

Who are the 144,000

By

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and Friends

# Who are the 144,000

**Question:** How would you like to be translated?

- **God's ultimate Goal:** is to take an individual from outside the sanctuary and place him in the Most Holy Compartment, but to get in there, you must have a character worthy to stand in the presence of God. God promises that He will accomplish that in you.
  - Isaiah 13:12, God says, “I will make a man more precious than fine gold.”
  - Isaiah 55:11, says, God’s “word will not return unto Him void.”
  - R & H March 9, 1905 says, “let us strive with all the power God has given us, to be among the 144,000.”

**Question:** Why strive to be among this group?

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- **Question:** What do we know about the 144,000?
  - Rev 7:4 We know that they are sealed.
  - Rev 14:1-5
    - They have the Father's name written in their foreheads.
      - Rev. 3:12, "To them that overcome (sin) I will write upon Him the name of my God."
    - They sing a new song.
    - They are virgins – not defiled with women (a pure faith not contaminated with doctrine of other churches.
    - They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.
- They are the "Firstfruits."
  - "Firstfruit" (Hebrew 1069, Strong's Concordance) means to burst forth from the womb. (They have the victory).

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- They are without fault before the throne.
  - Rev. 21:9 They are the bride of Christ.
- Matthew 25:1-10: The ten virgins (five trim their lamps)
- “Trim their lamps” from Great Controversy p.402 tells us, it is a symbol of “studying the Bible with an intensity of interest before known.”
- Great Controversy p.427: Speaks of the five wise virgins being guests at the wedding, and if guests, they cannot be the bride.
- There are four groups that actually make up the kingdom of God.
- Great Controversy p.665:
  - Brands plucked from the fire
  - 144,000 and Martyrs
  - Great multitude which no man can number

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- **Question: Why strive to be among the 144,000?**
  - To understand the answer to this question, we must look to the sleeping saints of all ages. It cannot be denied, that as far as the vast majority of the righteous dead are concerned, they will in fact be resurrected to a level of sinlessness that they did not achieve in their lifetime.
  - It cannot be assumed for example, that the thief on the cross was totally perfect at the moment of conversion. Total victory over sin never comes instantly. Yet assurance of salvation does. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.

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- **Question: Why strive to be among the 144,000?**
  - Those who die within this assurance, though without total victory will be resurrected to a level of sinlessness that in their lifetime, they did not have opportunity to attain. This would account for the majority (could it be 99.9%) of all the redeemed. This perfection comes to pass through miraculous re-creation rather than through personal struggle. (See My Life Today, p. 271). . .

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- **Question: Why strive to be among the 144,000?**
  - . . . This is the only possible explanation for Hebrews 11:38-40 – which speaks of the dead being MADE perfect. DA 388. “And Jesus said, “I will raise him up at the last day.” Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave,--not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours.”

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- **Question:** If God in the past could save His people short of their perfection, why could He not save them to the very end?
- **Question:** Why need the last generation reach a higher attainment than did its fathers?
- **Question:** Why the need for total purification when it was not essential before?
- **Question:** What gives God the legal right to resurrect the dead short of their perfection?
- **Question:** What proof do we have that sin will not rise the second time?

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Christ's Object Lessons p.69 – says, “Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, **then** He will come to claim them as His own. In other words, when the gospel accomplishes what it is intended to do, then He will come. **But the question remains the same, WHY?** Why must the last generation reach a higher attainment than did it's fathers?

**Answer #1:** One simple and certainly true answer is that previous generations never had to face the final crisis on earth without an intercessor, which occurs after the close of probation during Jacob's trouble.

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**Question:** What does it mean to stand without an intercessor?

**Answer:** The work of the Holy Spirit imparting Christ's character to you has come to an end.

**Answer:** Christ steps out from between man and the Father, in other words, substitution has ceased, the veil is removed.

Without the veil, we would become suicidal in a very short time. Our sins would rise up, our own guilt would crush us.

Mount of Blessings p. 116. "We should not try to lessen our guilt by excusing sin. We must accept God's estimate of sin, and that is heavy indeed. Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us."

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**Answer #2:** Our second reason is, sin, unlike a physical disease or defect, is at all times and in all forms a matter of will. It is something that exists by choice. Since this disposition to yield to temptation is a matter of free choice, then perfection through miraculous recreation runs the risk of violating one's freedom of choice.

The only way then that God can miraculously perfect an imperfect person without violating his freedom is through the assumption that that person would have freely chosen such perfection had the opportunity offered itself. This is precisely what God is doing for the dead in Christ...

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... That assumption, however, must be proven true through the process of the investigative judgment, which will determine who are worthy candidates for the final atoning blood of Christ. That judgment is based on their life's record, but their record is only part of the proof. The rest of the proof lies with the 144,000 themselves.

