 128

Notice two things. First, the promise depends on the word “sincerely” — and who can measure the sincerity of his own heart well enough to stake eternity on it? Second, the Prophet did not want people to rely on it. And many Muslim scholars teach that even some believers may be punished in the Fire for a time before being brought out. So even here, there is no settled assurance.

Where this leaves us

Put it all together, using only Islamic sources:

- The Prophet said, “I do not know what will be done with me or with you” (46:9), and “I do not know what Allah will do to me” (Bukhari 3929).
- Deeds cannot save anyone — not even the Prophet — without Allah’s mercy (Bukhari 6463, 5673).
- Your eternity depends on scales you cannot see (7:8–9; 23:102–103).
- Every soul will come to the Fire (19:71), and no soul knows what it will earn tomorrow (31:34).

The honest conclusion: Islam offers hope, but it does not offer assurance of salvation.

2. “But Wasn’t the Bible Corrupted?”

Many Muslims have been taught that the Torah (Tawrat) and the Gospel (Injil) were changed, so they cannot be trusted. But what does the Qur’an itself say? It speaks of these books with respect — as revealed by Allah, full of guidance and light:

He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel. — Qur’an 3:3

And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the Torah; and We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light... And let the People of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed therein... — Qur’an 5:46–47

Say, “O People of the Scripture, you are [standing] on nothing until you uphold [the law of] the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to you from your Lord...” — Qur’an 5:68

So if you are in doubt, [O Muhammad], about that which We have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Scripture before you... — Qur’an 10:94

And the Qur’an insists that no one can change Allah’s words:

...None can alter His words, and He is the Hearing, the Knowing. — Qur’an 6:115

...There is no changer of His words... — Qur’an 18:27

In fairness, the Qur’an does accuse some of distorting words “from their [proper] places” (5:13) and writing “scripture” with their own hands (2:79). Many classical Muslim scholars read such verses mainly as misinterpretation, not loss of the whole book.

The logical problem

Think carefully about what these verses mean:

- In the 7th century, the Qur'an tells Christians to judge by the Gospel they had (5:47), and says Jews and Christians stand on nothing unless they uphold the Torah and the Gospel (5:68). That only makes sense if those books were still trustworthy then.
- It tells the Prophet, if in doubt, to ask those who read the earlier Scripture (10:94). Why send him to a corrupted book?
- It says no one can alter Allah's words (6:115; 18:27). If the Torah and Gospel are Allah's words, how could people corrupt them?

So either the Bible was corrupted before Muhammad — which contradicts these verses — or after him. That runs into the historical evidence.

The manuscript evidence

We possess copies of the Bible written long before Muhammad was born (c. 570 AD):

- **The Dead Sea Scrolls** (copied roughly 3rd century BC to 1st century AD): fragments of every book of the Hebrew Bible except Esther, including a nearly complete scroll of Isaiah.
- **Codex Vaticanus** (4th century AD): one of the oldest nearly complete Greek Bibles.
- **Codex Sinaiticus** (mid-4th century AD): contains the oldest complete copy of the New Testament (the Injil).

These agree in substance with the Bible we read today. By the Qur'an's own logic, then, it is worth reading — and it makes a promise Islam does not: certainty.

3. The Shahada and the Exact Words

The Shahada is the door into Islam:

Ashhadu an lā ilāha illā-llāh, wa ashhadu anna Muḥammadan rasūlu-llāh.

“I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”

Many Muslims assume this sentence is a verse of the Qur’an. In fact, the full formula as recited does not appear word for word as a single verse. Its two parts appear in different places:

... “There is no deity but Allah”... — Qur’an 37:35

So know, [O Muhammad], that there is no deity except Allah... — Qur’an 47:19

Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah... — Qur’an 48:29

To be fair, Muslims do not claim the Shahada is one verse; each part is Qur’anic, and the testimony as a pillar of Islam comes from the hadith: “Islam is based on (the following) five (principles): 1. To testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger...” (Sahih al-Bukhari 8). So the point is not that the Shahada is “un-Islamic.”

The point is this: the confession every Muslim makes, word for word, is assembled from the Qur’an and the hadith — and nowhere, in either, is there a sentence that says to you, “Say this, and you will surely be in Paradise.” Even the strongest hadith adds “sincerely” and warns people not to depend on it (Bukhari 128).

Ask yourself: *I can say the Shahada with my lips today. But can I say, with certainty, where I will spend eternity?*

If your answer is “No, only Allah knows” — please turn the page. There is One who said He does know, and who promises it to you.

Do you want to be sure you'll go to heaven?

Look to the Messiah, Yeshua — called 'Isa in the Qur'an, and Jesus in English. He guarantees eternal life to anyone who comes to Him. Read His own words (and those of His disciple John) from the Injil:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." **John 5:24**

"...whoever comes to me I will never cast out." **John 6:37**

"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." **John 6:40**

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." **John 10:27–28**

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25–26**

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**

"...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." **John 20:31**

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." **1 John 5:13**

Not "hope" — know. Not by your scales, but by His promise. Will you come to Him?

A prayer you can pray: "God, I know I cannot save myself by my deeds. I believe Yeshua the Messiah died for my sins and rose again. I come to You through Him. Forgive me, give me eternal life, and help me follow You. Amen."

Want to talk, or get a free copy of the Injil?

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