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**ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

**“TO SEE IS TO KNOW”**

***1 John 5:13 (HCSB)***

***I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God; so that you may know that you have eternal life!***

* **Lesson:** How to have assurance of your salvation
* **Key passage: 1 John 5:10-15, 1 John 3:14**
* **Key words:** *KNOW* and *SEE*
* **Writer:**Ginny Porter
* **Hear the Word:**This lesson is available on audio and video.

**Introduction**

Do you know where you are spiritually? Have you ever examined yourself to *see* if you are in the faith? Because this is such an important issue with eternal ramifications, we don’t want to miss this opportunity to know for sure where we stand. While we may be confused about our spiritual status -- God is not. Yet regardless of where we are now, we can know for sure that He loves us and desires for us to live with blessed assurance. And not only does the Bible state clearly that we can *know for sure*, the Bible also tells us *how to be sure*. There is no time like the present to settle the matter once and for all.

Many people question their salvation. This is not necessarily a bad thing unless you live with unwarranted anxiety about whether or not you are saved. If this describes you, then I have some very good news. I assure you, based on the authority of the Word of God, that you can know for sure; and even if you fail the test, take heart -- there is a remedy!

We assume that people who attend church must be Christians. However, as I tell Yuki, my sister in Christ from China; just because we eat at her family’s Chinese restaurant, it doesn’t make us Chinese. Likewise, going to a church building and having your name on the roll, does not mean you are a Christian!

***Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)***

***“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’***

Many people who attend churches of all denominations are trusting in church affiliations, reformations, confirmation, dedications and family relations as their salvation. God does not have grandchildren. He only has children, and they were all birthed into His family by the Holy Spirit. If you are trusting in anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ to save you, then you are still lost in your sin.

**Am I Alive?**

***1 John 5:11-12 (NASB)***

***“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.”***

When the Spirit of God lives in you, He will testify to your second birth and new life in Christ. And likewise, you will know you are alive by seeing some birthmarks that authenticate that you are a Christian (Ephesians 1:13-14). At the moment of spiritual birth, our inner character begins the process of metamorphosis -- just like a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. It’s called sanctification. This is how we are conformed to bear the likeness of the One who has taken up residency within us -- the Holy Spirit. We have been raised from spiritual death, and now we are alive in Christ. The change should be apparent, not only to us, but also those who know us best. Although people can try to reform their lives, without a spiritual birth, they are incapable of changing themselves.

* What are the universal Signs of life? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Romans 8:6-9 (NIV)***

***The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.***

If we cannot *see* the signs of life, then we cannot *know* we are saved. The evidence should be apparent. If we claim to be saved, and there is nothing new about our actions and attitudes, then this should lead us to ask ourselves this question: “Am I saved?” We may *profess* to know God, but we do not *possess* salvation. We are still lost and separated from God who loves us.

***1 John 5:13***

***I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God; so that YOU may KNOW that you have eternal life!***

**WORD SEARCH: from Strong’s Concordance**

* **Know** Greek: Strong’s #1492 Eido *to see*, to *know*, be *aware, behold, can tell-look on-perceive, be sure, understand.*  This word is often translated as the word saw. (John 1:47-48,50) See translated as know or see in the following passages: 1 John 3:13, 5:13, 15,16-18,19 The same word is translated as know and saw in the following verses: John 1:47-48.
* **Behold** Greek: Strong’s #2400 –from # 1492 Idou: *behold, lo, see.* (2 Cor. 5:17) “*If a man be (in Christ) he is a new creation BEHOLD, all things are new.”* This word comes from the Greek word Eido.
* **Follow** Greek: Strong’s #190 Akolotho: *to be in the same way with, as a particle-union, to accompany (specifically) as a disciple: -follow, reach.*
* **Hear** Greek: Strong’s #191 Akouo: *to hear, give in the audience of, come to the ears, hear, and understand.*
* **Obey** Greek: Strong’s #5219 Hupakouo: *to hear under as a subordinate, to listen attentively, to heed or conform to a command or authority hearken, be obedient to obey!*

**DIGGING DEEPER: Read the following passages and make notes of any insights and personal applications.**

* John 3:1-19; Ephesians 2:1-13; Galatians 6:15; John 12:44-46; 2 Timothy 2:19; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

**Three Witnesses**

***Deuteronomy 19:15b (NASB)***

***“…On the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.”***

If we are alive in Christ, there are three witnesses who will testify to our second birth or “*resurrection from the dead.*” And all three witnesses should be in agreement (1 John 3:13-14). Please note, however, that the test is *not* someone else’s experience compared to yours. In addition, you cannot look at a *one-time event* in your life as proof that you are saved or a time of great failure as proof that you are lost. You need to look at all the evidence as revealed next to the light and truth of God’s Word. We must examine ourselves in order to *see* if there are any signs of life. By the way, the entire book of 1 John is the test. The apostle John was in Ephesus when he wrote it.

