

## *Are You Saved???*

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**Q:** Someone asked me "Are you saved?" and I did not know what to respond. What does the Catholic Church teach about this question, and what are some verses I can use to back it up? The person really got in my face, telling me that I'm not going to Heaven and it kind of freaked me out.

"Are you saved?" is a very common question within certain denominations of Christianity; it is usually asked by someone wondering whether or not you have a personal relationship with Christ. You may have also heard popular questions regarding your faith like whether or not you have "asked Jesus to come into your heart" or if you "recognize and have accepted Christ as your personal Savior."

These are usually very sincere questions, asked by sincere people. Don't ever let the phrasing or even the zealous "intensity" of some Christians freak you out, though, questions like these are usually asked with good intentions. If it is asked in a tone that is respectful of your Catholicism, than be thankful for their interest; if it is ever asked in a "condemning" or "threatening tone", however, in which someone tells you that you're not saved, than stop, pray with (and/or for) that person, remember that it is GOD who proves hearts, not humans, and explain the Catholic Christian viewpoint by utilizing some of the verses listed below\*:

Question (to you), "Are you saved?"

Response (from you), "The answer is YES, in three parts..."

"Yes, I have been saved through Jesus' death, Resurrection and Redemption."  
Acts 4:12, Ephesians 1:7

"Yes, I am being saved, striving to walk with Christ, through the help of the Holy Spirit, conferred upon me in my Baptism (and/or Confirmation).  
Phil. 2:12, Heb 3:14, Rom 6:3-5, Gal 3:27

"Yes, I hope to be saved when Christ comes again."  
Mt 25:31-46, Rev 20:11-15

Their follow-up (to you), "What are you saying? You can't lose salvation, it's a gift..."

Response (from you), "True, grace is an unearned gift, but that doesn't mean that it cannot also be rejected and thrown away through grave sin."  
John 15:5-6, Rom 11:22-23, 1 Cor 15:1-2, Rom 6:23

"Further, as a sinner, the scriptures themselves warn that it is possible that we will

slide into post-Baptismal mortal sin"

1 Cor 9:27, 1 Cor 10:12, 1 John 5:16-17, Mark 13:13

Your question back (to them): "IF our sins after Baptism could not potentially exclude us from Heaven, than why would St. Paul have been so compelled to warn the already converted and Baptized people of the severity of sins' effects, and preach so often and so strongly about their mortal danger?"

1 Cor 6:9-10, Gal 5:19-21, Rom 2:6-8

God keeps His Word when it comes to Heaven, but it's important for all Christians to remember, when it comes to this subject, that while Scripture does teach a "moral assurance" of Heaven... "moral assurance" is NOT a guarantee.

Rom 11:22-23, Mt 18:21-35, 1 Cor 15:1-2, 2 Pet 2:20-21

Sincerely, more than anything, we need to pray for one another, Christians and non-Christians alike. God is merciful, but not weak. We should never seek to take earthly advantage of His Divine Mercy.

I hope this answer helped.

\*Based on the structure and quotes offered by Fr. Romero's answer to a similar question. Check out his book, Unabridged Christianity by Fr. Mario Romero for more on this subject. It's easy to read and a really helpful tool in explaining the faith.