

Can I Know That I Am Saved?

- **I would like to do something a little different as we begin this evening. If you are married, would you please raise your hand?**
 - “Now you say you are married, but nothing about you physically changed when you got married. Are you sure you are married?”
 - “Do you always feel married & when you don’t, does that still mean you’re married?”
 - “Can anyone really know for sure if they are married or not?”
- **Now obviously, if you are here this evening & you are married, you understand that there are ways to know for sure if you are married.**
 - You may not always feel the same way as you did on your wedding day, but it doesn’t change the covenant you made, right?
 - We all have times where we disagree from time to time; but even then, you never question the fact that you are married, right?
- **Yet many times when you asked folks, “Do you know you are a Christian,” the response will sometimes be, “Well, I hope so”, or “I hope I have done the right things”.**
 - Even sadder is that often times, people will laugh when they make those statements.
 - The destiny of your eternal soul is no joking matter, and we need to take this matter very seriously as we examine our own lives.
- **I believe that as certain as you are this evening that you are married, according to the Word of God, we can be more certain of our salvation.**
 - There are times where we are more certain over earthly things than the things that God has promised to us & this is part of the work of Satan.
- **What I would like to do this evening, and even if this is for only one person it will be worth it, but I want to share with you how you can know for sure that you are saved.**
 - This is one of the greatest struggles that those in the church have, and this is one struggle I want us to attempt to put an end to.
 - Something as important as our eternal salvation should be nailed down once and for all in each of our lives.

1. God Has Made Us A Promise of Salvation

a. God Is Who He Said He Is

- i. John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
- ii. Listen, this one verse only casts aside the possibility of doing good works or any amount of good deeds in order to earn Heaven. It simply cannot be done.
- iii. Because of God’s holiness & His sovereignty & more importantly our sinful condition, we can only achieve access to the Father through the ONLY sacrifice that will atone for our sins, and that is His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
 1. I know there are other beliefs & other religions out there that will give other “paths” or other “roads” to Heaven; but according to the Word of God, there is only 1 “path”, and that is the path that Christ laid out for us by His blood.

b. God Will NEVER Break His Promises

- i. Titus 1:1-2 – “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
 1. Now let me just say this. We don't understand this concept b/c we are human & we are sinful, but God CANNOT lie. It is against the very nature of God.
 2. So when He says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”, that's exactly what He means. It is a promise. He will not & cannot break that promise.
- ii. God is not a God of confusion & He wants His people, His children, to have certainty of where they are today & more importantly in the future.
 1. I 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.”
 2. Some people have made the statement, “We cant really know if were saved until we get to Heaven.” How foolish! That is not the promised way of the God that we serve.
 3. He wants you & I to have assurance of this great & rich & free salvation.
- iii. Promise Of Adoption
 1. John 1:12 – “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:”
- iv. Promise Of Freedom Of Condemnation
 1. John 5:24 – “Verily, verily (Pay Attention, Pay Attention), 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.”
 2. In reference to this verse, John Philips said, “We who believe in the Lord Jesus do not have to wait until we are dead and arraigned before the supreme court of the universe to find out what the verdict will be. We need only to consult this verse to find out now. All depends on whether or not we have heard the word of Christ and put our trust in him.”
 3. Once we have passed from death unto life, salvation is a settled matter.
- v. We can be confident of our salvation in part b/c of the unwavering promises of God Himself.

2. We Must Follow His Qualifications

a. Know The Conditions of Salvation

- i. Sometimes we are uncertain of our salvation b/c we are uncertain of what is required.
 1. You will never fulfill your job the way your supervisor intends unless you first understand what is required of you, right?
- ii. Throughout scripture, it is very clear what is needed in order to receive salvation and then we are to do our part in being assured that we have done it.
- iii. Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
 1. I want to be very clear. Many get caught up in the specific words of a prayer & remembering every word of that prayer when it comes to their salvation.

