



Series: Know Your Bible

Lesson: 5. Unshakable Assurance

Why is knowing how to tell if we're saved important?

2 Cor. 13:5 – Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

2 Pet. 1:10a – Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you;

• _____ Assurance

1. _____ assurance

a. Just saying you're a Christian doesn't mean you're actually saved.

Matt. 7:21–23 – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

2. _____ assurance

- a. The belief that you should never have assurance of salvation until you get to Heaven
- b. Historically found in Arminian view (i.e., Methodist Church) and Semi-Pelagian view (Roman Catholic Church)
 - i. Both believe salvation can be lost if we don't keep doing good works.
 - ii. Both worry assurance of salvation will lead to antinomianism ('living without law').
 - iii. What's wrong with this view? (cf. Rom. 6)

Eph. 2:8–9 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

3. _____ assurance

*Is. 1:18 – “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the Lord,
“Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool.”*

*Is. 43:25 – “I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions
for My own sake,
And I will not remember your sins.”*

- a. Once someone is truly saved, that salvation can never be lost (cf. Eph. 1; 1 Pet. 1; biblical doctrines concerning God’s sovereignty in salvation).
- b. This teaching needs to be balanced with the biblical warnings against false faith and commands to check our faith to make sure it’s real.

- **Eight Reasons for _____ Assurance**

1. Strong _____.

- a. Proclaiming the full counsel of God's Word will include God's standards.

- b. Preaching that never convicts us is preaching that isn't worth our time.

2. Guilt

- a. Sometimes, we get out of balance by focusing only on God's holy standard and forget about His love and mercy.

- b. Satan is called the _____ (Job 1–2; Zech. 3:1)

3. _____

- a. "Assurance is built on the historical reality of what Jesus Christ accomplished; it is no mere feeling. You will never have the *subjective feeling* of assurance until you comprehend the *objective truth* of the

gospel.” (MacArthur)

- b. The Resurrection was meant to show us that our salvation is secure.

Rom. 4:25 – He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

1 Cor. 15:14, 17 – and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain...¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

4. Uncertainty

- a. Struggling to remember the moment of salvation can create doubt.
- b. Salvation isn't proven by a *past event*; it's demonstrated by a _____.

5. _____

- a. The pull of the flesh remains.

Rom. 8:23 – And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

b. We should see *both* sides of Romans 7.

6. Trials

a. Salvation does NOT mean no more trials!

Rom. 5:1–5 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Jas. 1:2–4 – Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Rom. 8:35–37 – Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written,

“For Your sake we are being put to death all day long;

We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

b. A robust theology of _____ is a
must for every Christian.

7. Self-reliance

a. If we live according to our own strength, we are likely
to doubt our relationship with God.

b. The Holy Spirit is supposed to affirm our relationship
with Him.

Rom. 8:15–16 – For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

c. Four ways the Holy Spirit testifies that we are God's children:

- i. Illuminating _____ (1 Cor. 2:9–16)
- ii. Sharing the _____

1 John 4:13–15 – By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

- iii. Drawing us into _____

Gal. 4:6 – Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

- iv. Producing _____

Gal. 5:22–23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

8. Disobedience

- a. A *persistent* pattern of disobedience should cause someone to question his/her faith.

1 John 5:1–2 – Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

- b. If struggling with doubt, check to see if there's an area of disobedience.

- **Biblical Tests of Genuine Salvation from 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.

1. Have you enjoyed fellowship with Christ and the Father?
(1:2–3; cf. 1 Cor. 1:9; Gal. 2:20)

2. Are you sensitive to sin? (1:5–10; cf. Rom. 7:14–25)
3. Do you obey God's Word? (2:3–5)
4. Do you reject this evil world? (2:5–17; cf. 5:19; 2 Cor. 4:4)
5. Do you eagerly await Christ's return? (3:2–3; cf. 1 Thess. 1:8–10; Tit. 2:11–13)
6. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life? (3:4–10; cf. Rom. 6:14, 17–18)
7. Do you love other Christians? (2:9–11; 3:10; cf. John 13:35; 1 Pet. 1:22)
8. Do you experience answered prayer? (3:22; 5:14–15)
9. Do you experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit? (2:27; 4:2, 13; cf. #7 in previous section)
10. Can you discern between spiritual truth and error? (4:1–6)

11. Have you suffered rejection because of your faith? (3:11–13; cf. John 15:18–21; 1 Pet. 4:4)

What Do We Do with These Truths?

1. Why do you think so many people develop a false assurance about their salvation?
2. Why do you think so many people reject assurance of their salvation?
3. How is it helpful to know what might shake your own assurance one day?
4. How would you describe the ‘happy medium’ of testing one’s faith without undermining assurance of salvation?

Blanks: Misplaced, Undeserved, Undermined, Biblical, Shaken, preaching, Accuser, Ignorance, present pattern, Temptation, suffering, Scripture, Gospel, fellowship, fruit