

Assurance

Key Verse

Romans 8:16 - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (NIV)

Opening Questions

Can you remember a situation in your life in which you knew something was a "sure deal"?

Exploring the Bible

I. Why Is Assurance Important?

It is important to be able to know that you have eternal life. It is one of the things that sets apart the reality of faith in Jesus Christ from all false religions. But there is more to it than that.

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (NIV)

Question: What does the thief (the devil) try to do?

Answer:

The devil will try to steal your assurance. Without clear assurance of salvation, it will be difficult to live your Christian life with passion, love, and effectiveness. Without assurance you will not have the joy of salvation that Jesus desires you to have. The devil knows that if he can steal your assurance you will be an ineffective member of God's kingdom, one that he does not have to fear.

II. How Do I Know?

So, I have believed and I have received Jesus Christ as my savior. How do I know that salvation has really taken place? .

- **I Am A New Person**

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (NIV)

Question: What did I become when I got saved?

Answer:

When we are saved, we should see the new attitudes and desires that reflect the fact that we are a new creation where the old has gone and the new has come.

- **God's Spirit Testifies With My Spirit**

Romans 8:16 - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (NIV)

Question: What does the Holy Spirit testify with our spirit?

Answer:

The Holy Spirit provides a witness and a deep confidence to our hearts that we do truly believe in Jesus and highlights to us the changes in our life that God has made.

- **I Want To Obey God's Commands**

1 John 2:3-4 - We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (NIV)

Question: What do we do if we know Jesus?

Answer:

John 13:34 - A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (NIV)

Question: What is the new command?

Answer:

When we are born again, we will want to obey the things that God tells us to do in His Word. The primary command that Jesus gave us was to love one another. He will also show us other things that He wants us to do. The things that He will show us to do will always improve our life and make it more abundant.

- **I Want To Stop Sinning**

1 John 3:4-6 - Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. (NIV)

Question: When we come to know Jesus what do we stop doing?

Answer:

These verses are not saying that we are going to be instantly perfect. There will be times when we make mistakes. But if we are truly born again, it will be impossible for us to continue in a lifestyle of sin, and that should become very evident in our life.

Practical Exercise

Homework assignment: read through the book of 1 John. It is short and it is filled with all kinds of evidences to build assurance of salvation in the life of a new believer.

If you have received Jesus Christ as your savior but are struggling with assurance of your salvation, God doesn't want you living that way. You can talk to any one of us. We want to minister the power and grace of God to you so that this issue can be resolved in your life.