

Assurance of Salvation

1 John 5:13

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

When a person has trusted Christ as Saviour they are eternally secure.
When you get saved you receive eternal life.

This evening we are going to look at the assurance of our salvation.
Eternal Security and the Assurance of Salvation are similar, but not exactly the same.

You can be saved and eternally secure, but still be living in doubt, lacking assurance.

God wants you not just to BE saved, but to KNOW that we are saved.
Assurance of salvation is necessary if a believer is going to grow in their spiritual life and be strong enough to help others spiritually.

A lot of people who have truly trusted Christ for salvation go through their lives, never knowing for sure.
When we have trusted Jesus as our Saviour, it is important that we have assurance of that salvation.

John 5:24

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

John 20:31

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

When we trust in Jesus Christ, our eternal security in Christ becomes a spiritual **reality** whether we understand it or believe it.

Our *belief* in security in Christ does not make it true or false.

If we have trusted in the person and work of Christ for personal salvation, security is a **fact**.

When you trusted Christ as Saviour a great change occurred.

You became a child of God.

This is something that God wants us to be clear about.

If we are saved, God wants us to know it.

I John 5:13 “that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life”

I. Definition of the Assurance of Salvation

Assurance is the confident **realization** of the security that you have in Christ.

Assurance has to do with our **comprehension** of the facts and provisions of salvation through faith in Christ.

This is a very important doctrine because, properly understood, it will touch the believer's life in several areas.

Not only does it give assurance of salvation, but with that also comes a greater assurance of God's provision in all areas of life.

To have assurance of salvation is to be absolutely confident that we are saved and that if we died today, we would go immediately to heaven.

It doesn't mean that you are saying that you are worthy of salvation, because none of us ever could be.

Satan can cast a multitude of doubts in our mind based on experiences, feelings, and false teachings; but we must remain firm on the truth.

II. Reasons for Doubt

A great multitude of Christians have struggles with doubt.

There are several common reasons that people doubt their salvation:

A. They *Cannot Remember* a time when they received Christ

Many people received Christ as a child (which is truly the best time to get saved), but because of this they cannot remember the exact point in time when they accepted Christ as their Savior.

Is it necessary to remember the time and place where you received Christ?

Let's remember a few important facts.

First of all, Jesus called salvation to be born again. (regeneration)

If a person does not remember their physical birth, does that mean they were never born?

It is possible that a person could receive Christ and not remember the time or place.

It is far more important to make absolutely certain that we have been born again rather than when we were born again.

I do not remember my physical birth, yet I know it happened because I am alive.

Are you alive spiritually? Can you say that you are trusting Jesus Christ, and Him alone, to save you?

If your entire trust is in Christ, then you are saved, even if you cannot remember the day.

B. They did not have the *Same Experience* as others after accepting Christ

Many people hear another person's testimony of salvation and begin to doubt because they did not have the same experience.

The fact is that the Bible gives many accounts of salvation experiences and each is different.

All we know of Matthew is that Jesus told him to follow Him and he did.

The Ethiopian eunuch got saved in a chariot after hearing Philip preach to him from the book of Isaiah.

Timothy was saved as a child (2 Timothy 3:15)

Paul has perhaps one of the most exciting experiences having seen the risen Christ (Acts 9:3, 17).

Everyone has a different experience.

Some may be more dramatic and some may be more emotional, but this does not mean that Paul for example was any more saved than Matthew.

C. They do not *Feel* saved

Our feelings should follow our faith which is focused on the facts.

We should never place our faith in our feelings.

We are emotional creatures.

One day we may feel spiritual and the next we may not.

Paul said, "have no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3).

D. They have *Sinned*

This is the big one.

Many Christians doubt their salvation because of some sin they have committed.

Remember that when Jesus died for our sins, He paid for all of them - past, present, and future.

We never earned salvation to begin with, why must some believe that they have to live right to keep it?

The Bible clearly teaches the eternal security of the believer.

Count the number of times that John tells us that the believer has everlasting or eternal life.

Christians are called the "children of God" (Romans 8:16).

We are indwelt with the Holy Spirit at salvation and are given a new nature.

All of these are permanent conditions and not one example is ever given where they are revoked.

Now, as a Christian, there will be times when we sin.

When we have sinned we need to confess it before God and ask His forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

This is vital to our walk as a Christian.

It is also vital in helping our assurance because sin in our life hinders our relationship with the Lord.

E. They really have *Never Been Born Again*

Some people lack assurance because they really are not saved.

If you are trusting in anything else for your salvation other than Jesus' payment for your sins and your faith in Him, then you need to repent and get saved.

III. Evidence of Salvation

Many people have written books describing various tests to see if one is saved or not, but we ought to be very careful with such tests.

This can lead believers to doubt their salvation or even worse, for **lost** people to receive **false** assurance.

If we are not careful, we will begin trusting in our experiences rather than in the facts.

The best test for salvation is the Word of God - does it say we are lost or saved?

It all centres on Faith

John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him".

According to the Bible, are you lost or saved?

Let the Word of God be the foundation on which you build a strong assurance.

According to 1 John 5:9-13, if you believe the record that God has given concerning Christ (i.e. the gospel) you have the Son.

If you have the Son, **you have eternal life**. Now, according to the Bible are you lost or saved?