

## HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE

### 1 John 5:11-12

**Introduction:** The story is told about a pastor visiting a dying woman in a hospital. During the conversation he asked the woman if she was certain she was going to heaven. He then explained to her the "plan of salvation" how she could be saved, forgiven, and on her way to heaven. She prayed to receive Jesus. As the pastor turned around and was about to leave, her son in law remarked that "nobody can really know if he/she is saved or not. The best you can do is hope that you are saved." The pastor immediately read **1 John 5:11-12** to him. All Christians can know for certain that they have eternal life. NO guessing, no hoping, we don't have to have a "hope-so" faith when God wants us to "know-so!" God understands that we have doubts about our faith so He gave us **1 John**. Assurance of salvation is important. **The soul will last forever, either in heaven or in hell. So let's be confident that we know where we will spend eternity.**

### I. FIRST OF ALL, HOW ARE WE SAVED?

1. The way of salvation is very plain in the Scripture: **1 John 5:1**
  - The way one is saved is by believing that Jesus is Christ, the Messiah.
    - "Jesus" means "Jehovah saves" and those who believe Jehovah saves through Jesus are born again.
  - The Christian faith is just that simple! **Acts 16:31**. One is saved by believing in Jesus.
2. The word "believe" doesn't mean just intellectual assent. Satan "believes." It means to have trust and commitment in something. **Eph. 2:8-9**
  - Self cannot save.
  - Works cannot save.
  - **Grace** saves. The grace of God saves us through our faith in Jesus Christ.
    - Sound too simple? Ask people if they are saved. Most will "hope" so, are doing the best they can. People start talking about themselves and their works.
    - These people don't have salvation and are counting on their works to get them into heaven.
3. One will never experience assurance if he/she depends upon his/her actions/works. You can't trust 15 minutes of your best living to get you into heaven.
  - God isn't like Santa Claus, checking His list twice to find out who's naughty and who's nice - good works against bad works.
  - One is dead in his/her sins if he/she doesn't know Jesus and a long list of good works won't balance the scales because salvation is not by works but by grace.
  - **Grace** is the unmerited love and favor which God shows to sinners. He doesn't love you for what you've done, God loves you out of His grace.
    - Think of God's grace as His hand reaching down toward you.
    - Think of faith as your hand reaching up toward God while saying "I love you Lord, and I accept your love for me."
    - When you put your hand of faith into God's hand of grace, that's Salvation.
4. Satan doesn't want you to understand that. He wants you to think salvation depends upon what you do and you'll always be wondering if you've done enough.
  - Salvation depends not upon what you do, but what God does for you.
  - None of us in this room are going to heaven because we've been good, but because of God's grace.
  - Actions do not contribute to salvation. **Rom. 11:6**
    - Salvation is not part grace and part works. **It is all grace!**
  - When you put your hand in His, confessing your sins and admitting that you cannot save yourself, you are relying on the grace of God alone to save you.
  - Some people wear a cross, the star of David and many other religious symbols with the thought of making sure they are going to make it to heaven by "covering all the bases."

## II. THREE TESTS TO SEE IF YOU ARE SAVED

### 1. The Lordship Test:

- **1 John 2:3** - We are not saved **by** keeping the ten commandments. It is not **if** we keep the commandments.
  - However, **if** we do keep them, it is because we **know** Him.
- **1 John 2:4** - If you "say" you are saved but don't try to do what God says, God says "you are a liar."
  - We are all sinners therefore are not perfect. **1 John 1:10**
  - "**keep**" means to "steer" as a ship captain steers his ship by the stars. If he strays off course, he has the stars to find his way back.
  - That's how it is with Christians. We stray from God, but find our way back through God's help.
- Christians are not saved by keeping the ten commandments but one of the marks of being a Christian is that there is the desire and effort to live according to them.

### 2. The Fellowship Test:

- **1 John 3:14** - If you love the Heavenly Father, you will love His children as well. It's one of the characteristics of being saved. **1 John 4:20-21**
- Some think they can worship God on their own, never going to church or meeting with other Christians. They say, "God knows I love Him, and I can worship Him anywhere so I don't need to go to church."
- God makes it very clear that we are to love one another and to come together as His family. **If** God's nature is in you, you will love others the way He loves others. **1 John 4:7-8**
- You aren't saved by loving others, but you will love others **if** you are saved.

### 3. The Relationship Test:

- **1 John 5:11-13** - The Bible never says to look back at some past experience as proof of your salvation. It says to look at your **current** relationship. Do you have a relationship with Jesus this very moment? Is He your friend and constant companion?
- Is Jesus somebody you were once introduced to but never bothered to get to know?
- The question is not so much, "Did you believe in Jesus?" but "Are you believing in Jesus right now?" Do you have a relationship with the Lord Jesus now?

## CONCLUSION:

1. It is possible you are saved and have never experienced the full assurance that you are born again. You are not the first nor will you be the last.
  - W.A. Criswell (FBC, Dallas, Texas) stopped on the side of the road on the way to preach a revival and made sure he was saved.
  - Adrian Rogers (Bellevue B.C., Memphis, Tenn.) also had to reassure himself that he was saved.
  - Countless others have had questions about being sure they were saved and wanted reassurance.
2. You can be sure of your salvation by going back to the Lord and asking Him to forgive you of your sins and to come into your life and make you into what He wants you to be.
3. You can be absolutely sure you are a Christian.
4. If you are not a Christian, you can be this very hour.