2. The scriptures are overwhelmingly clear that it is nothing that we have done, but it is all b/c of Him. We are saved by His grace & our trust in His provision.
- iv. I Corinthians 15:1, 3-4 – “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

b. Our Faith Rests In Him

- i. John 3:18 – “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.”
 1. This verse reminds us that if we believe on Him, we are no longer under the wrath of God.
 2. The only condition required ... FAITH.
- ii. Acts 16:31 – “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
 1. The scriptures remind us that it is not our works or our words whereby we receive salvation, but by the grace of God.
 2. Our responsibility is to have faith & trust that His death & His blood paid the penalty for our sins.

3. The Indwelling of The Holy Spirit

a. We Belong To Christ

- i. Let me tell you something tonight. You may be here tonight, you may be lost, you may be unsaved, you may be running from God, you may be a child of the darkness ... but the very moment you ask Christ to come & save you from your sins, He immediately snatches you out of death's grip & makes you one of His own!
- ii. When a person places their trust & faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in that very moment, the Spirit of God comes into their heart & begins to dwell within them. What a awesome thought!
- iii. Romans 8:9, 14-16 – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”
 1. In the heart of every child of God, there is a witness of the Holy Spirit that gives us calm assurance that we belong to Him.

b. He Abides In Us

- i. I John 3:24 – “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”
- ii. John 14:16-17 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the

world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

1. How do we know for sure that Christ is living within us? This verse reminds us that it is by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit & Him producing fruit in our lives.
- iii. I John 4:13 – “Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”

4. A Changed Life

a. God’s Grace Changes Us

- i. The Bible teaches that the moment we accept Christ as our Savior, we pass from death unto life. In an instant, in a moment, we are changed!
 1. II Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- ii. But that change is only the beginning. Throughout the remainder of our lives, God seeks to sanctify us & to continue to change us to be more like Him.
- iii. When the Holy Spirit moves into our lives, there can’t help but be a change in the way we live, in the way we walk, & in the way we talk.

b. Our Life Is Transformed

- i. I John 2:3 – “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”
- ii. John 14:15 – “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
 1. “Lip service” is one thing – I don’t want to discredit telling others & even telling God that we love Him ... it is very important.
 2. But we prove that we love Him when we obey Him & follow after Him & our life is transformed b/c of His love for us.
 - a. We shouldn’t have to convince God that we love Him. It should be evident in our lives, AMEN?
- iii. The person who is not a Christian only seeks to live for Himself; a child of God will obey His commands.
 1. Does this mean that a Christian will live a perfect life? Unfortunately, we all know the answer to that question. I wish we did.
 2. But when we do sin ... “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” AMEN?

5. Our Love For Others

a. We Love God’s People

- i. I John 3:14 – “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”
- ii. One of the great truths of this scripture has been proven true in recent months.
 1. Your attitude towards God’s people changes when you are saved.
 2. This may not happen instantaneously, but it will certainly happen.
- iii. The Bible tells us that Paul had a hatred towards the people of God (Acts 9:1) before his conversion. But that turned to an attitude of love when he followed Christ.
 1. Acts 9:17-20 – “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou

mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”

b. We Have A Passion For The Lost

- i. Once we have been rescued, it only seems logical that we desire others to be rescued as well.
 1. Romans 1:14-17 – “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
- ii. Paul felt a sense of obligation combined with passion as he approached the unsaved! He stated he felt obligated “to Greeks and to barbarians,” and to “wise and unwise.”
- iii. This obligation/passion was to preach the gospel. Paul’s deep desire was to tell lost people the truth about Jesus Christ and instruct them in their response to Jesus Christ, to be saved from their sin.

6. The Chastening of God

a. We Are Disciplined Because of His Love For Us

- i. Hebrews 12:6-8 – “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”
 1. Though know one enjoys chastening or discipline, we can take comfort that God is simply dealing with us as his sons.
 2. It has been said, “Better to be chastised by God than pampered by the devil!”

b. His Discipline Should Bring Us Comfort

- i. Psalm 23:4b – “thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”
 1. Does this really make sense? Can we be comforted when we are being disciplined? Absolutely.
 2. The chastisement of God can be summed up by this:
 - a. The adversities of this life are either sent or permitted by God for our good.
 - b. We all stand in need of it.
 - c. Even in our discipline, God is with us & cares for us.
 - d. This is the surest possible evidence of His great love for us.