

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION . . .

* **Starts by recalling how you were saved.**

You entered the family of God by

* **Facing the fact that sin had separated you from the God who loves you.**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

* **You were willing to turn away from your sin and to God in an action called repentance”.**

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:32 (NIV)

“...But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Luke 13:3 (NIV)

* **You were willing to place your trust in (believe) the fact that Jesus died for you, and that He arose in victory over death.**

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (NIV)

“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 (NIV)

* **You have made the decision to “call” on God by inviting Jesus to take control of your life, to forgive you of your sin and to make you right with God.**

“For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:13 (NIV)[see also Joel 2:32]

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12 (NIV)

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

When you invited Jesus to take control of your life, you probably prayed a prayer similar to this one:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Take control of my life and help me be the kind of person you want me to be. Amen.”

- **Is strengthened by realizing God wants you to be sure.**

If you are a part of the family of God, God wants you to know it. In fact, He has said through His Word:

“And this is the testimony; God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:11 – 13 (NIV)

- **Is secured by using God’s Word to deal with doubts.**

After salvation, it is not unusual to experience some doubts and to ask some important questions like: “I don’t feel any different so, how can I be saved?” “Can I lose my salvation?” “Will I quit sinning?” “If I do sin, what do I do?” Since our own personal feelings are not reliable, we must base our faith and beliefs on facts and not on feelings. Let’s look at a few important facts.

1. **You can be sure of your salvation because of a change that happens inside you as a result of the presence of the Holy Spirit. It may not be a large change, but it is a change you cannot explain except by saying it is a work of God.**

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever...But, the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” John 14:14 – 16, 26 – 27 (NIV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

2. **You can be sure of your salvation because of God’s promise and the fact that God cannot lie.**

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? Numbers 32:19 (NIV)

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:24 (NIV)

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13 – 14 (NIV)

3. **Your salvation is a spiritual birth and not based on anything you have done or can do. It is totally a work of and gift from God.**

“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:6 – 7 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2 8:9 (NIV)

4. **Since your spiritual birth was not the result of anything you did, than no one or nothing can remove your spiritual birth from you.**

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:27 – 28 (NIV)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creations, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38 – 39 (NIV)

5. Even if you sin, you can know you are saved by recognizing some facts about sin and the results of the sin:

A. God does not want us to sin and even gives us strength to resist, but even Christians sin, so, He has made provision for us to deal with the sin.

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” I Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” I John 2:1 (NIV)

B. We recognize and experience a broken fellowship with God.

“This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” I John 1:5 – 7 (NIV)

C. We realize the truth about sin and are willing to confess our sin to God.

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.” I John 1:8 – 10 (NIV)

D. If we are God’s children, we can expect chastisement and discipline from God because He loves us.

“Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son...if you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.” Hebrews 12:6,8 (NIV) [Please note that discipline does not have to be punishment.]

Why would a God who died for us while we were still sinners and because we were sinners, turn His back on us and “take away” our salvation because we sin?

He wouldn’t! It’s a free gift we didn’t deserve. If we are truly His though, we will feel the pain of not pleasing Him when we sin.

- Is supported by living an obedient life-style.

When we become a Christian, God expects us to live an obedient life before Him. There are five areas in which God expects us (no matter who we are) to immediately begin living an obedient life.

1. Be baptized. In the Bible, everyone who came to Christ was immediately baptized. Paul, the Ethiopian eunuch, the centurion, and others received baptism in obedience to God.

A. Baptism is to take place as soon as possible after you are saved.

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’” Acts 2:38a (NIV)

“As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 2:36 – 38 (NIV)

B. God commands us to be baptized and Jesus demonstrated the importance of baptism by being baptized.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9 (NIV)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

“And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:21 (NIV)

C. Baptism is to be done by immersion because the Greek word *baptizo* means “immersion”. Also, the early church practiced baptism by immersion. [See Acts 2:36 – 38 above]

D. Baptism illustrates our salvation by illustrating our death to our old life and our resurrection to a new life in Christ.

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:3 – 4 (NIV)

2. Become an active member of a local church.

A. The early Christians practiced this.

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47b

B. God commands us to be part of a local fellowship.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

3. Seek God daily by reading and studying His Word.

A. We are commanded to study the Bible.

“Do your best [study in KJV] to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

B. It gives us guidance for our daily lives and helps us mature and grow as Christians.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.” Hebrews 5:12 – 13 (NIV)

4. Seek God daily through prayer.

A. Jesus prayed. If He needed to pray, we surely do!

“After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray.” Matthew 14:23 (NIV)

B. We are commanded to pray.

“Pray continually.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV)

C. Prayer produces great results.

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16b (NIV)

5. Tell others (the lost) about Jesus.

A. It’s commanded.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19 – 20 (NIVB)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

B. Winning the lost was Jesus’ purpose.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:10 (NIV)

C. Witnessing is a sign of wisdom and of a growing, maturing Christian.

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 10:18 (NIV)