

Lesson 6 – ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

KEY POINTS:

- A. We are encouraged to be sure of our salvation
- B. God's Spirit in us provides constant evidence of our salvation.
- C. Salvation improves our general attitude.
- D. God's Spirit and His Word progressively transform our thinking.
- E. We gain assurance of salvation as our knowledge of Jesus increases.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:

Key Point A

1. II Peter 1:10-11 – We are encouraged to make our “calling and election” sure
2. I John 5:13 – The book of I John was written so we might know we are saved
3. Daniel 5:12 & 16 – Our God is able and desires to dissolve all our doubts
4. I John 1:4 – God wants us to be sure of our salvation so we have joy

Key Point B

5. Romans 8:14-16 – God's Spirit binds us to God the Father with intimacy
6. Romans 5:1 – Salvation brings us peace with God
7. Galatians 5:17-23 – God's Spirit in us begins a warfare against our flesh
8. John 16:13-14 – God's Spirit guides us into truth and glorifies Jesus

Key Point C

12. I John 4:16-18 – The fear we once felt is now replaced with God's love
13. I John 2:9-10 & 4:20-21 – God's love in us extends to our new brethren
14. John 13:35 – God's love in us begins to identify us as Jesus' disciples
15. Romans 15:13 – God fills us with joy and peace which leads to hope

Key Point D

16. Romans 12:1-3 – Our lives are transformed when our minds are renewed
17. Philippians 2:3-16 – Spiritually minded is different from worldly minded
18. II Timothy 1:7 – God has given us the spirit of a sound mind
19. I Corinthians 2:9-16 – God's Spirit teaches us spiritual things (mind of Christ)
20. I John 2:15 – We no longer love the world as our desires have changed
21. I John 1:6-7 – No longer in darkness, God now shows us how to live

Key Point E

19. Matthew 11:2-6 – Knowledge of Jesus helped John gain assurance
20. Philippians 3:8-10 – To walk with Jesus is to gain knowledge of Jesus
21. Colossians 1:10 – Pleasing God, being fruitful and increasing in knowledge

DISCUSSION

The Bible tells us that the Devil is a liar and the father of lies (**John 8:44**). As such, we can expect him to sow seeds of doubt and confusion in our lives, even regarding whether or not we have been saved. Some well-meaning advisors have encouraged new converts to just ignore these doubts and “claim” their salvation based on the promises in the Word of God. Of course we need to combat these satanic attacks but there is a better strategy than ignoring these doubts. The proper strategy is to overcome doubts by gaining assurance. This final lesson in this study series will help us to achieve this goal and provide the foundation for an effective and fruitful life for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

First of all, it is important to understand that doubts are part of our human nature and something with which we must contend. God encourages us to confront these doubts. He wants to help us deal effectively and completely with them and there may be no greater evidence than the book of **I John** in the Bible. According to **Chapter 5, verse 13**, God had this book written just so we might know for sure that we had been saved. When we have assurance that our eternal destiny has been sealed and we are confident in our salvation, then our lives can become productive for God and full of joy.

God’s Spirit in us provides assurance of our salvation. Just think for a moment; the saved person is united spiritually with God. This intimacy with God gives us great peace. Also, it sets up a warfare with the flesh because the two are naturally opposed to each other. The struggle we now face inside ourselves, to do what God wants us to do, did not exist when we were lost. There is now a part of us that longs for the truth. The fact that there is a struggle, combined with our desire to know the truth, is evidence and assurance of salvation.

In addition to the peace inside and the struggle within us to do God’s Will, salvation changes our general attitude. The fear we once felt regarding our soul’s condition and destiny is now gone. We may still have mental battles in this area but there is no deep-seated concern. Also, God has shed His love abroad in our hearts (**Romans 5:5**). Where once we may have had little or no concern for others, now we would sacrifice for them if necessary. We are no longer ashamed to be identified with Jesus (though concerns over persecution may cloud that feeling) and joy and peace begin to permeate our thoughts and actions. Clearly, God’s great work in our hearts is becoming evident in the way we look at life. As we notice this, it gives us assurance that we are certainly not the same person we once were.

As the saved person begins to hear and read more about Jesus and His Word, a wonderful thing happens. His thinking begins to be transformed. He becomes spiritually minded and is no longer ruled by the world and its devices. Certainly, there is still a daily struggle with sin with which we must all contend, however, as God changes our thinking we meet those sinful challenges with God’s Word (much as Jesus did when tempted by Satan in the wilderness - **Matthew 4:1-11**). We must never underestimate the power of God’s Word when joined with God’s Holy Spirit. His Word is alive and powerful (**Hebrews 4:12**)

and able to change the most vile thoughts and overcome the highest obstacles. This transformed thinking is light to our dark world and illuminates the path of righteousness which God wants us to walk.

There is a direct correlation between our knowledge of the Savior and assurance of our salvation. The knowledge we seek, however, is not merely a collection of facts. It is knowledge that comes through the experience of walking with Jesus. When Jesus encouraged us to follow Him, He reminded us that His path was not going to be easy (**John 15:20**). To walk with Jesus is to suffer and be persecuted with Him. Though difficult, this path provides assurance that you are His and He protects and guides you. This becomes very clear as you read the Apostle Paul's writings. You see his boldness and his confidence grow as he walks closer and closer to the Savior. This boldness and confidence is a direct result of the assurance of his salvation that he gained during this walk.

SUMMARY

The Scriptures point out many ways in which we receive assurance of our salvation. God encourages us to review these and resolve any lingering doubts so that our lives can be used for His honor and glory. Don't be ashamed that doubts have entered your mind. It is to be expected. Instead, be ashamed that you have left these doubts unchallenged and they are holding your Christian walk hostage. We serve a God who is able to dissolve all doubts.

Question? Is it reasonable to expect all doubts about our salvation to leave, never to return?

(Hint) – Review John the Baptist's question to Jesus in **Matthew 11:2-6** and use your knowledge of sin and when we finally overcome its affect in our lives.