

Assurance of Salvation

- I. All of the information in this study is only applicable to those who have believed the gospel, repented of their sins, and been baptized, thereby being added to the membership of a true and faithful church of Jesus Christ.
 1. Repenting, believing the gospel, and being baptized are the very first steps of the Christian life (**Mar 1:15; Act 2:37-42**).
 2. When a man is baptized and added to the church, he is made to drink into the Spirit, which gives him assurance that he is a child of God (**1Co 12:13**).
 3. Why would a person who has not kept the very first and most basic commandment of Jesus Christ be assured that he has eternal life?
 4. Such as person has no assurance that Jesus is their Lord (**Luk 6:46-49**).
 5. So if you are questioning your eternal state, then repent and be baptized, and see if your problem is not resolved.
 6. If you won't do that, then you may as well stop listening here.

- II. Many Christians struggle with doubts concerning their eternal salvation.
 1. Jesus taught us to "have faith in God" (**Mar 11:22**).
 2. *Doubt* is the opposite of *faith* (**Mat 14:31; Mar 11:23**).
 - A. Faith - I. Belief, trust, confidence. 1. a. Confidence, reliance, trust (in the ability, goodness, etc., of a person; in the efficacy or worth of a thing; or in the truth of a statement or doctrine).
 - B. Doubt - 1. a. The (subjective) state of uncertainty with regard to the truth or reality of anything; undecidedness of belief or opinion. With pl.: A feeling of uncertainty as to something. *spec.* Uncertainty as to the truth of Christianity or some other religious belief or doctrine
 3. Therefore, if we have doubts, we lack faith.
 4. The good news is that we are not alone in this struggle.
 - A. Jesus' own disciples lacked faith during the days of His ministry (**Mar 4:40**).
 - B. They asked the Lord to increase their faith (**Luk 17:5**).
 - C. A man once came to Jesus and said "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (**Mar 9:24**).
 - D. The disciples doubted that Jesus had been raised from the dead, even in light of credible eyewitness testimony (**Mat 28:16-17; Mar 16:14; Joh 20:24-25**).
 - E. Even during the times of our unbelief, God remains faithful (**Rom 3:3-4; 2Ti 2:13; Psa 89:29-34; 2Sa 23:5**).

- III. Look to the models of faith.
 1. Jesus Christ always trusted in God (**Joh 8:29 c/w Heb 11:6**).
 2. Abraham "against hope believed in hope...and being not weak in faith...staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith...being fully *persuaded* that, what he had promised, he was able to perform" (**Rom 4:18-21**).
 - A. Abraham died having not received the promises, but was nevertheless *persuaded* that he would receive them, having seen them afar off through faith (**Heb 11:13**).
 - B. Persuaded - Prevailed upon; convinced; having an assured opinion;
 - C. Convinced - Brought to a state of conviction; firmly persuaded.

3. Paul ran the race of faith "not as uncertainly" (**1Co 9:26**).
 - A. Paul said "*I know* whom I have believed, and am *persuaded* that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (**2Ti 1:12**).
 - B. Paul was *persuaded* that nothing could separate him from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (**Rom 8:38-39**).

IV. We can have assurance of salvation and be sure of our election.

1. Assurance - II. The state of being sure or assured. 6. Objective certainty; = assuredness
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our assurance of salvation (**Act 17:31**).
3. The resurrection is the proof that our sins are put away (**Rom 4:25**).
4. When the gospel is received, not simply as words but with power that changes our lives, we have much assurance and can know that we are God's elect (**1Th 1:4-5**).
5. When we labor for the Lord and minister to the saints diligently we will have full assurance to the end (**Heb 6:10-11**).
6. When we draw near to God by holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering and continuing to assemble with the church for worship, we will have full assurance of faith (**Heb 10:22-25**).
7. When we study the word of God which reveals Christ, we can have full assurance of understanding (**Col 2:1-3**).

V. How to gain assurance of eternal life

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (**1Jo 3:23; Act 16:31**).
 - A. If you believe that Jesus is the Christ, you are born of God (**1Jo 5:1**).
 - i. If you believe that Jesus is *the* Christ, you must believe that He is *your* Christ.
 - ii. You are born of God if you believe that Jesus is the Christ; which means that Jesus died for your sins and regenerated you; which means that He is *your* Christ.
 - iii. Therefore, you cannot believe that Jesus died *for sinners* without believing that He died *for you*.
 - B. He that believes on Jesus Christ hath everlasting life, shall not come into condemnation, and is passed from death unto life (**Joh 5:24**),
 - C. He that believeth on the Son of God hath everlasting life (**Joh 3:36; Joh 6:47**).
 - D. Whosoever believeth on Jesus the Son of God shall not perish, but has everlasting life (**Joh 3:16**).
 - E. All those who believe *are justified* from all things (**Act 13:39**).
2. Believe that salvation is by grace alone and not of works (**Eph 2:8-9; Rom 11:5-6; 2Ti 1:9; Tit 3:5**).
 - A. If you believe that you were saved by works (including your faith), then you will be trusting in your belief or other works for salvation, and not God alone.
 - B. Then when your faith wanes or you fail to keep up the good works, you will begin to doubt that you are saved.
 - C. "All things are possible to him that believeth" (**Mar 9:23**), but only to those who believe in God, not themselves.
 - D. He that trusts in man is cursed, even if that man is himself (**Jer 17:5**).

