

A large, stylized graphic of the letters 'Q' and 'A' in a bold, distressed font. The 'Q' is yellow and the 'A' is green. The word 'AND' is written in red between them. The entire graphic has a dark, textured background.

# Q AND A

**THE QUESTION OF THE AGES**  
**Psalms 15**

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**I. The Question** Psalms 15:1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

1. How do we recognize those who can fellowship with God, those that will live with God for eternity?

2. The New Testament deals with the same question.

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**James 2:14-26** What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not **works**? can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? <sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not **works**, is dead, being alone. <sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have **works**: shew me thy faith without thy **works**, and I will shew thee my faith by my **works**. <sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. <sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without **works** is dead? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by **works**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

<sup>22</sup> Seest thou how faith wrought with his **works**, and by **works** was faith made perfect? <sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

<sup>24</sup> Ye see then how that by **works** a man is justified, and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup> Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by **works**, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without **works** is dead also.

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**Titus 1:16** They profess that they know God; **but in works** they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

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## II. The Answer.

1. **The One Who is Sincere.** **Psalms 15:2** He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

a. Notice the walk, the work and the word.

b. James refers to it as doing, not just hearing. **James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

c. Paul refers to it as walking worthy. **Colossians 1:10** That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Ephesians 4:1-3** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, <sup>2</sup> With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; <sup>3</sup> Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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**2. The One Who Cares for Others.** Psalms 15: 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

a. James claims this is the hardest of all the duties. **James 3:5-8** Even so the **tongue** is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! <sup>6</sup> And the **tongue** is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the **tongue** among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell..... <sup>8</sup> But the **tongue** can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

b. He does give or receive gossip. “The tale bearer carrieth the Devil in his tongue and the tale-hearer carries the Devil in his ear.” *John Trapp (A puritan 1601-1696)*

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**3. The One Who Discerns Between Good and Evil.** **Psalms 15: 4a** In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord.

a. He gives honor to whom honor is due. **Romans 13:7** Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

b. He stands against the wicked. **Proverbs 28:4** They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

c. He has a standard by which to choose friends and companions. **Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

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4. **The One Whose Word is Binding.** Psalms 15:4b He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

a. Jesus established this principle. **Matthew 5:37** But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

b. Paul followed the principle. **2 Corinthians 1:17** When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay?

c. Even should a better offer come along, you will honor your commitment.

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**5. One Who Understands Money.** Psalms 15: 5a He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent.

a. Another NT warning. **1 Timothy 6:9-10** But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

b. Usury: unreasonable interest.

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### III. The Assurance.

1. **Old Testament Assurance:** Psalms 15:5b He that doeth these things shall **never** be moved.

a. Hebrew: mowt: to totter, shake, slip.

b. The old economy proof of faith.

2. **New Testament Assurance:** 2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall **never** fall:

a. Greek: ptaiō: to stumble; to fall into misery, become wretched.

b. Your assurance and peace of mind will never be found in some long ago profession!