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**Answer #2 (con't)** - Hebrews 11:40 states, “God having provided some better thing for us (living), that they (dead) without us (living – 144,000) should not be made perfect.” This verse indicates that God is making the dead perfect on the assumption that had time and opportunity been afforded to the faithful dead, their life’s record would have shown that they would have gone on to surrender completely and entirely, their wills to Christ, thus enabling Him to do of His good will and pleasure in them to make an end to sin in each of their lives. And remember, for God to recreate on that assumption, that assumption must obviously be proven true. The 144,000 will vindicate that assumption, as well as their own personal record.

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## **Answer #2: (con't)**

**Illustration:** The physical teaches the spiritual. So in the illustration of a corn field, and you came to buy corn early in the harvest, you would taste the firstfruits of that harvest, and on the basis of that perfect taste, you would purchase the entire field. God is purchasing the entire field (dead in Christ) on the assumption that they would have eventually gone on to be like the first fruits. The 144,000 are the first fruit, vindicating God's method of saving the dead, giving God the legal right to resurrect anyone whose record reveals their willingness to overcome. Of course, this assumption is predicated on the fact that the 144,000 will materialize.

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## **Answer #2 (con't)**

The reason God can make the dead perfect or finish the work He started is because of the living saints who by their willingness to surrender their wills completely and entirely to Him, enabled God to make an end of sin in their life. Christ needs His bride to validate His method of saving the dead, on the assumption that they would have allowed Christ to achieve the same victory in their life.

**Note: Whether we realize it or not, there are a lot of legalities involved with the perfection of God's sleeping saints.**

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**Answer #3** ... Perfection through physical re-creation without a perfect last generation poses yet another hazard, one quite distinct from that of violating freedom. If through physical re-creation, we can be assured that the evils of sin will be miraculously averted even apart from full personal victory, then the enormity of sin becomes a moot issue.

Physical re-creation as a solution to sin inescapably minimizes the evil of sin, and to minimize the enormity of sin is to make its power absolutely unbreakable. (He can do it for the dead in Christ, but not for those living in the last generation). ...

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... If then, the last generation, as never before, is to be convicted of the enormity of sin, the last generation, as never before, must be denied the option of perfection through the miracle of physical re-creation.

**Note: If the last generation were able to be miraculously re-created into a sinless state, apart from total victory they would not have been over comers, thus running the risk that sin would rise a second time. In other words, sin would never be eradicated. Satan would then say to God, "I told you they couldn't do it."**

**Consider: If that is the best God could do for us (saving us in our sins), He would have ended it 6,000 years ago.**

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**Answer #4** – The fourth reason and perhaps the most obvious one has to do with Satan’s accusation that man cannot keep the law of God. If God is not able to achieve this by man’s willingness to surrender (dying to self and be born again), then Satan’s accusation is true and he wins the controversy.

In other words, unless the gospel accomplishes what it was intended to do, **no one!** Would be saved. And if God is going to finish the sanctification of the dead based on what the 144,000 achieve through Christ’s victory, then God needs this group to silence Satan’s accusations. Satan failed the first time at the cross, he wants to make sure he doesn’t fail again with us.

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- **Question:** But is man capable of overcoming as Christ overcame?
  - Hebrews affirms that Christ died not only as God, but also as man. Paul in his epistle goes out of his way to stress that this conflict occurred within the human domain, the domain of flesh and blood, the domain of weakness, of infirmity, of temptation. This was the arena in which His struggle took place. His divinity accorded Him no advantage.

**Note: Some might say that because Christ was God, it was easier for Him. But not so. Christ's temptations were greater than ours. It was as hard for Christ to veil His divinity as it is for us to suppress our old nature.**

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- “In all things it behooved Him to be made like His brethren.” Heb. 2:17. This is how Hebrews would have us understand the cross. (Please bear in mind, there is no way the finite mind can fully understand the nature of Christ completely as it relates to His divinity and humanity. Study Bible and EGW on this.)
- The cross declares that man can engage the enemy in this worst of all conflicts, and so triumph over him as to be forever free from sin. The cross on which a man died, proves that it is possible. Were this not the case, were the cross instead a display of a victory that no man could attain, then, to that extent, man would have to be saved in his sins and in the deception of sin. And to affirm this possibility is to affirm what the cross totally denies.

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- If it is impossible to be saved “from” sin, then the plan of salvation, to that extent, would necessarily declare that it is possible to be saved “in” sin. To deny the possibility of victory is to affirm the possibility of salvation within at least a measure of defeat. And to affirm this possibility is to affirm what the cross totally denies (there is no excuse for sin).
- Without the final victory it would appear to sinners and the universe that sin and life are not mutually exclusive. Without the final victory, sin would rise a second time.

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- **Conclusion:** The 144,000 will be as perfect as Christ was humanly perfect, because by faith Christ's life has become their life. They are beyond substitutionary atonement in their experience. That perfection was based on their future obedience. Their perfection is reality. (Christ, our High Priest will say, "**It is done.**") Desire of Ages p.123 says, "Not even by a thought will they yield to temptation." Indeed they have taken on the fullness of the character of Christ.
- **Question: It is done!** What is this statement in reference to?
- **Answer:** God has made an end of sin.

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## **Additional note:**

- My hour has come.
- Garments.
- Joseph's Story.