3. Don't stop at simple faith, but add to your faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity (**2Pe 1:5-7**).
 - A. If you do these things your knowledge of Christ will increase, and with it your faith (**2Pe 1:8**).
 - B. If you don't do these things, you will forget that you were purged from your old sins and you will begin to doubt your salvation (**2Pe 1:9**).
 - C. If you do these things you will make your calling and election sure in your own mind and dissolve your doubts (**2Pe 1:10-11**).
4. Read the word of God which admonishes and brings comfort to the soul of a child of God (**Psa 19:10-14; Psa 119:9-11; Pro 6:21-23**).
5. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Mat 6:33**).
6. Stop living in sin, which destroys assurance of salvation.
 - A. God warned Israel that if they rebelled against Him that He would severely judge them and that they would have no assurance of life (**Deu 28:58-68**).
 - B. Living in sin brings guilt and causes doubt (**Psa 32:1-5; Psa 38:1-8**).
 - C. Godly living is indicative of eternal life and sinful living is indicative of eternal damnation (**Joh 5:28-29; Rom 2:4-13**).
 - D. *If you want assurance of eternal life, then live like you have it.*
 - E. When you live righteously, you will have peace, quiet, and assurance forever (**Isa 32:17**).
7. When you do sin, confess it to God (**1Jo 1:9**) and feel sorrow for it.
 - A. Godly sorrow worketh repentance not to be repented of (**2Co 7:10**).
 - B. God is close to a contrite heart (**Psa 34:18**).
 - C. Contrite *adj.*- 2. *fig.* Crushed or broken in spirit by a sense of sin, and so brought to complete penitence.
 - D. God will not despise a broken and contrite heart (**Psa 51:17**).

VI. How to deal with those nagging doubts that Satan tempts us with

1. It is Satan, not God, who is the accuser of the brethren (**Rev 12:10**).
2. God doesn't tempt us to doubt our salvation (**Jam 1:13**).
3. Satan tempted Jesus and tried to make Him doubt that He was God's Son (**Mat 4:1-11; Luk 4:1-13**).
4. Satan does the same thing to God's children and tries to get them to doubt they are sons and daughters of God.
5. When Satan levels this attack, we need to resist him steadfast in the faith (**1Pe 5:8-9**).
 - A. If Satan tries this tactic on you, know that you are not alone.
 - B. Your brethren endure the same afflictions (**1Pe 5:9**).
 - C. This temptation, like all others, is common to man (**1Co 10:13**).
 - D. With every temptation, God makes a way for you to escape (**1Co 10:13**).
 - E. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are (**Heb 4:15-16**).
 - F. He will help you (**Heb 2:18**).
 - G. Ask Jesus to increase your faith (**Luk 17:5**).
6. If we resist the devil, he WILL flee from us (**Jam 4:7**).
7. Jesus showed us *how* to resist the devil.
 - A. Satan must be resisted with the word of God.

- B. Satan leveled his attack on Jesus casting doubt on His Sonship saying "If thou be the Son of God..." (**Mat 4:3,6**).
 - C. Jesus responded by quoting scripture to the devil each time (**Mat 4:4,7,10**).
 - D. Jesus knew that He was the Son of God because God publicly declared that He was (**Mat 3:17**), and He therefore could confidently resist the devil's attacks.
 - E. Jesus rebuked the devil with the word of God, saying "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written..." (**Luk 4:8**).
 - F. Jesus as *a man* was resisting the devil by using scripture.
 - G. When Jesus resolutely resisted the devil multiple times, the devil left tempting Him *for a season* (**Luk 4:13**).
8. We must resist the devil the same way Jesus did.
- A. Don't rail against the devil, resist him with the word of God.
 - B. The devil is more powerful than we are, but not God or His word.
 - C. Even Michael the archangel didn't rebuke the devil on his own merit, but said "The Lord rebuke thee" (**Jud 1:9**).
 - D. Just as God told Jesus that He was His beloved Son, God has told us that we are His beloved children (**1Jo 3:1-2; 1Jo 5:13**).
 - i. The Bible tells us that as believers we are the sons of God (**Joh 1:12-13**).
 - ii. The Bible tells us that as believers we have eternal life (**Joh 3:36; Joh 6:47; Joh 5:24**).
 - iii. The Bible tells us that if we believe that Jesus is the Christ, we are born of God (**1Jo 5:1**).
 - iv. *If you believe what the Bible says about Jesus, then believe what it says about you!*
 - E. Therefore, when the devil comes to us and says something like:
 - i. "If you were a child of God, God wouldn't have let that happen to you."
 - ii. "If you were a child of God, you wouldn't have all the trouble in your life that you do."
 - iii. "If you were a child of God, you would understand more of the Bible than you do."
 - iv. "If you were a child of God, you wouldn't doubt that you are a child of God."
 - v. "If you were a child of God, you would have stronger faith."
 - vi. "You're just a pretender...you're a phony...you're a hypocrite."
 - vii. "If you were a child of God, you wouldn't have just committed that sin."
 - viii. "If you were a child of God, you wouldn't continually struggle with sin."
 - ix. "If you were a child of God, you would act more like Jesus."
 - x. "If you were a child of God, you wouldn't be depressed."
 - xi. "If you were a child of God, you wouldn't have this persisting temptation."
 - F. Resist him steadfast in the faith by saying: "Get thee behind me Satan, for it is written: 'Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God'" (**1Jo 5:1**).
 - G. If you resist the devil in this way, he WILL flee from you (**Jam 4:7**).