

Stepping from *Uncertainty* to Confidence



Comparing Our Stories

Everyone experiences uncertainties in their relationship with God at one time or another.

My experience...

Your experience...

What questions or uncertainties have you had about Jesus Christ and your relationship with Him?

Considering Our Struggles

Consider the impact doubts and uncertainty have on relationships. Imagine a new marriage relationship that is filled with doubts...

Doubts about the relationship:

Will this really last?

Doubts about the partner:

Is this the right person?

Doubts about themselves:

Am I really committed?

What impact would doubts like these have on a marriage? Why?

How could similar doubts have an impact on our relationship with Jesus? Why?

Common Questions and Uncertainties

Who is Jesus?

Is He really who I think He is?

What does He want to do in
my life?

What does He really want
from me?

What has happened to me?

Did I do it right?

Do I need to do it again?

Was I sincere enough?

Can I lose my relationship with
Him?

Exploring the Solution

John wrote a letter to help give confidence to believers who were becoming unsettled by false teachers (1 John). As you read the following portion of Scripture, use the questions to help you discover how John dealt with the problem of uncertainty.

1 John 5:9-13

⁹We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ¹⁰Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I 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.

(5:9)

What is testimony?

What makes testimony trustworthy?

What has God made testimony about?

(5:10)

Since God has given us testimony, what two options exist?

What is true if we believe God?

What is true if we don't believe God?

(5:11)

God's testimony says two things are true? What are they?

(5:12)

What two kinds of people are there?

Is it possible to have the Son and not have the life?

Is it possible to not have the Son and still have the life?

Is it possible to think you have the life but don't?

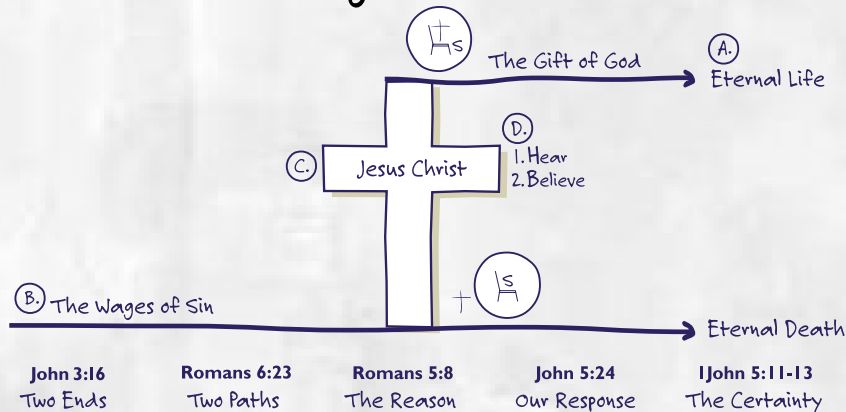
Is it possible to have the life but not be sure?

(5:13)

To whom is John writing these things?

Why does he write them? Does John believe we can know we have eternal life?

Examining the Sketch



The Issue: How do I know if I have the Son?

A. Read John 3:16.

What two possible destinies are described in this verse?
Which destiny does God desire for us? Why?

B. Read Romans 6:23.

What have we earned? How?
What does God desire to give us? How?

C. Read Romans 5:8.

What compelled God to give His Son to die for us?
Why did Jesus have to die?

D. Read John 5:24.

According to this verse, what is my part in salvation?

Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead and is now alive as the Lord of life. Each person who hears the message, turns from going their own independent way, and trusts Jesus Christ to be their Savior, passes from "death" to "life."

Look back at 1 John 5:11-13.

According to this sketch, where is the person who has Christ?
Where is the person who does not have Christ?
Where would you put yourself on the sketch and why?
On a scale of 0-100%, how sure are you that you now have eternal life?

Summary: Based upon the promises given by God, everyone who has the Son can be assured that they have eternal life with God.

Taking Steps

John wrote many other things to help give us confidence:

To those who were uncertain about Jesus and whether they believed in Him, he wrote the Gospel of John (see John 20:30-31).

Read the Gospel of John.

Look for the evidence that Jesus is the Son of God.

Mark the explanations of how we are to respond to Him.

To those who believed in Jesus but were uncertain about eternal life, he wrote the letter known as 1 John (see 1 John 5:13).

Read 1 John.

Mark the statements with the word *know*.

Look for what these statements tell us about:

What we are to believe.

What we are to do.

How we are to love.



Next Concept

FROM UNCERTAINTY TO CONFIDENCE



FROM FEELINGS OF UNWORTHINESS TO FORGIVENESS

FROM BEING UNABLE TO EMPOWERED

FROM BEING UNPREPARED TO EQUIPPED

FROM BEING UNDEVELOPED TO MATURITY

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