

# SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

## I. WHAT IS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

- A. A conviction that we know God (2 Timothy 1:12)
- B. Realizing you have entered an unbreakable relationship with God, instead of just a breakable fellowship (John 1:12; Psalm 37:23, 24)
- C. Realizing God is responsible for keeping our imperishable salvation for us (I Peter 1:3-5; I Corinthians 1:8; Jude 24, 25; John 10:27-30)
- D. It is God's Spirit bearing witness to our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:9; 16; 2 Corinthians 13:5; I John 4:13)
- E. Believing God's promises (Romans 10:9-13; John 3:16; 5:24; Hebrews 6:17-20) ... Salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8, 9)...and His gifts are irrevocable (Romans 11:29)

## II. WHY WE NEED ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- A. Assurance is commanded in order to have a true heart before God (Hebrews 10:19-22).
- B. Assurance is necessary in order to love the brethren (I John 3:14, 18; 4:18, 19; John 13:34, 35)
- C. Assurance is necessary for victory over Satan (Ephesians 6:10-17...particularly the helmet of salvation)
- D. Assurance is necessary to give us confidence and boldness (Hebrews 10:19; 2 Timothy 1:7)

## III. HOW TO HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- A. Examine your life in light of the evidence of conversion (I John 2:5b, 6)
  - 1. Awareness of sin (I Thessalonians 1:8-10)
  - 2. Hunger for God's Word (I Peter 2:2)
  - 3. Desire for a changed life (2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - 4. Increase in testing (2 Timothy 3:12)
  - 5. A love for other Christians (John 13:34,35)
  - 6. Desire to share Christ so that others may know Him (Psalm 107:2; Jeremiah 20:9; I Corinthians 9:16, 17; I Thessalonians 1:8-10)
  - 7. The Holy Spirit has entered your life (Romans 8:9)
    - a. You confess and believe that Jesus has come in the flesh (I John 4:1-3)
    - b. You confess and believe that Jesus is the Son of God (I John 4:15; 5:1)
    - c. You confess and believe that Jesus Christ is Lord (I Corinthians 12:3)
- B. If these are true, believe God that you will always be a Christian (Ephesians 3:12)
- C. Live an obedient life (John 13:21-23; Isaiah 32:17)
- D. Be diligent and minister to others (Hebrews 6:10, 11; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6)

#### IV. PASSAGES OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD WHEN STUDYING ASSURANCE:

- A. Hebrews 6:4-8...Often interpreted as teaching you can lose your salvation having once had it; but:
1. In verses 4-6 the writer teaches that if a person could lose his salvation, it would be impossible for him to be saved again because Jesus would have to be born of a virgin, live a perfect life, and die on the cross again in order for us to be saved again (Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:10-18). And Jesus is not going to do that (1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:25-28; 10:10-18). So this passage does not teach that salvation can be lost but merely that if it could be lost, it could not be restored.
  2. In verses 7 and 8 it is clear that it is not the person who became a Christian and then fell back into evil works that is going to burn, but it is his works, the fruit of the land, which will be destroyed. The person is only near to being cursed and will be saved, though his works will be consumed.
- B. Hebrews 10:26, 27...Often interpreted that our deliberately sinning after our conversion causes us to lose our salvation; but:
1. Again the context clearly indicates a reference to the all-sufficient, one-time sacrifice which Jesus made in Christ and look for another sacrifice to provide a way of salvation, we will be disappointed, for there never will be another (Hebrews 9:25-28; 10:10-18; 28, 29; 1 Peter 3:18). God does not allow us to set aside the sacrifice of His Son without severe punishment (Hebrews 10:28).
- C. 2 Peter 2:9-11...Often interpreted as teaching that a Christian falling back into the ways of the world loses his salvation and is worse off than he was before becoming a Christian; but:
1. It is clear from this passage that those who are deceived are those who do barely escape eternal punishment (2 Peter 2:18, 20). They have escaped eternal punishment but do not live abundant lives because they were deceived.
  2. The Greek word "if" at the beginning of verse 20 is a third class condition of the word and should be literally translated "if" (but it is impossible for it to happen)." So, from the very choice of Greek words, it is impossible to escape the defilements of the world and then become so entangled in them again as to be overcome by them and so lose salvation.
- D. Galatians 5:4...Often interpreted as teaching that "falling from grace" means losing salvation; but:
1. Reading Galatians 3 and 5 makes it clear that Paul is referring not to losing salvation but to falling back into bondage to the law.