

CAN I BE SURE OF HEAVEN?

SO YOU MAY KNOW MESSAGE SERIES WEEK 8

1 John 5:1-5, 13

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A. How to know if I am a born again Christian who is going to heaven:

1. Belief test: Do I believe Jesus is the Son of God who paid the penalty for my sin? (1 John 5:1, 5, 13)

“‘Believe’ is a present tense verb noting continuous action. This is not a one-time belief. It is a lifetime belief! And it is a personal and individual belief. No one else can believe for me. No one else can believe for you. You must believe the good news of the gospel for yourself. You must trust Jesus Christ the Son of God for yourself.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: 1, 2, & 3 John*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2004, p. 127.

2. Love test: Do I love God and my brothers and sisters in Christ? (1 John 5:2-3)

3. Obedience test: Do I have a desire to keep God’s commands? (1 John 5:2-3)

“John is saying that in the new birth I receive a new nature. With this new nature comes new affections, passions, treasures, and values. Because I now love God instead of hating Him, I treasure and value Him above everyone and everything else. And because I treasure and value Him above everyone and everything else, I delight in obeying Him. Now I find His commands not to be a burden, but a blessing.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: 1, 2, & 3 John*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2004, p. 124.

B. Three Responses:

- 1. I am ready to believe Jesus is the Son of God who died for my sins so I can be born again and have eternal life.**

“To be a Christian is to be born again or ‘born of God.’ If you have not been born again, you are not a Christian. However, if you will simply trust Jesus as your Messiah—believing Him to be the very Son of God who lived the life you should have lived but didn’t, died the death you should have died but now do not have to, and was raised from the dead to give you a salvation you do not deserve—you will indeed experience the supernatural work of God that is the new birth.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: 1, 2, & 3 John*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2004, p. 122.

- 2. I need to lovingly challenge and pray for those who do not have evidence of being born of God.**
- 3. I am rejoicing because I am confident that I have been born of God and will have eternal life.**

Discussion Question:

Why do some people believe they are going to heaven when they are not?