

# ROOKIE CHRISTIAN | FACT SHEET

## ASSURANCE

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. — First John 5:11-13

### **Some people doubt their salvation because they aren't saved.**

Perhaps they had *religious* experiences, but not a *salvation* experience.

Some people had a *superficial experience*. In fact, it was almost a mechanical kind of thing. Someone said, come to the front of room. Someone said, just pray this prayer...only they didn't understand.

Others had a *borrowed experience*. My grandfather was a pastor. I had a praying mother. I come from a Christian family. I went to Vacation Bible School as a child. I used to be active in the church youth group. But it's a borrowed experience, not a personal experience of salvation. You were around the things of God... and the people of God... but hanging around the locker room doesn't make you a player.

Sometimes, it was a *In Word Only* kind of thing. Jesus said: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt 7:21). A person is saved when they trust Christ... not just by *saying* they trust Christ.

### **Some reasons genuine Christians can doubt their salvation:**

Some hear stories about dramatic conversion experiences, but their experience was far less emotional and dramatic. They doubt their conversion because their story sounds

so boring in comparison. Let me say here that when there is drama it is often more about what a person is saved from... rather what they are saved to. Some who listen to this need to be grateful that the Lord didn't have to save you from some outrageous kind of background!

Some believers have heard Christians say one has to know the day and hour they were saved. There is a reason they say this: being born again is not a process. It takes place at a definite point in time. There is a before and there is an after.

However, for some, their recollection is confused by the events leading up to their conversion. God got their attention. The Holy Spirit worked within to enable them to understand the gospel. They found themselves attracted to Jesus. God reasoned with them in their thoughts. None of these things is salvation yet... And when the moment comes, to surrender their heart to Christ and trust him alone for salvation, it comes so very naturally—maybe I should say, supernaturally. And as they look back, they think, "That can't be the moment!" ...Sure it can!

Still others doubt their salvation because they have sinned in a significant way. They reason, "No one could possibly be saved and do what I just did." Maybe you need to brush up on your Bible stories. There are many examples in Scrip-



ture of God's people committing sins of epic proportions. Let's think about that from several angles:



*First, that doesn't make it OK; it makes it worse.* As a Christian, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and guided by God's Word, we had all the resources to do better. We drag God's name into disrepute. It's one thing for a lost person to act like a lost person, but when a Christian does, it's worse.

*From another angle, we affirm that salvation is by grace through faith, and not of works.* Ephesians 2:8-9 make that clear. Good works didn't save us and bad works don't make us lost. Isn't it Christ whom we are trusting to save us?

*From still another angle, the ultimate question is whether there is an ongoing heart of repentance within the believer.* The Father can help you pick up the pieces, and help you move forward, if you will give them to Him.

### **God Wants You to Know and Be Sure**

God is not cruel to make you wonder where you stand with him, living in constant doubt, continually needing to be re-assured. Look at 1 John 5:11-13:

*This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

*Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Let the words speak for themselves:

"God gave us eternal life" – Salvation is a free gift... He gave it to us

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God" – We are saved through faith and we are kept through faith.

"That you may know that you have eternal life" – Not wish, sorta think, or hopefully feel, but "*know*

that you have eternal life" How do you know? "Whoever has the Son has life"

### **How God Works to Assure Us**

2 Corinthians 13:5 says "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" It's the *Jesus in you* test. *Do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?* It's the same test as you see in First John 5:12— *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Put another way: We don't have to assure ourselves of salvation. Just as God does the saving, God does the assuring. The Father assures us by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell inside us.

Romans 8:15-16 says "You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father! [Abba is the Hebrew word for Father] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

While it is the Holy Spirit who actually indwells us, he makes real to us our fellowship with the Father and with the Son.

### **God Saved Us and God Keeps Us Saved**

1 Peter 1:5 discusses the believer's hope of heaven and tells us that believers "By God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." This verse tells us three things:

We are kept and guarded *by God's power.*

We are kept and guarded *through faith.*

Our heavenly inheritance is on the loading dock of heaven, ready for shipment!

Hear This Explained:

[www.rookiechristian.org/audio/be\\_sure.mp3](http://www.rookiechristian.org/audio/be_sure.mp3)



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