



# Salvation

PART 2.5



**BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF 11 CORE BIBLICAL TRUTHS**

## The Personal Assurance of My Salvation

### *How do I handle doubts about my salvation?*

Whenever a person is not sure if they are saved, there are several possibilities:

- They may not be saved.
- They may be disobeying God; disobedience causes us to lose the joy of our salvation and causes us to wonder if God still loves us.
- They may be experiencing temptation to doubt from Satan, who obviously does not want us to feel secure in our relationship with God.

### *What if I can't remember when I became a Christian?*

Though coming to Christ is often a process, at some point, a person crosses "from death to life." No one gradually becomes "alive."

### **Prayer for assurance**

Just pray a prayer something like this.



*Jesus, I know I made this commitment before, but not being able to remember exactly when has caused me some real doubts. So right here and right now, on (say the date) I nail down in my heart the fact that my life is given to you. I trust in you and you alone to forgive the wrong things that I've done. I ask you to be the Lord—the leader and manager—of my life. Amen.*



If you aren't sure that you are a Christian, make sure right now. Just ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to come into your heart.



And when Satan tries to hassle you and cause you to wonder about whether you really are a believer, you can point to this day and remember that you *did* ask Jesus to be your Savior.

## ***What happens to my relationship to God when I sin?***

When a Christian sins, fellowship with God is broken, but the relationship remains intact. God has said that we have been adopted into his family with all the rights and privileges of his Son, Jesus. He will never disown Jesus; he'll never disown us. But sin in our lives must be dealt with. Look at these diagrams to follow the process of what happens when a Christian sins.

<b>Sin Barriers before Salvation</b>			
Barriers on God's side		Barriers on man's side	
God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God's justice demands punishment of the guilty.</li> <li>2. God's holiness demands rejection of the unholy.</li> <li>3. God's perfection demands devaluation of the imperfect.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Man's knowledge of his guilt brings fear of punishment.</li> <li>2. Man's knowledge of his lack of holiness brings fear of rejection.</li> <li>3. Man's knowledge of his imperfection brings loss of self-esteem.</li> </ol>	Man
			

<b>Sin Barriers after Salvation When We Forget That God Totally Accepts Us</b>			
Barriers on God's side		Barriers on man's side	
God	Totally removed by Christ's death.	Expectancy of punishment, rejection, and loss of self-esteem all resulting from our early experiences with punishment.	Man
			

<b>Sin Barriers after Salvation When We Have Fully Applied the Results of Christ's Atonement</b>			
Barriers on God's side		Barriers on man's side	
God	Totally removed by Christ's death.	Totally removed by the knowledge of God's total acceptance and forgiveness and by the realization that God doesn't motivate by threats of punishment, rejection, and lowered self-esteem.	Man
			

## Effects of Sin on the Christian

What Sin Doesn't Do	What Sin Does Do
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring punishment from God.</li> <li>2. Make God angry with us.</li> <li>3. Cause God to reject us, even temporarily.</li> <li>4. Make us worthless or valueless to God.</li> <li>5. Cause God to make us feel guilty.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brings loving correction and discipline from God.</li> <li>2. Interferes with our best personal adjustment, harms us, and eventually makes us unhappy.</li> <li>3. Decreases our effectiveness in the world.</li> <li>4. Damages the lives of others—especially those closest to us.</li> <li>5. Brings loss of rewards in heaven.</li> <li>6. Brings conviction from God.</li> </ol>
<p>Source: Diagrams and chart adapted from Bruce Narramore and Bill Counts, <i>Freedom from Guilt</i> (Santa Ana, Calif.: Vision House, 1974), 83–85, 93.</p>	

### ***Are there any proofs that I am a Christian?***

While God alone can see into the hearts of individuals and determine who has honestly committed themselves to him, he has told us in his Word that there are some evidences that we are to judge ourselves (not others) by:

- The \_\_\_\_\_ that God is our heavenly Father

All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

—Matthew 11:27

- A new reliance on \_\_\_\_\_

Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.

—Ephesians 6:18 (LB)

- A new ability to understand \_\_\_\_\_

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

—John 16:13

- A new sense of the seriousness of \_\_\_\_\_

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

—Titus 2:11–12

- A new \_\_\_\_\_ for lost people

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

—Romans 10:1

- A new love for \_\_\_\_\_

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

—1 John 3:14



### Key Personal Perspective

Question: Why should God allow me into his heaven?

Only answer: Because I've trusted in Christ's work on the cross

Not

Because I'm a good person.

Because I believe in God.

Because I go to church.

If you can answer this question correctly, you can relinquish your doubts and fears about the security of your salvation. Begin to live in the freedom that comes from knowing your salvation is secure.

Let us go right in, to God himself, with true hearts fully trusting him to receive us, because we have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean.

—Hebrews 10:22 (LB)



## Discussion Questions

1. Look back at the three reasons why people lack assurance of salvation. Which one do you think most people struggle with? Has one of these been a struggle for you?
2. What is the difference between basing my sense of security in salvation on my faithfulness to God as opposed to basing it on his faithfulness to me? How does this impact our attitudes, motivations, and actions as believers?
3. What would you say to someone who said to you, “I’ve been attending church and praying and trying to read the Bible for years, but lately I’ve been feeling like I’m not really a Christian”?
4. If I believe in eternal security, where is my motivation to grow? Which of these three is the most significant for you?

- Grace

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. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:8–10

- Eternal rewards

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

—Colossians 3:23

- Pleasing God

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

—2 Corinthians 5:9