



Destiny Impact Fellowship

Empowering The Youth-Folk For Greater Exploit

# ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

## OBJECTIVE

1. It is possible to know that you have eternal life.
2. The gift of eternal life comes through faith in Jesus.
3. There are experiential realities that can bolster this assurance.

On a scale of 1-100, how sure are you that you will go to heaven when you die?"The basis for our assurance isn't about what we think or feel, or what we once heard someone say. This assurance is based on a solemn declaration of fact by God who cannot lie. The bible is clear on the fact that you can know you have eternal life even now. However, there are 5 important facts that can get you started about the assurance of salvation;

### i. **Eternal life is a gift and God is the giver**

Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life** through Christ Jesus our Lord (NLT).

I John 5: 11... And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life**, and this life is in his Son (NLT).

You must know that "God has given you eternal life." He didn't sell it, or offer a trade. There was no auction. Eternal life is a gift. You can't earn it, or even warrant it. It is a gift. God is the one who gives eternal life- so He is in a better position to tell you how you can know you have it.

### ii. **God desires you to have this gift of eternal life and He wants you to know that you have it.**

John 6:40 - **For my Father's will** is that **everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day (NIV).

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life**, and have it to the full (NIV).

I John 5:13- I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

You must understand that it has been in the heart of God for you to have eternal life. Eternal life is not just a wishy wishy thing. It doesn't just fall out of the bloom. It's a gift that God gives to people.

### iii. **God promises to give eternal life and He has given this life to anyone who ask Him.**

John 3:14-16 - Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, **that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

God made a promise to give eternal life as a gift and He will only give the gift of eternal life to

those who ask for it in faith.

**iv. God will always keep to His word (promise)** Ps 89:34; Num 23:19; Isa 55:9-11, 45:19; John 10:35b

Psalms 89:34 - My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Num 23:19 - God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? (NLT)

You can be rest assured that God will always keep to His word. Whatsoever He promise you. Be sure He's going to keep to His word. You can count on it. And since God has promised us eternal life, you can count on the integrity of His word which cannot lie.

**v. The Bible (which is God's Word) says clearly that a believer in Christ can know that he has eternal life and also how he can know that he has eternal life.**

Again the bible says clearly that it is possible for one not just to have eternal life when he believe the gospel of salvation but to also know that he has eternal life. However, only believers in Christ can know for sure that they have eternal life. Only born again children of God can have this assurance.

I John 5:13- I write these things **to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

I John 5:10 - **He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself:** he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

It doesn't make much sense trying to explain to an unbeliever how to know he has eternal life. Why? Because eternal life is a work of the Holy Spirit and the natural man (unbeliever) cannot understand the things of the spirit. You can spend that time showing him how to receive eternal life.

I Cor 2:14 - But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for **they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*,** because they are spiritually discerned.

**So how can you know you have eternal life?**

There is only one way you can know if you have eternal life. The Bible says **You must have the son.** You must have Jesus because eternal life can only be found in Jesus.

I John 5:11-12 - And the testimony is this, that **God has given us eternal life,** and this life is in His Son. **He who has the Son has the life;** he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

John 3:36 - And **anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life.** Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

Jesus Himself speaking in;

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, the truth, and **the life:** no man cometh unto the

Father, but by me.

John 1:4 - **In him was life**; and the life was the light of men.

John 17:3 - And this is the way to have eternal life--to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth (NLT).

**So do you have the son? How can you know you have the son?**

**How can you find out you have the son?**

Three main ways the Bible say we can know that we have the Son:

We know because of our obedience: I John 2:3; 2:5; 3:10

We know because of our love: I John 3:10; 3:14; 3:18

We know because of His Spirit which lives in us: I John 3:24; 4:13

**Besides these, there are some experiential realities/ sign post that can also help you to know that you have eternal life. Let mention but a few of these signposts;**

1. You will have a witness in yourself that you have the son and you have eternal life

I John 5:10 - **He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself**: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

II Cor 13:5 - Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. **Test yourselves**. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.

2. You will have peace

When the prince of peace comes into your life, be sure that His peace will fill your heart. He will bring rest to your soul and a peace that surpasses every human understanding.

3. You can now approach God as your father without any form of guilt, shame or inferiority  
Gal 4:6; Heb 4:16

The word translated "dear father" is *abba*, which is a word of affection that a young child would use endearingly toward his or her father. A western equivalent of that phrase would be "papa" or "daddy." God does not want to be viewed as some distant, disinterested father, but as a loving, approachable father to whom you can turn at any time because you are His child.

4. You will want to keep His commandments

I John 2:3-6 - By this we know that we have come to know Him, **if we keep His**

**commandments.** 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; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

What is your response to the word of God? Those who are truly saved respond differently each time they hear the word. Is there a desire to obey and follow Christ teaching in your life? Those who are truly born again will want to obey the scripture. They will want to practice righteousness (do what is right at all cost).

