

TRUTHS TO HELP YOU GAIN ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

1. Have you ever repented of sin and dead works and turned to God, trusting the Lord Jesus for salvation?

Consider these Words of God:

① “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God (I Jn. 5:1a).” ② “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life” (Jn. 3:36). ③ “Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3). ④ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

2. Do you have a desire to obey God’s word? – Note what these Scriptures teach:

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. ~ I John 2:1-6

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. ~ I John 5:2-3

3. Do you have a love for Christians? – Read I John 3:14-15 carefully:

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

4. Is the Holy Spirit living in you? – Consider these amazing truths:

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.” ~ I John 4:13
“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” ~ Romans 8:9b

You may wonder, “How can I tell if God has given me His Spirit?”

a) He will give you *the desire and ability to witness for Christ.* ~ I John 4:14-15 (also Acts 1:8)

“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.
Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”

b) He will give you *the desire and ability to gain victory over sin.*

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? ~ I John 5:4-5

c) He will give you *a hunger for God’s word* and the *ability to understand His Word* (note the following verses).

~ I Corinthians 2:9-16 ~

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth [*discerns / analyzes*] all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

d) *He works in every Believer to produce “much fruit” and thus glorify God* ~ Philippians 2:13 and John 15:1-11

“**The fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience / a slow fuse], gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, temperance. Against such there is no law.” ~ Galatians 5:22-23

Do you experience the Holy Spirit’s working in your heart to bring out these characteristics of Christ in your daily living?

What causes someone to have doubts about their salvation? ① Unconfessed sin (it robs you of the *joy* of salvation and brings God’s spankings—see Psalm 51 *especially vs. 12*, Psalm 38, and Heb. 12:5-15); ② Failure to “add to your faith” (II Peter 1:5-11); ③ Not understanding how Christ fully saves & keeps you; ④ Conviction by God’s Spirit that you’re actually lost.

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (I John 5:1a).

<p align="center">What Saving Faith* Is</p>	<p align="center">What Saving Faith* Is Not</p>
<p>Pastor John Dodd ~ “Faith is the obedient, trusting response to God’s grace.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It involves present trust in the LORD (complete reliance / dependence). <i>examples:</i> ① Centurion who came to Jesus (Matt. 8:5-13) ② others who came to Jesus for healing (Mk. 5:34 & 10:52; Lk. 17:19) ③ Cornelius and his household (Acts 10) It involves repentance – two aspects taught in the O.T. and the N.T. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forsaking my way of living (agree with God that my way is wrong) Forsaking my way of salvation – <i>note Heb. 4:10 & 6:1</i> <p>“Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts” (Isa. 55:6). “Repent and believe the gospel” was Jesus’ message (Mark 1:15). “Repentance towards God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).</p>	<p>* The term “Saving faith” refers to the N.T. word “believe” in its various forms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is not General, Temporary, or Historical faith (intellectual assent). <i>examples:</i> ① demons (James 2:29) and most unsaved people: ② Nicodemus (John 3) ③ those who followed Christ because of the loaves of bread (John 6) ④ the Israelites during the time of the Judges It is not mixed faith (i.e. relying on Christ + my good works, religion or religious activities, or any other person, saint, or god). It is not dead faith – James 2:14-26 (“faith without works”). <i>examples:</i> people referred to in Titus 1:10-16 and I John 2:18-19
<p align="center">Results of Saving Faith</p>	<p align="center">Results of False or Dead Faith</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It results in calling on the name of the Lord. <i>examples:</i> a publican (Luke 18:13-14); one of the criminals (Luke 23:39-43) It results in full salvation – John 3:16, 36; Acts 16:31; many other passages (i.e. justification, <i>positional</i> righteousness / holiness / sanctification, adoption). It results in a life that bears good fruit – Matt. 7:15-20; Mk. 4:20 & Lk. 8:15; John 15:1-11; and Gal. 5:16-24 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Good works – Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14; I Peter 2:4-12 (i.e. practical righteousness and holiness + the sanctification process). Godly desires, attitudes, and actions (e.g. the marks of God’s children described in I John). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Selfish, proud, hypocritical praying – Luke 8:28-31 & 18:9-12 No salvation – Matt. 7:21-23; Acts 8:20-24 No spiritual fruit – Matt. 7:15-20; Mark 4:14-19 & Luke 8:11-14 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No good works <i>OR</i> working to earn salvation <u>instead of</u> working out of gratitude to the Lord for His gift of salvation that’s been received No lasting supernatural changes in one’s desires, attitudes, and actions (e.g. none of the marks of God’s children described in I John)
<p align="center">Note carefully the testimony of the believers in Thessalonica: many people knew that they had “turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God . . .” (I Thess. 1:9-10).</p>	<p align="center"><i>“A faith that does not change a person’s life does not save a person’s soul.” ~ Evangelist Ron Comfort ~</i></p>
<p>Evaluation:</p>	<p>Evaluation:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have I trusted / Am I trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ—the resurrected Savior—to forgive my sins, make me righteous, and give me eternal life? Have I <i>turned from</i> my way of living and my way of salvation and <i>turned to</i> God? Have I experienced all the results of saving faith listed above? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do I only have general or temporary faith in God, or historical faith about Jesus? Do I have faith in Christ that is mixed with something else—that lacks repentance? Do I profess faith in Jesus but have no evidence of being alive in Christ—no spiritual fruit, no good works, no victory, no godly desires, attitudes, and actions?