

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Do You Hurt For The Hurting?

Saved And Secure | Part 4 | 1 John 3:16-20; 5:13

INTRODUCTION

The weather can be wildly unpredictable. One day might be warm and sunny, the next a blizzard, and the day after that, temperatures could soar. Many people live their spiritual lives with similar instability, tossed back and forth by feelings and circumstances, never truly certain where they stand with God. They might depend more on a weatherman to decide how to dress than on God's Word to find their security.

But God does not want His children living in a state of spiritual confusion or fear. He desires for us to have complete confidence in our salvation. The entire book of *1 John* was written for this very purpose: "I write these things 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*). One of the clearest signs that we belong to Christ is a heart that reflects His own compassion for a world in need.

KEY POINTS

1. A Secure Faith Is A Serving Faith

John gives us a powerful test to confirm our faith: does our love look like Jesus's love? The Scripture says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." His love was not a matter of words alone; it was an act of ultimate sacrifice. In the same way, our faith is proven genuine when it moves beyond mere sentiment and translates into tangible action. If we have the resources to help a brother or sister in need but close our hearts to them, John asks how the love of God can possibly be in us. True, saving faith always produces a desire to give, to serve, and to meet the needs of others, not with words only but with "actions and in truth."

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2. A Serving Faith Brings Confidence Before God

When we actively love others, we are not earning our salvation; we are demonstrating that God's transforming work has already taken place within us. This active compassion becomes a source of profound assurance. John writes that this is how "we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence." Even when our own hearts condemn us, reminding us of our failures and missed opportunities, we can find peace. We know that "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." Our confidence is not based on our own perfection but on the character of the God who has saved us and is now living His compassionate life through us.

God has not called you to the sidelines of the Christian life. Until He calls you home, you are on assignment. You are to be the hands and feet of Jesus, right now, in the places He has put you. When God brings someone across your path who is hurting or has a need, it is not an interruption; it is an invitation. We live in an age of referral, quick to point people to an organization or a program. But perhaps God wants you to be the one to meet that need.

This week, ask God to give you eyes to see the people He places in your path. It may be a neighbor who needs help clearing their sidewalk after a storm, a coworker who needs a listening ear, or a family member who needs practical support. You do not have to worry about whether you have enough energy, resources, or time. Jesus taught, "Give, and it will be given to you" (*Luke 6:38*). When you give ministry away, God provides even more strength and resources to continue His work. Step up and allow God to use you as His minister. This quiet, steady obedience is one of the greatest confirmations that you belong to Him.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what practical ways can you move beyond loving with “words or speech” and begin loving with “actions and in truth” in your family, church, and community this week?
2. Dr. Dodd challenges believers to be “need-meeters.” What fears or hesitations, such as a fear of being taken advantage of, might prevent you from getting directly involved in helping someone? How can you trust God in those moments?
3. Reflect on a time when you missed an opportunity to help someone in need. Instead of letting your heart condemn you, how can you use that memory to prepare you to act in faith the next time God gives you an assignment?
