

**Assurance**  
**1 John Chapter 5**

- I. Many Believers today struggle with the issue of assurance of their salvation.
  - a. Some of the main reasons that individuals struggle with assurance are:
    - i. *People lack assurance because they cannot remember or point to a specific time when they received Christ*
    - ii. *People lack assurance because they question the procedure they went through when they accepted Christ*
    - iii. *People lack assurance because of struggles they have with certain sins.*
    - iv. *The primary reason behind a lack of assurance is doctrinal misunderstanding and the consequent lack of faith in the finished work of Christ*
    - v. *Finally, people often lack assurance because they have erroneously been taught that they should look to themselves and their works as the primary proof of their salvation - **This is a major issue today.***  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/13-assurance-salvation>
      1. Notice that 2 of the 5 reasons that Believers lack assurance come directly from erroneous teaching. One could argue that the other 3 are symptoms of an incorrect understanding of scripture as well.
      2. Sadly, this can be confirmed by doing a simple internet search for how to be sure you are saved. What you will pull up are sites that will give you 4,5,6 up to 12 ways to be assured that you are saved. **Is it any wonder there's confusion?**
      3. Is there a better way? The answer is yes and we will look at that today. Before we do we need to speak a little more about the erroneous methods that are prevalent today.
      4. Many of the sites I referred to a moment ago are confusing because the verses that are used to help a Believer determine if they are saved or not, are not salvation verses but are sanctification verses.
- II. The Bible lays out 3 distinct stages of the Christian life:
  - a. **Justification** - dikaiosis (dik-ah'-yo-sis) the act of God declaring men free from guilt and acceptable to him
  - b. **Sanctified / Sanctification** - hagiazo (hag-ee-ad'-zo) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God
  - c. **Glorified / Glorification** - syndoxazo (soon-dox-ad'-zo) to be exalted to the same glory to which Christ has been raised,

- III. Understanding the three stages of the Christian life is vital for the Believer. Not understanding which one of these stages a passage is referring to will distort that passage's meaning.
- a. For example, here's one of the passages I've seen used as a way to determine whether you're a genuine Believer or not.
    - i. **John 8:31-32 (NASB95)** 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
      1. The portion of this passage that was used to encourage a person to know whether they are Believer or not is when Jesus says: "*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine...*"
        - a. The interpretation of the verse is that one can know whether they're saved or not by their desire to continue to be in The Word.
      2. But, in verse 31 we're told Jesus is speaking to Believers ("*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him*")
        - a. **Disciple** – mathetes (mä-tha-ta's) a learner or pupil
      3. **Question** – Is every Believer a learner or pupil of God's Word as Jesus recommends in this passage?
      4. No
      5. This is what Jesus is emphasizing here. He's telling Believers, "You've got to study and learn My Word if you want to be truly free in this life. If you know the truth in My Word you will be free in this life."
      6. What is this passage a true litmus test for then? It's a great litmus test for you and I to use to see if we are doing the Sanctification portion of the Christian life well.
    - ii. I have to believe one of those freedoms you and I can experience by knowing His Word is the freedom that comes from knowing I am eternally secure.
    - iii. Can we know this by knowing His Word? Is there a place in scripture I can know that I am eternally secure without using the very inaccurate and faulty method of my works as the litmus test for being eternally secure?"
    - iv. The answer is yes. There are actually many passages but we are going to settle in on a passage in 1 John 5:
- IV. **1 John 5:1,10-13 (NASB95)** 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him...10 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. 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.

V. **1 John 5:13 (NASB95)** 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.

a. Two very important things in this passage:

i. ***“These things I have written to you”*** – In other words there are things that John has written that will help them to know they have eternal life.

ii. Whom has John written “these things” to?

