


Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

Lesson 13. Assurance of Salvation

6/30/2019

 ***“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)***

- **Believers in Jesus Christ can know with confidence that they have eternal life.**
 - How can I know that I have eternal life?**
 - How can I have assurance that I am saved?**

I. Assurance is grounded in knowing and trusting my relationship to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- 2 Timothy 1:12 *“I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”*

A. My relationship to the Father gives assurance of salvation.

1. Promises to believe:

God has promised eternal life to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

- John 3:36 *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life;”*
- Philippians 1:6 *“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”*
- 1 Peter 5:10, 11 *“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”*
- Also 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

2. Action to trust:

The power of God preserves our eternal destiny.

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

B. My relationship to the Son, Jesus Christ, gives assurance of salvation.

1. Promise to believe:

- Romans 8:38-39 *“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.”*
- John 6:37 *“All that the Father gives to Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.”*

2. Action to trust:

- Jesus provided a complete salvation through His death and resurrection.
- John 14:2, 3 *“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

C. My relationship to the Holy Spirit gives assurance of salvation.

1. Promise to believe:

- Ephesians 4:30 *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*
- Ephesians 1:13, 14 *“You were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”*

2. Action to trust:

a. Having the Spirit of God assures our relationship with God.

- 1 John 3:24 *“And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*
- 1 John 4:13 *“Be this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”*

b. The Spirit witnesses that we are children of God.

- Romans 8:16, 17 *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”*

Also Galatians 4:6; cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:5

3. What is the evidence that the Spirit of God is working in my life?

📖 Galatians 5:16, 22-23 Evidence of walking by the Spirit

📖 Ephesians 5:18-21 Evidence of being filled by the Spirit

II. Assurance of salvation is enhanced by the evidence of Christian life.

📖 *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Christ Jesus is in you – unless indeed you fail the test?”* (2 Corinthians 13:5)

A. The evidence of discipleship

1. Continue in God’s Word John 8:31
2. Love for one another John 13:34, 35
3. Bear much fruit John 15:8...

“By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

B. The evidences of salvation from 1 John

📖 *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.”* (1 John 5:13)

1. **Doctrinal test.** Do you confess that Jesus Christ is both God and man; that He was sent into the world to die for your sins; and that He was raised bodily from the dead?

1 John 2:19, 22-23; 4:2, 3, 9, 10, 14, 15; 5:1, 2, 10, 11

2. **Fellowship test.** Do you have “fellowship” (partnership!) with God rather than with the world? Have you set your affections upon things above rather than things on earth?

1 John 1:3; 2:15 Cf. John 3:19-21; 15:19

3. **Moral test.** Is your life characterized by the practice of righteousness and the avoidance of evil? Does your lifestyle demonstrate your faith?

1 John 2:3-6 *“We know that we have come to know Him”* by obedience to God’s commands.

1 John 2:29; 1 John 3:6-10 contrast Ephesians 2:1, 2 and Romans 8:7, 8

1 John 5:18

4. **Social test.** Do you have an evident love for other believers? Do you enjoy company with and desire to help or serve other members of the family of God?

1 John 2:9-11

1 John 3:14, 15 *“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.”*

1 John 4:7, 8; cf. 1 John 3:16-18

Note: How will others know that we are disciples of Jesus? (John 13:34, 35)

C. The evidence of those who fear the Lord

1. Obedience to God's Word

Proverbs 14:2 *"He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is cooked in his ways despises Him."*

2. Avoidance of evil

Proverbs 3:7 *"Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and turn from evil."*

Proverbs 8:13 *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil."*

3. Praise and glory given to God

Proverbs 22:23 *"You who fear the Lord, praise Him."*

4. Stability in life

Proverbs 14:26 *"In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence."*

Proverbs 15:16 *"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and turmoil with it."*

5. Instructed in wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

Summary

I. Assurance is grounded in knowing and trusting my relationship to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Promises to believe and actions of God to trust.

II. Assurance of salvation is enhanced by the evidence of Christian life.

- The evidence of discipleship
 - The evidence from 1 John:
Doctrinal test, Fellowship test, Moral test, Social test
 - The evidence of the Fear of the Lord
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