



# Tough Questions

**The Journey – Fall 2017**

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**Christian Life Assembly**



# Tough Question #7



# Tough Questions

- **What are the crowns mentioned in the bible?**
- **There are five crowns mentioned in scripture that the believer may earn. Greek word is “stephanos” as compared to the “diadem” that Jesus will wear at His return.**
- **A “stephanos” was given to the winners to Greek Olympic-like games. A green wreath. We will not receive green wreaths – that is just what the word commonly meant in New Testament times.**



# Tough Questions

- **The Imperishable Crown** – given to those who demonstrate self-denial and perseverance for the cause of Christ. (a.k.a incorruptible crown)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor 9:25** Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.



# Tough Questions

- **The Crown of life** – given to those who endure through trials and testings.
- James 1:12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the **crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him.
- Rev 2:10 Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, **I will give you the crown of life.**



## Tough Questions

- ***The Crown of righteousness*** – for those who love and look for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 4: 8** And now the prize awaits me—***the crown of righteousness***, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.
- **A way to prove your preference for His kingdom.**



## Tough Questions

- ***The Crown of Rejoicing*** – the crown for realizing “fruit” (converts) when we stand before Jesus. This will be true whether we are a sower, waterer, or a harvester.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Thes 2:19** After all, what gives us hope and joy, and ***what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!*** 20 Yes, you are our pride and joy.



# Tough Questions

- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor 3:3** You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? **4** For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings? **5** What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. **6** I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. **7** So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8** The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.





# Tough Questions

- **The Crown of Glory** – for faithful pastoring of the flock of God.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:1 To the elders among you**, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed. **2 Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. 4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.**



# Tough Questions

- **If we do receive any crowns, when will that happen? (at the Bema Seat judgment of the believer's works)**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor 3:10 Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. 12 Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. 14 If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.**



# Tough Questions

- What will we do with our crowns?
- A clue – Rev 4:9 Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever), 10 the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say, 11 “You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.”



## Tough Questions

- **From [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org) - The elders' response is most likely the way we will all respond when we receive our reward from Jesus. We will be so overcome with gratitude because of what He has done for us that worship will be spontaneous. Regardless of what we endured on earth, a priceless crown will seem a paltry offering, but it will be the best gift we can give Him. Although the Scriptures do not state it specifically, it is likely that we will all follow the example of the twenty-four elders in casting our crowns at Jesus' feet.**



## Tough Questions

- Any “crowns” we will receive may not be what we would commonly recognize as a crown, or that could be exactly what they are – it’s hard to be certain.
- My point is that we ought not occupy ourselves with the idea of having a crown, or crowns, of our own because in all probability we will not wear them long, if at all.
- The point of rewards is not that we would be honored so much as it is that Christ would be honored with them.



## Tough Questions

- **Maybe the most important thing to consider regarding any crowns we receive is this – is it important that we receive a crown or two, or is it important that we be faithful?**
- **If you aim for crowns, you could miss faithfulness - but if you seek to be faithful, you will not miss your crowns.**
- **Psalm 85:10 Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. (the greater our love for Jesus, the easier it is to be faithful)**



# Tough Question #8



## Tough Questions

- **How can I know if I am praying in Jesus' name?**
- **John 14:13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!**
- **Let's start by saying that ending every prayer "in Jesus' name" is not what Jesus had in mind.**





## Tough Questions

- **If that were all it took then we would have some sort of magic formula that works every time no matter how selfish my prayer may be.**
- **To pray in Jesus' name is to pray with faith, to pray with authority, and maybe most of all to pray for the things that Jesus would pray for.**
- **So our best prayers are ones that recognize the superiority of God's will over our will.**



## Tough Questions

- **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.**
- **I just have a hard time imagining praying any kind of serious prayer AND not wanting God's will.**
- **Like you, I've heard some well meaning saints say we should never add "if it be your will, God" to our prayers because it shows a lack of faith.**



## Tough Questions

- To that I would say that, on the contrary, it shows an abundance of faith to say “God, I want your will more than mine because what you want is far more important, and ultimately better than what I want”.  
(TRUST)
- Even Jesus said, “nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done”.
- And he also instructed us to pray, “thy kingdom come, *thy will be done*”.



## Tough Questions

- **To pray in the name of Jesus consider these thoughts:**
  - **Ask God to give you the “desires of your heart”. (Psalm 37:4)**
  - **Ask for what you want with an attitude of “thy will be done”.**
  - **Believe that God will answer your prayer.**



## Tough Questions

- **There is one exception that is not in a scriptural text that I can see, but is self-evident by our experience.**
- **When we are praying for someone's salvation, it seems that praying in Jesus' name may not be claimed.**
- **It is God's will that they be saved, but He does not seem to override anyone's will in answer to our prayers.**