

KARMA CONFUSION!

by Tal Davis

Nowhere does the Bible teach reincarnation or karma.

"I won, I won!" hollered Emily, as she ran joyfully into school one morning.

"Won what?" asked her friend Ellie.

"A \$25 gift card! I registered for it last week when I was in the KIDS FUN STORE. Mom says I must have good karma."

"Good what?" Ellie again queried.

"Karma," Emily repeated. "Mom says I get good luck because I earned it in one of my previous lives."

"Previous lives? What are you talking about?"



What Is Karma?

Emily may not have understood what her mother meant. Many people believe that we all lived before in a series of previous lives. This belief, called "reincarnation," comes from an ancient religion of India called Hinduism.

Hindus believe that all people are reborn time and again in new bodies over millions of years. How a person is reincarnated and the quality of that new life is determined by the kind of karma they had in their lives before. If they are healthy and rich or sick and poor in this life, it must be because they deserved it based on how they lived previously.

Most Americans who believe in reincarnation think that if they do good things and treat people well they will accumulate "good" karma. If they do bad things and mistreat others they think they will get "bad" karma.

In Hinduism, however, reincarnation is really not viewed as a positive reality. In fact, the ultimate goal of Hindus is to stop the cycles of their rebirths. Karma, in their view is not regarded as "good" or

"bad." They believe that after thousands of lives, it will lead to a final state of eternal absorption in the universal "oneness."

This may all sound confusing, but we must remember that *nowhere* does the Bible teach reincarnation or karma. Hebrews 9:27 says, "It is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment."

What Is Important?

We could never accumulate enough good karma to make ourselves right with God. That's why Jesus died on the cross and rose again. By trusting in Him, our sins are forgiven so we will live forever in heaven with God. Romans 6:23 promises, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."



That's not karma—that's God's love!