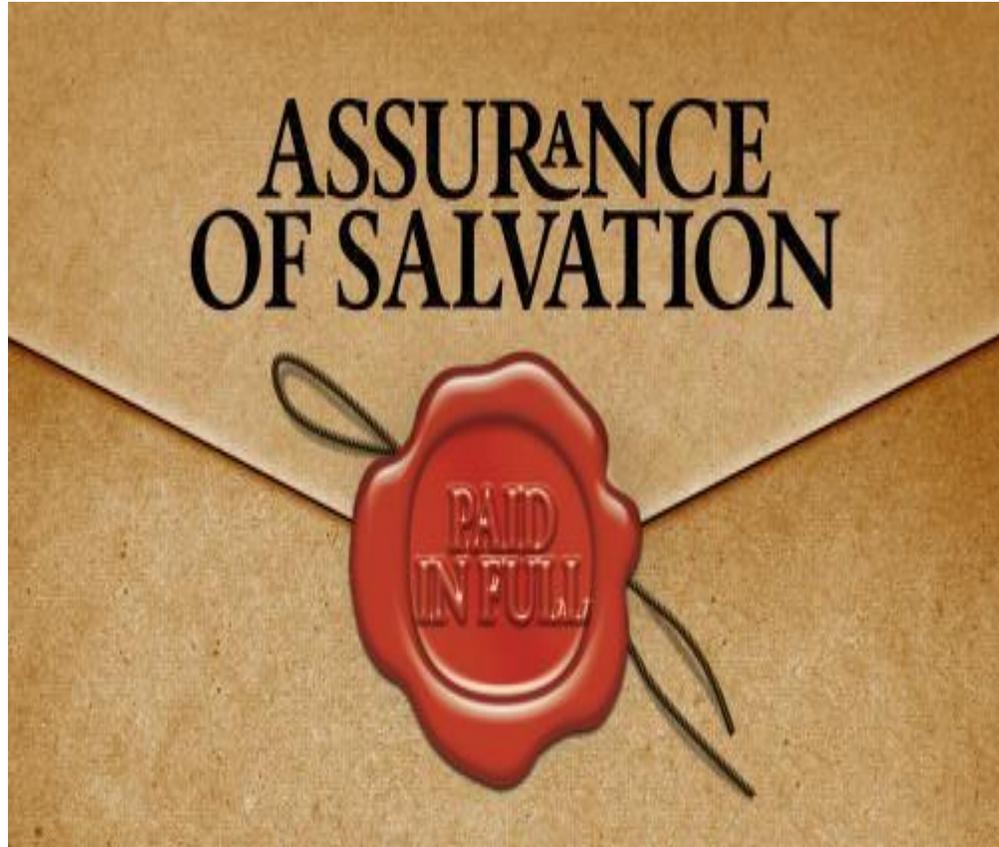


CH.#2 What Every Christian Ought To Know
THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION!



What Every Christian Ought To Know!

“These things I have 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)



- You Should have **“ROCK RIBBED”** Assurance of Salvation, but What Does It Mean To Be Saved? There Are **3** Terms You Need To Know!
- **REGENERATION**: It is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given. (**Jn. 3:3-8; Tit. 3:5**).
- It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the **WORD OF GOD (Jn. 5:24)**, when the repentant sinner, as enabled by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works will be its proper evidence and fruit (**1 Cor. 6:19,20**). This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Cor. 3:18**). Other words used: **“BORN AGAIN,” “SAVED,” “CONVERTED.”** This means that **EVERY SIN** past, present, and future has been buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness! **PRAISE GOD, FOR SALVATION!**

REGENERATION!

- (Jn. 3:3–7) “Jesus answered and said to him, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** (4) Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” (5) Jesus answered, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**
- (Tit. 3:5–6) **“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,”**
- (Jn. 5:24) **“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”**
- (2 Cor. 3:18) **“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”**

SANCTIFICATION!

