

CAN I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I AM SAVED?

KEY TEXT

1 JOHN 5:13

How to rest in God's promise instead of your feelings

THE QUESTION THAT MATTERS

Biblical assurance is not confidence in our goodness, feelings, baptism, church membership, or a prayer we once repeated. It is confidence in Jesus Christ - who died for our sins, was buried, rose again, and promises everlasting life to every person who believes on Him.

01

The foundation of assurance

The gospel is the good news that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Assurance begins by asking, not 'Have I done enough?' but 'Has Christ done enough?' Scripture answers yes. Salvation rests upon His finished work, not our unfinished performance. The strength of assurance is therefore found outside ourselves - in what Christ accomplished and in what God has promised.

CHRIST'S WORK

His death paid for sin, His burial confirmed His death, and His resurrection declared His victory.

GOD'S PROMISE

God gives everlasting life to the one who believes on His Son. His promise does not rise and fall with our emotions.

THE OBJECT OF FAITH

Faith is not confidence in faith itself. It is personal reliance upon Jesus Christ as the sufficient Saviour.

"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation..."

JOHN 5:24

02

What does it mean to believe?

Saving faith is more than knowing facts about Jesus. It is personally trusting Him as the only sufficient Saviour. Faith does not save because it is strong; it saves because its object is Christ. Weak faith resting in a mighty Saviour is better than strong confidence resting in ourselves.

FAITH ABANDONS

Confidence in personal righteousness, religious merit, ceremonies, moral improvement, or anything we can offer to God.

FAITH RECEIVES

Salvation as the gift of grace and rests in Christ alone - not Christ plus works, ritual, church activity, or personal merit.

WHAT HAS GOD ACTUALLY PROMISED?

Look carefully at the words Scripture uses.

03

The promise of eternal life

Jesus said, 'He that believeth on me hath everlasting life' (John 6:47). The believer has eternal life now. God did not promise temporary life that lasts only while our performance remains strong. His promise rests upon His unchanging character. Feelings may rise and fall; God's Word remains true.

HATH

Eternal life is described as a present possession, not merely a distant possibility.

EVERLASTING

The life Christ gives is defined by its duration. It is not called probationary life.

SHALL NOT

John 5:24 joins faith with a firm promise: the believer shall not come into condemnation.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

JOHN 10:28

Assurance rests on the character of the Promiser

A promise is only as dependable as the one who makes it. Biblical assurance rests upon the God who cannot lie, the Son whose work is finished, and the written Word that does not change. This does not make sin unimportant; it makes Christ, rather than our fluctuating record, the foundation of peace.

04

False foundations to abandon

Not every confident person has biblical assurance. Confidence can rest upon the wrong foundation. A false foundation may feel strong, but it cannot bear the weight of eternity. Each substitute below turns the sinner away from Christ and toward something that cannot save.

- **Being born into a Christian family**

A godly home is a blessing, but salvation is not inherited. Each person must personally believe on Christ.

- **Baptism, membership, or activity**

Outward acts may follow faith, but they cannot replace personal reliance upon Christ.

- **Trying to be moral**

Good works cannot erase guilt or make a sinner righteous before God. Grace is received, not earned.

- **An emotional experience or prayer**

Sincerity and memory can be mistaken. Assurance must rest in Christ and His promise.

- **Knowing Bible facts**

True information is not the same as personally trusting the Saviour described by it.

THE ONLY FOUNDATION: JESUS CHRIST.

WHAT ABOUT SIN AFTER SALVATION?

Grace does not excuse sin; it teaches us how to return.

05

What about sin after salvation?

Christians still struggle with sin. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit, damages fellowship, harms our testimony, weakens spiritual joy, and brings the Father's loving discipline. But believers are called to confess their sins and return to God (1 John 1:9). David asked God to restore the joy of salvation, not to save him again (Psalm 51:12). Relationship and fellowship must not be confused.

RELATIONSHIP

Established through Christ and based upon grace. God becomes the believer's Father. The foundation is Christ's work, not the believer's daily perfection.

FELLOWSHIP

Enjoyed through obedience, interrupted by sin, and restored through confession. Fellowship concerns closeness and joy within an existing relationship.

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

PSALM 51:12

Grace is not permission to live carelessly

Biblical assurance never says that sin is harmless. The grace that saves also teaches believers to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:11-12). A person who uses grace as an excuse for rebellion has misunderstood grace.

What should I do after I sin?

- Confess honestly. Agree with God about the sin instead of hiding, minimizing, or renaming it.
- Reject self-salvation. Do not try to punish yourself into feeling forgiven. Return to the cleansing God provides.
- Restore fellowship. Reopen the Word, pray, obey the next clear command, and make wrongs right where possible.
- Accept correction. The Father may discipline His children in love, not to destroy them, but to turn them back.
- Keep looking to Christ. Let failure produce humility and dependence rather than despair or presumption.

When feelings accuse you

Ask what your confidence is resting upon. If it rests upon your changing emotions, assurance will change every day. Compare the accusation with Scripture. The Holy Spirit's conviction identifies sin and leads toward confession and restoration; vague hopelessness pushes the soul away from Christ. Seek wise biblical counsel when doubt becomes persistent or confusing.

HOW ASSURANCE CHANGES DAILY LIFE

Peace in Christ should produce a life that increasingly honours Christ.

06

How assurance changes daily life

Biblical assurance never produces carelessness. Grace teaches believers to deny ungodliness and live for Christ. We do not obey in order to become God's children; we obey because, through Christ, we already belong to Him. Assurance should produce gratitude, humility, peace, worship, courage, and a growing desire for holiness.

GRATITUDE

The believer serves from thankfulness, not from fear that one failure will erase Christ's finished work.

HUMILITY

Assurance excludes boasting because salvation rests entirely upon grace and the merit of Christ.

HOLINESS

Security in Christ is not a reason to love sin; it is a reason to love the Saviour who delivered us from it.

A biblical assurance check

- What am I trusting? Christ alone, or Christ plus something I have done?
- What gospel do I believe? That Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again?
- What promise am I resting upon? The written promise of God, or only a feeling and memory?
- How am I responding to grace? With gratitude and growth, or by using grace as an excuse for sin?
- When I fail, where do I go? Back to Christ in confession, or inward to despair and self-punishment?

The six truths in one view

1. Assurance begins with the finished gospel work of Christ.
2. Saving faith personally trusts Christ rather than self.
3. Eternal life is God's present and unchanging promise to the believer.
4. Family background, ritual, morality, emotion, and knowledge cannot replace Christ.
5. Sin harms fellowship and invites discipline, but confession restores fellowship.
6. True assurance produces peace, humility, gratitude, and a growing desire for holiness.

FINAL REFLECTION

What am I trusting for salvation?

If your confidence rests entirely upon Jesus Christ - His death, burial, resurrection, and unchanging promise - rest in Him. Continue reading His Word, confessing sin, gathering with His people, and growing in grace. Never confuse the fruit of salvation with its foundation. The foundation is Christ alone.

BIBLICALIST

Man's Questions. God's Answers.

biblicalist.org