

FOLLOWUP # 1: ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

I. Why is assurance of salvation important? (Satan would love to put doubts in a new believer's mind. Especially the first time they blow it after making a decision. They need to be able to know where in Scripture to go to fight Satan when he puts doubts in their minds concerning their salvation. Feelings will come and go, but God's Word is constant and true.)

II. Make sure that they are truly a Christian and that they know why.

1. Review how they came to Christ. What led to their decision to put their faith in Christ as their Savior?

2. Review the two diagnostic questions:

- If you were to die tonight, do you know for certain where you would spend eternity?
- If you died and stood before God, and He asked you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" what would you say?

In other words, how do you know for certain where you would spend eternity? What are you basing it on? (Make sure it is not based on their feelings.)

3. Review the gospel with them.

- **Romans 3:23** – We are all sinners.
- **Romans 6:23** – The wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God). But eternal life is a free gift from God. It is not earned or deserved.
- **Romans 5:8** – God loves us so much that He sent Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins through his death on the cross for us. He gives us eternal life when we accept His gift.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** – We have been saved through faith, not by anything we do. Our salvation is a gift from God. It is not something we can work for or earn on our own merits.
 - **What is "grace"?** (Unmerited favor, an undeserved gift, God's riches at Christ's expense)
 - **What are we "saved" from?** (We are saved from having to pay the penalty for our own sins. That penalty is eternal separation from God.)
 - **What does faith have to do with receiving Christ as your Savior?** (Faith is taking God at His word. It is believing what He says is true and acting on it. When you received Christ, you put your trust in Christ and His death for your sin. Instead of believing in your own ability to earn God's favor, you must now trust that you have been reconciled to God through what Christ has done for you on the cross.)
 - **How do you express faith?** (One way is through prayer.)

- **Romans 10:9-10 (NASB 95)** – “That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Illustration: When you meet someone, and you know you want to marry that person, you can know in your head that he is to be your lifelong mate. You can believe that he is the one for you and that you want to commit yourself to him. But until you take that step and say, “I do,” you are not married. In the same way, you can know in your head that Jesus loves you and died on the cross for your sins, but until you take that step of faith and say, “I do accept your payment” and allow His Holy Spirit to “seal” you, you are not a Christian.

III. Assure them of five truths as a result of becoming a Christian.

1. Christ is in your life.

- A. How do you know that Christ is in your life?
- B. You might say I feel He is there. But what about those days when you don't feel He is there. Your salvation is not based on how you feel or on your emotions, but on the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. Your feelings may go up and down, but God's Word is faithful from day to day and is true regardless of how you feel.
- C. Where can you go in Scripture to support the truth that Christ is in your life (regardless of how you feel)?
 - **Ephesians 1:13-14**
 - a. Have you heard the gospel of salvation?
 - b. Have you believed it and accepted it personally?
 - c. According to these verses, what is the result of your belief? (You were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise. A seal indicates possession and security. The presence of the Holy Spirit, the seal, is your guarantee of His presence in your life and the security of your salvation.)

- **Revelation 3:20**

2. Christ will never leave you.

- A. How do you know Christ will never leave you, based on His Word?
 - John 10:27-29
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 – you were sealed with the Holy Spirit.
 - Hebrews 13:5b
- B. According to these verses, does He leave you when you sin or when you don't feel close to Him, or when you don't feel He is with you?

C. Based on these verses, how many times do you have to ask Christ to come into your life? Why?

3. You have eternal life.

A. How do you know you have eternal life according to God's Word?

- John 3:36
- John 5:24
- 1 John 5:11-13

B. When does eternal life begin?

4. You are a child of God.

A. How do you know you are a child of God according to God's Word?

- John 1:12-13
- Romans 8:14-17
- Galatians 4:4-7

B. What difference does it make in your life to know you are now His child?

5. Your sins are forgiven.

A. How do you know your sins are forgiven based on God's Word?

- Col. 1:13-14
- Col. 2:13-14

B. According to Ephesians 1:7, what is our forgiveness based on?

When you start to have doubts about your salvation, or Satan tries to convince you that you are not saved, go to God's Word. Stand on His Word, not your feelings. His Word is true!