

Finding Assurance of Salvation

1 John 5:10-13

29 March 2024

INTRODUCTION: God has dealt with mankind in different ways throughout the time of man's existence on Earth. In each age of man's testing, God made a way for man to recognize his fallen condition (Eccl. 7:20) and his need for a Savior (Isa 45:15, 21). Today, Jesus offers salvation freely to any man who receives Him.

READ 1 JOHN 5:10-13

I. The Problem of Assurance (vs 13)

"...You that believe...that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe."

A. Doubting Saints (Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:1)

- Sometimes believers go through times of unbelief, weak faith, or doubt (Mark 9:24). This doesn't mean you're not going to heaven. Our salvation rests upon the faith of Jesus Christ.
 - They doubt because of sin.
 - They doubt because it is their nature, and they can never be sure.

B. False Professors (Titus 1:16; Matthew 7:21-23)

- Many people "**profess (say) that they know God**" But their life shows no indication of such.
- You must confess to God that you are a sinner and that you need a Savior.
 - **Confess:** to agree with God concerning your sin and your need. Only God sees this. Confession is always true.
 - **Profess:** an outward statement of faith that others can hear. This statement may be true or false.

1. Their false hope.

- I. Their profession won't save them if they never saw themselves as a sinner and trusted Jesus Christ to save them from hell.
- II. Their emotional experience or feelings won't save them.
- III. Their family background won't save them. No one is physically born a Christian. You must be born again (spiritual) (Jn 3:7).
- IV. Their baptism won't save them.
- V. Their church attendance or membership won't save them.
- VI. Good works won't save them (Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5). No one is able to keep God's commandments.

2. Their false life (Mt. 7:22-23) "have we not prophesied in thy name?"

- I. Many people spend their whole life "playing church" and doing good deeds, but they're not resting in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

II. The Possibility of Assurance

A. By the Word of God (1 John 5:13) *“These things have I WRITTEN unto you—”*

1. You can know that you have eternal salvation by what is written in the scriptures.
 - I. You won't always feel saved. God's word will reassure you.
 - Salvation is not based on your feelings. It's based on God's word.

B. By the Person of Christ (2 Timothy 1:12) *“for I know whom I have believed—”*

1. **“He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him...”** If Jesus is keeping your salvation, nothing you do can cause you to lose it.

C. By the Examination of Self (2 Cor 13:5) *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith—”*

III. The Practical Proofs of Assurance (a changed life as a new creature, 2 Cor 5:17)

- Just as we see changes in a baby as it grows, a new Christian will grow in the things of God. There will be noticeable changes.
- You passed from death unto life when you believed on Jesus Christ (**John 5:24**).
 - A. **Inward- The Witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:24; 4:13; 5:10)**
 - B. **Outward- The Love of the Brethren (1 John 3:14; John 13:34-35)**
 - C. **Upward- The Keeping of God's Commandments (1 John 2:3-5; 3:7,10)**
- The Holy Spirit in you, your newfound love for other saved people, and the fact that you want to keep God's commandments are all practical proofs that you are saved and going to heaven.

IV. The Final Proof of Assurance

A. **Examine the Word of Salvation (Romans 10:8-10, 13)** How does the bible say you get saved?

B. **Examine Your Time of Salvation (2 Corinthians 13:5)**

1. When you heard the word of God, did you have *“an honest and good heart”* (**Luke 8:15**), ready to receive the word. Is it bringing forth fruit?