1. A personal salvation experience (your second birthday) (John 3:3-18; 1Peter 1:22-25; 1 John 2:29).
2. The Word of God is the true mirror and judge of our hearts (James 1:21-25; Hebrews 4:12-13; John 2:24-25).
3. A changed life produces the fruit of the Spirit -- the evidence that *He* is in you (Romans 8:9-11&16).

***2 Peter 1:10 (HCSB)***

***Therefore, brothers, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble.***

**DIGGING DEEPER: Read the following passages and make notes of any insights and personal applications.**

* 1 John 3:14; John 6:63; 2 Timothy 2:19; Titus 1:16; 1 Corinthians 8:3; Matthew 7:13-24

**Test Yourself**

***2 Corinthians 13:5-6 (NASB)***

***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? But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.***

Have you ever experienced some symptoms that indicated that you may have a serious illness? If so, then you know that the only way to alleviate nagging anxiety and worry is to visit a doctor who will perform a thorough examination. Only then can you have peace of mind, a proper diagnosis and a plan of treatment. Likewise, a checkup of our spiritual health can alleviate the uncertainty of where we stand in relation to God. In this lesson, we’ll be checking our “spiritual pulse” so to speak.

***1 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)***

***“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”***

The words *know* in 1 John 5:13 and *behold* in 2 Corinthians 5:17 come from the same root Greek word. (See the WORD SEARCH: from Strong’s Concordance below) We cannot *know* we are saved unless we can *see* the evidence, and the evidence is seen in God’s mirror – His Word. If what we are calling salvation is not in agreement with what God says is salvation -- then we are deceived.

* Have you ever served on a jury in a court of law? If so describe what kinds of evidence it takes to convict a person.

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Let’s examine the evidence and see if we can identify a turning point (repentance and faith) when we passed from death to life. If you’re like me, you may not have an actual day or month recorded. However, if God Himself has taken up residency within a person, they cannot remain the same.

NOTE: The test is *not* someone else’s experience compared to yours. You cannot look at a *one-time event* in your life as proof that you are saved or a time of great failure as proof that you are lost. You need to look at all the evidence as revealed next to the light and truth of God’s Word.

**DIGGING DEEPER: Read the following passages and make notes of any insights and personal applications.**

* Matthew 7:13-24; 1 Timothy2:3-4; Acts 21:20-21; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 8:5-17

**To *See* This Evidence is to *Know***

* **Can you and others (behold or see) that all things are new in you?**

I would like to tell you about a special brother in Christ whose life was a picture of this kind of transformation. His name was Frank Lucido. Frank was fifty years old when he was born again. We were together on a mission trip to Corn Island, Nicaragua, when I joined my pastor and him at a small radio station. This day just happened to be Frank’s seventh birthday. I was excited to know that his testimony would be broadcast throughout two islands, and for reasons I did not understand at the time, I recorded Frank’s story and felt that something very special was taking place. A few months after we taped his testimony, Frank went home to be with Jesus. And through this recording, Frank preached his own funeral service. In fact, he is still telling his story through a blog on our website. (You can hear it for yourself if you go to strandofpearls.org)

***2 Corinthians 5:11; 14-18(NIV)***

***Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, (BEHOLD), the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.***

* **Do you desire the hearing of God’s Word?**

Spiritually dead people do not have an appetite for God’s Word until the Holy Spirit abides in them (Hebrews 4:12-14; 1 Peter 1:22-23; Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; John 5:24-25, 6:63-68; 8:43-47; &51-53; 10:27;12:46-48; 15:7-8; 2 John 1:9).

***John 10:27-28 (HCSB)***

***My sheep HEAR my voice, I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them from my hand.***

* **Do you obey God’s Word?**

Obedience always accompanies true faith, and yet someone who is new in the faith does not know all that God requires of them. In order for them to obey all that He has commanded them, someone must disciple them (Romans1:5-6, 8:7, 16:26-27; Hebrews 5:9; John 3:36, 14:15-26, 15:9-14, 16:8; 1 John 2:3-6, 3:22-23, 5:2-3; 3 John 3:1:11).

