

"Assurance of Salvation"

Part 1

1 John 5:13

Introduction: Over the years I have been asked many questions about spiritual matters but probably the most asked question or the thought that plagues many people is, "How can I know for sure that I am saved?" This is what we are going to look at today and as we do, we will take somewhat of a different angle on this subject. First of all, let us consider a question.

I. How are we saved?

I want to begin by laying a foundation that we can build upon.

1. We are all sinners.

Romans 3:10-12, 23

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

2. Every person will one day stand before God in judgment.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

3. Every sin must be paid for before we die.

Romans 6:23a

²³ *For the wages of sin is death;*

4. We cannot earn the forgiveness of sin.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

In order for sin to be forgiven God requires the shedding of blood.

Hebrews 9:22

²² *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

If the story stopped here, we would have absolutely no hope. But praise God there is more. God loves each and everyone of us and He has provided a way of forgiveness.

John 3:16

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to be our Saviour. When Jesus went to the cross 2000 years ago, He went there to die for your sins and mine. Let us remember that all of our sin MUST be paid for.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

When Jesus died upon the cross, He died for every sin that you would ever commit.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Now because Jesus paid the sin debt for each of us, the forgiveness of sin/salvation is a free gift from God.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 5:15-18

¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

There is no denying that the forgiveness of sin is a FREE GIFT. The question is, "How do I get this free gift?"

You get it by FAITH. FAITH in the finished work of Jesus Christ. By believing that He died, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

We are saved when we receive Him as our Savior by faith.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Let us notice what God says about those who rest their faith in Jesus.

John 3:17-18, 36

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

³⁶ 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.

Hebrews 10:14, 17

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

So, in all of this we see that when we rest our faith in Jesus Christ believing that He died for our sins and was resurrected the third day, then we are forever forgiven. Do you believe that Jesus died for you? Have you accepted Him? Have you placed all your faith in

what He did for you? Then you are saved and the greatest assurance is that God says you are forgiven.

John 10:28-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

II. What causes us to doubt our salvation?

1. Sin

Satan will certainly take advantage of this to cause you to question your salvation. Maybe you have a weakness with a certain sin and because you struggle and give in at times you question your salvation. You think that everyone else has it altogether.

Let me just tell you that many believers wrestle with sin.

Romans 7:15-19

¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

2. False teaching.

The teaching that causes you to question is all about performance. Let me give you some examples. They say if you don't attend church three times a week maybe you are not saved. If you do not give ten percent of your income, you might not be saved. If you do not do this or if you do that you may not be saved. Legalistic teaching can really cause you to doubt your salvation. This teaching is disastrous to a new believer who has possibly come out of a family that was never raised in church or they came out of a family that was in a church that did not preach salvation. All those rules and regulations that man comes up with will overwhelm a new believer and really cause them to doubt. A new believer needs

time to grow and they need time for God to work in their lives. There are believers who have been saved for quite a while and they have grown very little because they are caught up in legalism. They are very good at sitting back and criticizing other believers because they do not live as they do. This is exactly what the Pharisees did.

Matthew 7:1-5

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

² *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*

³ *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*

⁴ *Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?*

⁵ *Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*

You may not live up to someone else's standards but if you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior you are saved.

3. Emotions.

4. Lack of Faith.

Doubting the Word of God.

Conclusion:

Notice 1 John 5:11-13