1. ***“to you who believe in the name of the Son of God”***

2. **You may know** – eido (a'-do) to know, i.e. get knowledge of, understand, *perceive of any fact*

a. In other words, this is a knowing that is not based on experience or feelings as a determiner of truth, it is based on FACT.

b. So, in pretty straightforward language John is saying there's a way you can know that you have eternal life.

i. John was writing this to them because much like today there was erroneous teaching about their eternal security:

1. **1 John 2:25-26 (NASB95)** 25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

VI. **1 John 5:1 (NASB95)** **1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.**

a. **1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) is born of God**

i. **Believes** - pisteuo (pe-styü'-o) – to trust or have confidence in one.

b. **John 13:19 (NASB95)** “From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.

c. **John 8:24 (NASB95)** “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

- d. The One that God had this to say to Satan about in Genesis:
- i. **Genesis 3:15 (NASB95)** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
  - ii. **Do you believe that?** Have you placed your trust and confidence that the Jesus who came back then is the deliverer? In other words that the Jesus who came back then is the only Way to heaven and only way to God the Father?
    1. **John 14:6 (NASB95)** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
  - iii. **If you believe this you have eternal life.** Those are Jesus exact words:
    1. **John 3:16 (NASB95)** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but ***have*** eternal life.
      - a. Notice what we have if we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life.
      - b. This is not a future state, this is saying that you have eternal life **at the moment** when you believe in Jesus Christ.
  - iv. This truth is repeated over and over in scripture:
    1. **John 3:15 (NASB95)** 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.
    2. **John 1:12 (ESV)** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
    3. **John 6:40,47 (NASB95)** 40 “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day...47 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.
    4. **John 20:31 (NASB95)** 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

**VII. 1 John 5:10-12 (NASB95)** 10 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.

**a. 1 John 5:10 (NASB95) 10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself...**

**i. Testimony** - martyria (mar-too-ree<sup>1</sup>-ah) what one testifies, testimony, i.e. before a judge

1. In other words, it's my evidence or my testimony in front of the judge to validate my plea of innocence.
2. Notice it says that the Believer's testimony is where? "In himself"

**ii.** What is the testimony? ***"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."***

1. **John 3:17-19 (NASB95)** 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

**iii. What is meant then by the idea that we will have that testimony in us?**

1. **1 John 5:6 (NASB95)** This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

**iv.** Did you realize that it's the Holy Spirit that is a testament that you are a Believer?

1. He is spoken of as a seal on the Believer:

**a. Ephesians 1:13 (NASB95)** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

2. He is spoken of as a down payment or a pledge to the Believer:

a. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NLT)** 21 It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

v. Notice that Paul also tells us that not only is the Spirit our promise and pledge that we are secure and saved he tells us that the Spirit's presence is testifying something to us:

1. **Romans 8:16 (NASB95)** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

vi. The Holy Spirit inside of you is evidence of the testimony. He is the proof that you are saved!

b. How do I know if I have the Holy Spirit? If you learn anything from scripture it will have been because you have the Holy Spirit:

i. **1 Corinthians 2:11-15a (NASB95)** 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15a But he who is spiritual appraises all things...

c. Not only will the Holy Spirit have been the one to teach you, He will be the One that brought it back to your memory:

i. **John 14:26 (NASB95)** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

VIII. **1 John 5:13 (NASB95)** 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.

a. Not only does God not wish that any of us would perish, He wants us to all know on this side of heaven that our eternal destiny is sure.

- b. It's so important that God, through His Holy Spirit, compelled John to write this.
- c. The moment that an individual places their belief in Jesus Christ as their Savior is a Spiritual exchange of the highest order. It's an exchange that happens for that individual at the most intimate part of who they are. Because of the fact that it is a spiritual exchange it is unseen. Therefore, using physical, temporal methods to try to determine the validity of that most precious spiritual exchange between an individual and their Creator is incredibly inaccurate. It's faulty at best and at worst is blasphemous.
- d. I'd ask if you are an individual that struggles with their eternal security on the authority of Scripture I'd like to tell you today that you are eternally secure if you have:
  - 1. Believed in Jesus Christ as the Savior of your soul.
  - 2. You have understood anything that has been said here today. The only way you understood what has been said here is because the Holy Spirit would've had to have revealed it to you. If you have the Holy Spirit...You are Sealed and Secure!
- ii. "Before you became a Believer the battle is for your soul, after you become a Believer the battle for your soul is settled, now it's a battle for your mind.
- e. **John 5:24 (NASB95)** 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.
- f. **John 8:36 (NASB95)** "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.