

SERMON NOTES

You Can Know!
Jude 22-25 (1 John 5:1-13)

“²² And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³ save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” *Jude 22-25 (NASB95)*

I WANT YOU TO LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST.

“Full assurance is not essential to salvation, but it is essential to satisfaction.” *Charles Spurgeon*

“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?” *2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB95)*

“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you.”
2 Peter 1:10 (NASB95)

4 Kinds of People

- The confident person – I am confident I have been born again and belong to Jesus Christ.
- The uncertain person – I am not sure if I am a Christian.
- The clear person – I am not a Christian!
- The deceived person – I think I am a Christian!

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” *Matthew 7:21 (NASB95)*

PRAYER – DEAR GOD, I WANT TO KNOW WITHOUT ANY CONFUSION, WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF MY SOUL. I am willing to be honest with you and with myself.

Goal of This Message:

For every person present to clarify the condition of their soul and to live with confident assurance they belong to Jesus Christ.

“And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end.” *Hebrews 6:11*

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” *1 John 5:13 (NASB95)*

How can I know if I am a Christian?

God says that a Christian is someone who has been born again. It is faith in the finished work of Christ that makes a child of disobedience into a child of God (see John 1:12–13; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3). John uses the phrase “born of God” seven times in his first epistle and describes the “birthmarks of believers”: (1) they practice righteousness, 2:29; (2) they do not practice sin, 3:9; (3) they love other Christians, 4:7; (4) they overcome the world, 5:4; and (5) they keep themselves from Satan, 5:18.

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God

is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. ¹¹ And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” *1 John 5:1-13* (NASB95)

Do you believe the testimony about Jesus? (1 John 5:1)

“You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.” *James 2:19* (NASB95)

Salvation is a posture of repentance and faith toward the finished work of Christ in which you transfer the weight of your hopes of heaven off of your own righteousness and onto the finished work of Jesus Christ. The way to know you made the decision is by the fact you are resting in Christ now. The apostle John almost always talks about “believing” in the present tense because it is something we do continually, not something we did once in the past (e.g., John 3: 36; 9: 36– 38; 10: 27– 28; 1 John 5: 13). The posture begins at a moment, but it persists for a lifetime.

Salvation is depending on the finished work of Christ!

“Whenever scripture talks about the assurance of salvation it always talks about it in the present tense.”
Adrian Rogers

Do you live manifesting the testimony about Jesus in your life? 1 John 5:2-5

- Do you love God
- Do you love His children?
- Do you keep His commandments?

Do you recognize the indwelling Holy Spirit at work in your life? 1 John 5:6-12

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.” *Romans 8:16* (NASB95)

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit.” To “bear witness with” is a legal term, and signifies to produce valid and convincing evidence. “Our spirit” here has reference to the renewed conscience. Concerning natural men it is said, “which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness” (Rom. 2:15). But the conscience of the natural man is partial, dim-sighted, stupid. Grace makes it tender, pliant, and more able to do its office. The desire of the regenerate man, and unto which he exercises himself, is “to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and men” (Acts 24:16).

The clearest biblical definition of assurance of salvation is this: “Abiding faith and the fruit it produces.”

The assurance of salvation rests primarily on the character of God, the works of Jesus Christ, and the truth of God’s promises.

Response:

- The person who is confident of their salvation – be humbled and grateful
- The person who unsure of their salvation – be honest
- The person who is clearly not saved – be born again
- The person who is deceived – be born again

Take Aways:**Hope in Christ**

“What is the sum of all assurance? Simply put, resting on Jesus alone. In the end, all other grounds for assurance fade away. He is the “rock” upon which to build. No promise, act, gift, or sign can last unto eternity, unless it is given by God who neither changes or fails. Spurgeon knew this well. This is why every sermon he preached dripped with the substance of Christ — he was sure that Jesus and his work was and is a sure and eternal foundation. Hear this last word, doubting Christian: throw all your hope on Jesus Christ, and throw the rest out!” ^[1]

Dr. Donald Whitney provides the following encouragement:

“Occasional doubt is normal. A good reflection of a heart that says ‘I want God, heaven, salvation, more than anything.’ By and large, unbelievers don’t think about these things. Satan tries to convince Christians they aren’t going to heaven, and non-Christians that they are. Doubting salvation is not unbelief. Unbelief rejects the gospel.”

(Quote from <https://equip.sbts.edu/video/what-should-i-do-if-i-doubt-my-salvation/>)

1. Ask God to show you the condition of your soul!
2. Make sure you are clear on the gospel.
What is the message we tell a person if they asked us what we must do to be saved? If unclear, you will doubt.
3. Meditate on 1 John
An entire book written for the very issue of assurance. They thought they believed, John thought they believed, but they needed assurance.
4. Practice the spiritual disciplines
Spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, gathering with God’s people for worship, etc. are the practical means thru which God has promised to help us with assurance. If you reject these disciplines, it’s no wonder you doubt. This is how God sustains us in the Christian life day to day.

The following are taken from Donald S. Whitney’s book, *How Can I Be Sure I’m a Christian? What the Bible Says about Assurance of Salvation*.

Chapter 5: Signs of Eternal Life

Assurance may be experienced partly through the presence of the attitudes and actions the Bible says will accompany salvation (1 John).

- Do you share the intimacies of the Christian life with other believers?
- Do you have a deep awareness of your sin against the word and love of God?
- Do you live in conscious obedience to the word of God?
- Do you despise the world and its ways?
- Do you long for the return of Jesus Christ and to be made like him?
- Do you habitually do what is right more and sin less?
- Do you love other Christians sacrificially and want to be with them?
- Do you discern the presence of the Holy Spirit within you?
- Do you enjoy listening to the doctrines the apostles of Jesus taught?
- Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ?

^[1] <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/blog-entries/spurgeon-for-doubting-christians/>

Chapter 7: Things That Erode Our Assurance

A true Christian may lose a sense of assurance of salvation because . . .

- He or she refuses to deal with known sin.
- Of spiritual laziness.
- Of satanic attacks.
- Of trials or harsh circumstances.
- Of illness or temperament.
- God seems to withdraw a sense of His presence and blessing.

What to Do If You're Still Not Sure

- Don't take for granted that you understand the gospel.
- Think deeply about the gospel.
- Repent of all known sin.
- Submit everything to the Lordship of Christ.
- Meditate much on 1 John.
- Don't doubt the promises of God.
- Believe as best you can and pray for greater faith.
- Practice the spiritual disciplines.
- If you really love God, take assurance because non-Christians don't love God passionately.
- If you hate your sin, take assurance because non-Christians don't hate sin deeply.
- If you've never been baptized, present yourself as a candidate in obedience to Christ.
- Don't neglect the Lord's Supper.
- Don't compare earthly fathers to your Heavenly Father.
- Seek godly counsel if the doubts persist.
- Pray for assurance.
- Wait patiently upon God to give you a fuller experience of assurance.