5. You will want to follow Christ example

I John 2:6 - the one who says he abides in Him **ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

You will have a different attitude. You will begin to walk differently. Your lifestyle will begin to show signs that you have a relationship with the master. There will begin to show some new creation realities in your life. You will gradually begin to develop and produce some fruit in your life that are in line with the personality (God) that you are carrying in your inside (Matt 7:16-17; Gal 5:21-22).

6. God disciplines his children Heb 12:5-9

Recognizing you are now a child of God is not some distant hope but a present reality. One of the ways God will remind you of this is by correcting you and bringing you back into line like a loving father when you stray away from Him. Before we were believers, we may have felt no sense of guilt for certain things we did or did not do. But now that we are Christians, God's Holy Spirit shows us the way to live, which includes correcting us. He does this not because He hates us, but because He loves us as His own dear children. Understanding this truth should help us in the way we behave.

7. There will be a strong desire to learn more about Christ and to also grow spiritually
8. You will begin to have strong hatred for sin and any form of unrighteousness.

Heb 1:9

Those who have God's son living in the inside of them will hate what He hates. When you see God's grace as license to continue living in sin, it is clear indication that you don't have eternal life in the inside of you. You will be broken and will mourn over your sin. You can't be comfortable anymore living around sin. Not all environments will appeal to you anymore.

9. There will be a hunger and discipline to pray, to read, study, share or teach God's words.

Those who are genuinely born again will want to spend more time in God's presence listening to His word and speaking to Him in prayer (I John 5:11).

10. You will not be ashamed of the gospel Rom 1:16

11. Love for other believers I John 4:20-21; Heb

Those who are born again will not neglect the fellowship with other believers. They will desire the company of other believers. In fact, your attitude towards other

believers will be greatly affected. You will begin to look at people with some dignity and value and not just some mere object.

12. You will want to respect authority.

It is critical to note that these lines of evidence are not the causes of our salvation, but the result of it. If we are saved, we will necessarily grow in obedience and love, and we will experience the Holy Spirit more fully (Gal 5:22-24). Recognizing these things in our lives gives us great assurance that the Gospel has taken root in our hearts. These lines also were not presented to us as the rungs of a ladder we must climb in order to earn salvation. **Rather, they are given as the signposts that accompany salvation. We do these things not to earn eternal life, but because we already have it.**

### **What if I don't feel saved?**

One of the greatest tricks and deception of the devil is to make Christians doubt their salvation. When you doubt your salvation, you doubt God's word and when you doubt God's word, you are powerless and ineffective tool for Christ. A lot of people believe they are saved only if they have some powerful emotion or overwhelming feelings, visiting of angels or visions before they can say they are saved and have eternal life. However, feelings change every now and then. Every Christian has times when feelings are not strong, no matter what our experience have been in the past. His promise are not based upon your feelings (I John 5:11-13)

There will be times as a Christian when you may not "feel" God's presence. You may even be tempted to doubt that He has come into your life. But you must remember **"it was not your feelings that got you saved in the first place – it is Christ"**. Your faith in Christ is what got you saved. I John 5:13 does not say, *"I write this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may feel you have eternal life."* This is because feelings come and go. They fluctuate. Nor does the Bible say, *"I write this so that you may hope- if God is in a really good mood – that you have eternal life."* It says, *"so that you may know....."* And Jesus promises eternal life to as many that will believe the gospel of salvation and put their confidence in Him. Eternal life is yours! Stand on God's promise to you. You are forgiven, justified, adopted into His family, and assured of salvation. Now that is reason to rejoice!

### **What would God do if I sin?**

The scripture is clear that God hate sin and also punishes the sinner (Heb 1:9; But He also forgives sin and cleanse any record of wrong doing (I John 1:9)

### **Conclusion**

In a nutshell, I know I have eternal life because I believe the gospel of salvation and I am made a new creation in Christ Jesus. God's word tells me so and I know that God cannot lie. The Bible says that if I put my personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, that God has made me a member of His family. So God said it, I believe Him and that settles it.

It is also clear from scripture that there will be some experiential realities that I will begin to recognize in my life as learn more and more about Christ to further give an assurance that the

gospel has taken root in my heart. However, some of these signposts may not follow immediately in my experience but as I grow every day in the faith it will be clear that I really have a relationship with Jesus. This is because though I am "perfect" in my position in Christ, I obviously am not perfect in my daily condition. When I trusted Christ, He not only gave me a perfect position in Him, He also began the work of making my life look more and more like His. I want to continue making "progress" in my daily walk, so that my life in this world becomes more like who am already are in Christ. This is a life-long process that involves several spiritual disciplines that God has given me to help me grow and mature. And so am confident that whatever happens I am still a child of my father. I will not quit because He never gives up on me. Am gonna keep getting better as I press on to know Him and experience the love He has for me.

These disciplines will be discussed in the next chapter under spiritual maturity. Phil. 2:12-13 and 3:12-14 are just a couple of the many exhortations to pursue growth and maturity.