- **SANCTIFICATION:** Every believer is sanctified (**set apart**) unto God by **JUSTIFICATION** (God declares righteous through faith in Christ) and is therefore declared to be holy and is therefore identified as a saint. This sanctification is positional and instantaneous and should not be confused with **PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION**. This sanctification has to do with the believer's **STANDING**, not his present walk or condition. (**Acts. 20:32**)
- **PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION:** The state of the believer is brought closer to the likeness of Christ through obedience to the Word of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. The believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like Christ. (**1 Thess. 4:3-7**)
- Every truly saved person is involved in daily conflict, or battle. The new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh, but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. **The struggle nevertheless stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended.** Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit comes to live with us to give us peace, power, and purpose! (**1 Pet. 1:14-17**) **I'M BEING SAVED!**

SANCTIFICATION!

- **(2 Thess. 2:13)** *“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”*
- **(1 Cor. 1:30)** *“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,”*
- **(1 Thess. 4:3–7)** *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; (4) that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, (5) not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; (6) and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. (7) For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”*
- **(1 Pet. 1:14–17)** *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, (15) but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; (16) because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” (17) If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;”*

GLORIFICATION!

- **GLORIFICATION**: The future and final work of God upon Christians where He transforms our mortal physical bodies to the eternal physical bodies in which we will dwell forever.
- Jesus is the first resurrected from the dead in a glorified body. He is called the “**first fruits of creation.**” (1 Cor. 15:20) says, ***“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”*** Since He is the first fruits, we will follow. **HIS RESURRECTION IS THE PROMISE AND GUARANTEE OF OUR FUTURE RESURRECTION.** When we die or when Jesus comes again, we are going home to heaven to be with Him.
- (1 Cor. 15:52) ***“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. I’M FOREVER SAVED!***

DEALING WITH YOUR *DOUBT!*

- CAN YOU KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT YOU ARE SAVED? IS IT EVER OKAY TO DOUBT YOUR SALVATION?
- These are difficult questions, but both questions can be answered in just one verse in the book of 1 John. (1 John. 5:13) *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that YOU MAY KNOW that you have eternal life.”*
- Right away that tells me two things: you can be saved and know it, and you can be saved and doubt it. John wrote the book of **1 JOHN** in order that **WE MAY KNOW — WITHOUT A DOUBT — THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**. And he gave us **3** major tests to deal with that doubt.

The *COMMANDMENT* Test

- The first test is found in (1 John. 2:3–5) *“By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:”*
- A person who says he is saved but doesn't keep the commandments of God is lying. I don't care whose church he is a member of, how much theology he has in his head, or what kind of experience he has had at an altar; John says if he's not keeping the commandments of God, he doesn't know Him. He is not talking about sinless perfection, but that **the commandments of God are to be the standard by which we chart our course.**
- There are many people who join a church as if they were joining a country club. There's no **CHANGE** and they continue to live the same ungodly lives. Those people have no reason whatsoever to think that they are going to heaven. If you can sin willfully, knowingly, deliberately, and habitually and feel no conviction or remorse; **YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE YOU ARE SAVED.**

The *COMPANION* Test

- There's another test found in (1 John. 3:14) *“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.”* Also notice (1 John. 4:20) *“If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.”*
- If God is love and we have the nature of God, then we are going to have love in us. If we don't have love, we don't have the nature of God. If we don't have the nature of God, we haven't been born of God. **IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT ANOTHER BIRTHMARK OF THE BELIEVER IS LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN.** When I am saved, not only do I want to be **RIGHT** with my brothers, but I want to be **WITH** my brothers.
- **IF YOU *LOVE* JESUS, YOU'RE GOING TO *LOVE* HIS CHURCH.**

The *COMMITMENT* Test

- The third test is found in (1 John. 5:10–12) *“The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. ¹¹ And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”*
- The word **BELIEVE** here really means "**COMMITMENT**" or "**TRUST.**" And that commitment and trust is in the **PRESENT TENSE**. I cannot find a single verse in the Bible that tells us to look back to some experience for the assurance of our salvation. The Bible doesn't deal with what happened in the past for assurance. Verse *thirteen* says, *“These things have I written unto you that believe....”* It doesn't say, "**BELIEVED.**" It means those who believe **RIGHT NOW**. Do you have that faith in your heart **RIGHT NOW**? Is there that trust and commitment to Jesus Christ **RIGHT NOW**? That's how to have assurance.
- **YOU CAN BE SAVED AND KNOW IT!** You can be free from nagging doubts. It's so important to get this issue settled. Everything else builds on the strong confidence that God has saved you and will never let you go. Stand on His Word, and rest assured in your salvation.