***1 John 2:3-4 (NASB)***

***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.***

* Can you honestly say that you are quick to obey God when He reveals actions that He wants you to take? Or do you require complete understanding before stepping out in faith and obedience? If so, then do you recognize why this could be? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **This is the major evidence… do you love God and others?**

Love for God and love for others are the tangible pieces of evidence and birthmarks of every child of God. Whereas, an absence of love, clearly indicates there is no relationship with God who is love (Matthew 5:43-48, 22:37-40; 1 John 3:11-24, 4:7-5:4; Galatians 5:13-22; John 13:34-35, 15:12-13; Romans 5:5; James 2:8).

***1 John 3:14 & 18-22 (HCSB)***

***We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. 18Little children, we must not love in word or speech, but indeed and truth; 19 that is how we will know we are of the truth, and will convince our hearts in His presence,20 because if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. 21 Dear friend, if our hearts do not condemn us we have confidence before God, 22 and can receive whatever we ask from Him because we keep His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight. 23 Now this is His command: that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as He commanded us.***

* **Do you testify and witness to others about what God has done for you?**

*“If you no wish for others to be saved---you are not saved yourself, be sure of that” ---*C.H. Spurgeon (John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:1-1; 2 Corinthians 5:11-20; Isaiah 43:8-12)

* Can you identify a moment when you began to care about other people’s souls? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* When was the last time you shared your testimony? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Acts 1:8 (HCSB)***

***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

* **Are you convicted by the inside voice of the Holy Spirit when you sin?**

Many believers go through times when they question if they are saved. Most of the time, this is because they are struggling with sin in some area of their lives. One indicator that you are saved *from* your sins is if you’re fighting *against* sin. Because when the Holy Spirit lives in you, He won’t let you remain in sin for long. Now, on the other hand, some people wrestle with doubts because they are still dead in their sins.

The Greek word for voice is Phone. Do you hear God’s voice ring *inside* of you when you are disobeying God, or is He still *outside* convicting you of your need to repent (1 John 1:8-10; 2 Corinthians 7:10)?

* Can you describe a time in your life that God revealed specific sins that were unconfessed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***John16:8 (HCSB)***

***When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.***

* **When you sin, do you experience the discipline of the Lord when you refuse to repent?**

Hebrews chapter twelve clearly states that those who God loves, He disciplines. If we are not corrected by God when we sin, this could be an indicator that we are not His. “*God had One Son without sin, but not a single child without the rod.” …* C.H. Spurgeon (Hebrews 12:5-11; Job 5:17-18; Proverbs 3:11-12; Revelations 3:19; Psalm 118:18; 2 Samuel 7:14-15)

***Psalms 89:30-33 (HCSB)***

***If his sons forsake My instructionif they dishonor My statutes then I will call their rebellion to account with the rod, their sin with blows. But I will not withdraw My faithful love from him or betray My faithfulness.***

* **Do you often receive answers to your prayers as the fruit of your abiding in Christ Jesus?**

Beforesalvation**,** accordingtoIsaiah59andotherpassages**,** God does not hear the prayers of those who are separated from Him. It is quite the contrary for those who are in Christ. In the following passages, you will find ample evidence that answered prayer is a clear sign of salvation (Isaiah 59:1-3; Ephesians 3:12; John 14:11-17, 15: 7-8, 16; Matthew 7:7-12).

***1 John 5:13-15 (HSCB)***

***I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.Now this is the confidence we have before Him: Whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.***

* List some recent answers to specific prayers. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIGGING DEEPER: Read the following passages and make notes of any insights**

**and personal applications.**

* 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 3:3-11; 1 John 1:5-6; 10; 2:3-11; 29, 3:6-1; 13-24

**Think About These Things**

1. Have you ever examined yourself to see if Christ is *in you*?
2. Does your life bear witness to your resurrection from spiritual death?
3. If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
4. If you do not *see* the *signs of life* or evidence that the Lord *Jesus is in you,* then He has opened your eyes to see who you are and where you are.
5. Now you know what is missing in your life! Jesus is missing!
6. He loves you! He died to save you! I plead with you, if you hear His voice, repent and believe the Good News. (Mark1:14; Revelation 3:1-3) Today is the day of salvation!

**Pearls of Wisdom**

***1 John 5:13-15 (HSCB)***

***I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God; so that you may know that you have eternal life.Now this is the confidence we have before Him: Whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.***