

Lesson 1:

Knowing that You are Saved

I. The Significance of Salvation

Salvation refers to a person's being saved before God, which includes being forgiven of his sins, being spared from perdition, being regenerated, having the eternal life of God, and becoming a child of God.

II. The Proofs of Salvation

A. The Outward Proof—The Proof by the Bible Without

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Romans 10:13 For, whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved

John 5:24 He who hears My word and believes Him [the heavenly Father] who sent Me has eternal life, and will not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

1 John 5:12-13 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. I write these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him [the Lord Jesus Christ], to them He gave authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name: who were born...of God

Once a person believes and is baptized, calling upon the name of the Lord, he is immediately saved. This fact should be recognized and acknowledged immediately without dependence on human feelings.

Once a person believes in the heavenly Father and believes into the name of the Son of God (the Lord Jesus Christ), he has eternal life (that is, the life of God). He will not come into judgment and perish, but has passed out of death into life. A person is saved in this way to have the life of God based on what the Bible says and not on his own feelings.

The Lord Jesus gives to those who receive Him by faith, that is, to those who believe into His name, the authority to become children of God. This authority is the life of God, enabling those who believe into the Lord Jesus to be born of God, that is, to be regenerated to become children of God. This is also proven by the words of the Bible and not determined by human feelings.

The words in the Bible are trustworthy and can never be changed or annulled. Human feelings will fluctuate

according to mood and environment and are undependable. Since the Bible clearly states that a person is saved upon believing in the Lord Jesus, this fact is then established regardless of human feeling. We should stand on the trustworthy words of the Bible and disregard our fluctuating feelings, believing strongly and knowing with assurance that we have been saved.

B. The Inward Proof—The Proof by the Holy Spirit in Our Spirit

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself [the Holy Spirit of God] witnesses with our spirit that we are the children of God.

When we believe in the Lord Jesus, receiving Him as our Savior, God gives His Holy Spirit to us, putting the Spirit into our spirit (Ezek. 36:27). This Holy Spirit is in us to be with us eternally (John 14:17). He witnesses in our spirit that we are the children of God, who are born of God. Every one of us who believes in the Lord likes to address God as "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15). It is very natural for us to address God as "Abba, Father." As we address God in this way, we feel sweet and comfortable within. This is because we are children who are born of God, with God's life, and the Spirit of God's Son has entered into us. This is the inward proof of our salvation.

C. The Proof of Love—The Proof by the Experience of Life

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who begets, loves him who has been begotten of Him.

Once we believe that Jesus is the Christ, we are born of God. God is love (1 John 4:16), and the life of God is also the life of love. Therefore, everyone who is begotten of God loves God and loves him who has been begotten of God, him who is a brother in the Lord.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.

As believers, our love for the brothers in the Lord is a proof that we have God's eternal life. Loving the brothers in the Lord is an experience in the eternal life of God after we have believed in the Lord to be saved. There is an inexplainable joy and feeling of dearness when a saved person sees a brother in the Lord. This kind of love toward a brother in the Lord is also a proof for us to know that we have been saved. It can be called

the proof of love, the proof of our experience in the life of God.

Therefore, whether it is by the definite word of the Bible, by the witnessing of the Holy Spirit in our spirit, or by our experience of love in life, we may know assuredly that we are saved. Furthermore, the salvation that we have received is an eternal salvation (Heb. 5:9). Once we have received this salvation, we shall by no means perish forever, and no one can snatch us out of the Lord's and the heavenly Father's hands (John 10:28-29).

III. The Joy of Salvation

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the gladness of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 32:7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with the ringing shouts of deliverance.

Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my salvation...and my song... Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Salvation is a joyful matter, and God's salvation brings us joy. Therefore, when we are saved, and especially when we know that we have been saved, joy will flood us and we will overflow with songs of salvation, singing forth the joy of salvation. This kind of joyful singing will spontaneously arouse our gratitude and adoration toward the very God who loves us and the very Lord who saves us.

When we are saved and have obtained God's salvation, we will not only sing for joy, but we will also draw water out of the wells of His salvation, receiving from them a continuous and endless supply. This becomes the very encouragement and strength to us Christians that we may be delivered from sins and lusts and overcome the Devil and the world.

Study Questions

1. What is the definition of salvation?
2. Is it possible to lose your salvation? What are the proofs of our salvation?

Weekly Challenge

Help someone understand that it is possible to conclusively know a person is saved.

Notes:

Song

1

Do you know that you were
chosen
Long before the world began
That by God you were selected
And appointed for His plan?
Something in your inmost be-
ing
Tells you this is surely true;
That's why you are in this meet-
ing,
And you feel the way you do.

2

All the sins you've e'er commit-
ted,
Everything you've ever done,
All by God has been forgiven
Taken care of by God's Son.
Struggle not, no; just believe
this,
For His word assures it's true;
All you need to do is thank Him
For all that He's done for you.

3

Did you know that all the Bible
Is a will, a testament?
Everything that Christ
accomplished
Is for all God's children meant.
As His child you are included,
For His word stands fast and
true;

So by faith you now inherit
All that He has done for you.
What a fellowship have we!
So we'd like to welcome you,
friend,
Into God's own family.

4

Did you know God has a family?
Yes, He does, in fact, it's us.
That's why we are here enjoying
All He is, so marvelous.
He's our God and we're His peo-
ple,
Day by day we love Him more;
We're so happy and so thankful,
We just praise Him o'er and o'er.

5

All we know is that we love Him,
We're so glad for what He's done;
We are brought to Him, and we all
Know the joy of being one.
We're so glad that we're included,
What a fellowship have we!
So we'd like to welcome you,
friend,
Into God's own family.