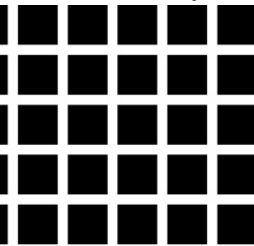


If we have truly put our faith in Christ, it will visibly change us. It will make us into a different person, not only by making us conscious of what we shouldn't do, but also by giving us a new desire to live a life that pleases God and glorifies Him to others. We can't trust in our ability. We are to do our best and to resist sin, but if we are to truly worship Him in the Spirit that now lives in us, we have to put our trust in Him to enable us to glorify Him with our lives. (Phil. 3:3)



Sometimes people will feel guilty about their sin, and feel sorry that they got caught and will quickly say

Count the black dots.

a prayer and make an outward change, but inside, they are not any different than they were before. Trying to see their salvation is like trying to count the black dots in the square above. You think you see it, but it's really not there. "So how can I know if I'm really saved? Can any of us know?" The life of a believer shows how God has radically changed them. (2 Cor. 5:17, Matt. 7:16)

The way to truly know that you are saved is to study God's word and to measure yourself against it. Test yourself and make sure of what you believe. (2 Cor. 13:15, 1 John 5:13)

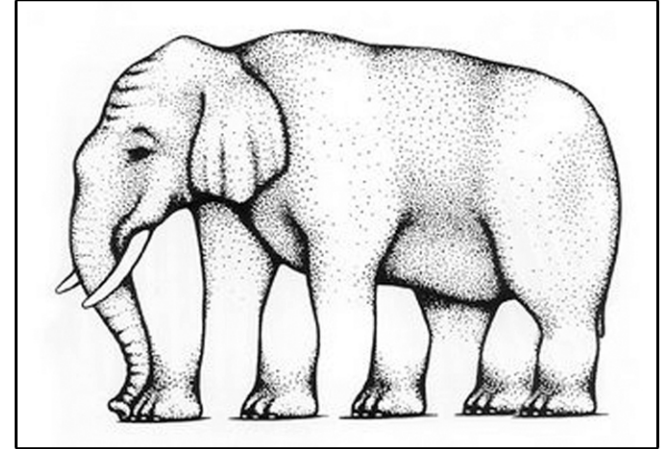
Look up the following scriptures: 1 John 1:8-10, 1 John 2:3-4, 9-11, 15-17, 24-25, 1 John 3:10, 1 John 4:13, and Heb. 12:5-8.

If you have confessed your sin, hate it, love the Lord and are walking in righteousness, know that you are a Christian and don't let anyone convince you otherwise.

If you have repented and have made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life today, know that all of heaven rejoices with you!

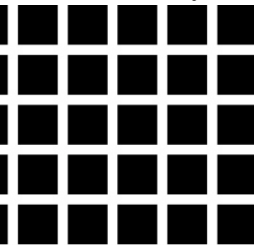
Next, you'll want to get a Bible, and read it daily. It is God's word to us and we cannot live without it. Also, start praying daily to God, tell Him how wonderful you think He is, ask forgiveness for your daily sins and ask His guidance in understanding the Word. Also find a gospel-centered, bible preaching church to attend so that you can fellowship with other believers. Don't try to go it alone. You can also look online for more info. at www.way-ofthemaster.com, www.heartcrymissionary.com, or www.way-gty.org.

THE MAGIC ELEPHANT



How many legs does this elephant have?

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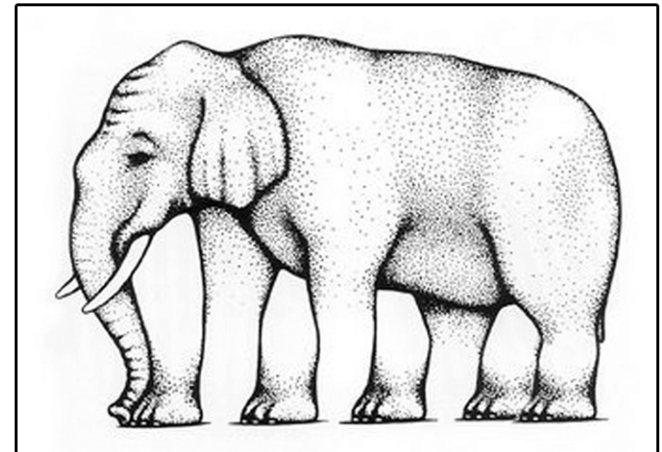
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THE MAGIC ELEPHANT



How many legs does this elephant have?

Stage magic is interesting. "Magicians" have made their living for centuries showing people one thing and convincing them that it's something else. We eat it up. That's why pictures like the ones you see here are so interesting. They speak to something inside each of us. We all do something very similar on a daily basis. So many people wake up in the morning, look in the mirror and see a pretty good person staring back at them. But are we really seeing what we think we're seeing? By whose standard is the concept of good measured? Whose standard really matters?

The Bible tells us that the God who made the universe is perfect and holy. (Hab. 1:13, Isa. 59:2)

Because God is righteous and holy, He must hate what isn't holy and punish all who have sinned. (Gen. 18:25, Psa. 11:7, Isa. 5:16, Psa. 7:11-12, Prov. 17:15)

The big problem here, is that literally every person who ever lived is guilty of this. (Rom. 3:23, Isa. 64:6, Gal. 3:10)



Do you see an old woman or a young woman?

Think about ten of the commandments of God's law for a second. (Ex. 20:1-17) Let's look at just a couple:

Vs. 16 says that we shouldn't lie. Have you ever lied? All of us have.

Vs. 14 says that we shouldn't commit adultery. Jesus said in Matt. 5:28 that if we look at someone with lust, we have committed adultery in our hearts. Have you ever lusted after someone? Again, we're all guilty.

Vs. 7 says that we shouldn't use God's name in vain, like a swear word. Most of us have done this in some form or another.

Even if you haven't done some of these, according to James 2:10 you only need to break 1 to be guilty of the whole law.

So we are all guilty of sin and deserve the punishment that God has decreed for sin, which, according to scripture is death and Hell. (Matt. 5, Matt. 10:28, Rom. 6:23)

BUT, all isn't quite as it seems. While God is righteous and holy and will punish the unrepentant, the Bible is clear that He is love, and that because He is love, He has made a way for us to be reconnected to Him. (1 John 4:8-10) His only son, Jesus took our punishment on the cross. (Rom. 3:23-26)

After taking our punishment on the cross, Christ was raised from the dead, and ascended back into heaven where He is sitting at the right hand of the Father. Because of His sinless perfection, His death on the cross, and His resurrection, we can be justified, or made right with God. (Rom. 4:25)

When Jesus was here, He preached, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17)

This is what He commands of us, repentance. This begins with our recognition and confession that what God says is true...we are sinners. (Psalm 51:3-4)

This is reflected by a true sorrow and hatred for these things we do that offend God. (Rom. 7:15, 24)

Repentance means turning away from our sinfulness. Just admitting we've done wrong and feeling bad about it isn't enough. We MUST fight the temptation to continue in our sin. (Isa. 1:16, Matt. 3:10)

Repentance is the evidence that we have put our trust and faith in God and in his Word. (Heb. 11:1, Rom. 4:21, John 3:16, Acts 16:31) We are saved by God's grace, through faith.

Do you see the word good or evil?

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