

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Knowing That You Know

Saved And Secure | Part 5 | 1 John 5:13

INTRODUCTION

How do you know you belong to your family? You might share a last name, certain physical traits, or even a few quirky habits. This resemblance, this shared DNA, gives you confidence in your identity. In the same way, God wants His children to have a deep, settled confidence that they belong to Him. This is not a matter of wishful thinking but of spiritual reality.

The Apostle John wrote his first letter for this very purpose: “These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). This knowledge is not just intellectual; it is an intimate, internal assurance. As we explore the Scriptures, God gives us clear spiritual markers, a kind of family resemblance, that confirm we are truly His children.

KEY POINTS

1. We Sense The Inner Witness Of His Spirit

One of the most profound markers of a true believer is the internal presence of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Spirit would come upon people for specific tasks and then depart. But at Pentecost, God did something new: He sent His Spirit to make an intimate home inside every believer, never to leave us. This indwelling Spirit works actively in our lives to provide comfort, assurance, and direction. He convicts us of sin, empowers us for ministry, and testifies to our spirit that we belong to God.

If you struggle to hear His voice, it is not because God has moved. Often, we are like a child who wanders so far away from their mother that they can no longer hear her call. Sin creates distance and dulls our spiritual senses. The first step to hearing Him again is to turn back, repent, and draw near to the God who is always waiting for His children.

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2. We Possess A New Nature That Hates Sin

When you become a child of God, you are fundamentally changed. You are transformed from the inside out. Dr. Dodd illustrates this with the difference between a sheep and a hog. When a pig falls into a mud puddle, it wallows and feels right at home. It was made for the mud. But when a sheep falls into the mud, its new nature is repulsed. It will not be content or satisfied there. A true sheep will either get out of the mud or die trying.

This is the picture of a believer. Being a Christian does not mean you will never slip and fall into the mud of sin. It means you will not be comfortable there. God gives His children a new "want to," a desire for holiness and a growing hatred for the sin that once defined them. This internal conflict against sin is a powerful confirmation that you have been made a new creation in Christ.

The Christian life is marked by both a mystical relationship and a moral transformation. We are called to cultivate our sensitivity to the Spirit's voice while also living out the new nature we have received. This new identity sets us apart from the world. We are the *ecclesia*, the "called out ones," chosen to live differently, think differently, and love differently.

In a culture that often celebrates what God's Word calls sin, it is essential for believers to understand why. People who do not know Christ are simply living according to their nature. Like hogs in the mud, they are at home in a worldview that is contrary to God's design. But for the children of God, for the sheep of His pasture, that life is no longer an option. We have a different Shepherd, a different home, and a different destiny. Our calling is not to make friends with the pigs or grow comfortable with the mud. It is to listen for the Shepherd's voice, live like the sheep we are, and have confidence in the One who holds us securely.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Reflect on a time you clearly sensed the Holy Spirit's guidance or conviction. How did that experience shape your faith?
2. In what areas of your life do you struggle with the "mud" of sin? How can you, like a sheep, actively work to get out and stay clean, relying on God's power?
3. Dr. Dodd teaches that believers are called to be different from the world. What is one practical way you can live more like a "sheep" and less like a "hog" in your daily decisions this week?
