

**What does God require of us?**

# **Outline**

## **1. Life's baseline requirements**

- Psychological models
- The Biblical model
  - Temporal/natural
  - Eternal/spiritual

## **2. Why entertain further requirements from God?**

## **3. What are God's requirements?**

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# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



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## **Life's baseline requirements: The Biblical Model**

- Temporal/natural
- Eternal/spiritual

**Uniting principle:** Effort (or work) is required on our part, but simultaneously, everything we have is a gift from God

**(Genesis 3:17–19 ESV)**

“And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it** all the days of your life; **thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;** and you shall eat the plants of the field. **By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,** till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.””



**(Genesis 3:16 ESV)**

“To the woman he said, **“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”**”

**(2 Thessalonians 3:10–12 ESV)**

“For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.** For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.”

**(Genesis 1:27–30 ESV)**

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “**Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.”

**(Genesis 9:1–3 ESV)**

“And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. **Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.**”

**(Job 1:20–21 ESV)**

“Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “**Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return.** The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.””

**(1 Corinthians 6:18–20 ESV)**

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own**, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

**(Matthew 24:45–46 ESV)**

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.”

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Why entertain further requirements from God?

## **Why entertain further requirements from God?**

- To give (greater) purpose & understanding to the baseline requirements of life
- Keeping God's requirements comes a related promise
- Unlike some of life's baseline requirements, none of God's requirements are onerous/burdensome

Why entertain further requirements from God?

**(1 Peter 4:12–14 ESV)**

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

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**(John 11:23–27 ESV)**

“Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.**” Jesus said to her, “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?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.””

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**(1 John 5:2–5 ESV)**

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. **And his commandments are not burdensome.** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

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**(James 2:21-24,26 ESV)**

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone ... **For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.**”

What are God's requirements?

**(2 Corinthians 5:17–19 ESV)**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, **God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

What are God's requirements?

**(1 Timothy 2:1–6 ESV)**

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”

What are God's requirements?

**(Acts 2:36–39 ESV)**

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, **“Brothers, what shall we do?”** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.””

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**(Jeremiah 7:22–24 ESV)**

“For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, **I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.** But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.”

What are God's requirements?

**(Micah 6:6–8 ESV)**

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” **He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”**

What are God's requirements?

**(John 14:6 ESV)**

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”