

Do You Qualify?

I have been speaking on the subject of elders for the past several weeks, today will be on the “qualifications of the elders.”

However for the sake of this article, I am not asking you if you qualify to be an elder. Most of us don't. That's not a criticism; that's just a fact. A large number of us are women, women can't be the husband of one wife, so women don't qualify. Those of us who are males must also have that qualification, plus experience and reputation and so on. So, most of the males don't qualify either.

So, when I ask, “Do You Qualify?” I am asking if you qualify to be a Christian! Someone dared ask the question several years ago, “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” That's a good question! It seems like there is more and more of a concern for that possibility!

Peter told of a “fiery trial” ([1 Peter 4:12](#)) that many experienced in the first century. He encouraged them to rejoice when it happens! “*If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed,*” he said in [v. 14](#)

So, how is it that we can qualify to be a Christian? How do we qualify to go to heaven? How do we qualify to see God? It might help to look at several sections of scripture, I'll try to highlight a few here:

1. Have you heard and obeyed the gospel? See [2 Thessalonians 1:7-9](#); [Mark 16:15-16](#)
2. Are you implementing the blessings of the beatitudes into your life? [Matthew 5:3-12 v. 8](#) reads, “*Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!*”
3. Are you bearing the fruit of the Spirit?
See: [Galatians 5:22-23](#)
4. Are you adding to your faith the 7 virtues?
See: [2 Peter 1:5-11](#)

Don't get me wrong! We'll never deserve it! Paul said, “*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light!*” [Colossians 1:12](#) God has made it possible for us to be qualified. Yet, it is possible to “disqualify” ourselves! [1 Corinthians 9:27](#)

So, learn the qualifications of a Christian and make sure you qualify!

Love to all,

Andy