



# Grace Life Church *of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God



**Grace Life Church**  
*of Dallas*

*The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God*

# **Biblical Assurance**

**How to know if you are truly saved**

**1 John, Matt 7:13-14, 21-23, James 2:14-26**

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# **Biblical Assurance**

**Personal Examination**

**Evangelism-Walking someone through Biblical Assurance**

**For ourselves and in our evangelism, it is vital that we are not only able to answer “how can someone be saved” but “how can I know for sure I am saved?”**

**Let’s answer the first question:**

**How can someone be saved?**

Repenting of their sins and believing in the gospel

(Mark 1:15, Acts 2:38, Roman 10:9-10. Acts 16:31)

# Biblical Assurance

**“How can I know for sure I am saved?”**

- Most people respond to this question with “I believe”
- The bible asks “How can you know you believed (unto salvation)?”
- “Believing” in the bible is more than mental ascent and repeating a prayer (it is the result of the supernatural work of God)
- The bible is full of warnings that many people believe themselves to be saved, but they are lost.
- Most professing Christians are not even aware of the concept of assurance because they have a low view of the gospel and a shallow understanding of salvation.

# Biblical Assurance

**After someone has said “I know I am saved because I believe”**

## **Matthew 7:21-23**

*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. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

- Who are these people?
- These people believe they are saved (Arguing with Jesus)
- They profess Jesus to be Lord (They “believe” in Him)
- They are involved in religious activities
- Jesus declares to them “*I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness*”
- How do you know you are not one of them?

# Biblical Assurance

**Paul warned the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 13:5** *“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!”*

- Paul is writing to a church of professing Christians
- He is telling them to test themselves (their life) to see if they are in the faith (if their faith is genuine)
- The way you can know that your faith is real and that you are genuinely saved is by testing yourself in scripture
- If you are a Christian, testing yourself will only affirm your faith to be genuine and give you greater assurance
- But if you fail the tests, and are found to not be truly in the faith, what grace has been bestowed upon you today

# Biblical Assurance

**Scripture teaches us that we can know for sure whether we are saved or not (And God desires for us to know)**

**1 John 5:13** *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*

- John is writing to people who believe in Jesus so they can know they have eternal life
- If false conversions aren't an issue, why write this verse (book)
- The book of 1 John is a series of tests that we can measure our lives against to see if our faith is genuine
- What John is going to test is the fruit of the new birth/regeneration
  - Everyone who is genuinely saved has been born again 1 John 5:1, John 3:1-14, John 1:12-13
  - Producing fruit does not save you, it proves you are saved

# Biblical Assurance-Tests 1 John

**Chapter 2:3-5** *“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoever says “I know Him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him, but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in Him”*

- One test that we can examine ourselves in to know if we are genuinely saved is the test of keeping His commandments
- Whoever professes to know Him (be a Christian) but does not keep His commandments is a liar (not saved-profession is false)
- When the test says “keep His commandments” it is not talking about perfection (1 John 1:8-10) but as a style of life (snap shot vs video)
- Those who are His obey His word and not begrudgingly (1 John 5:3)
- Is it your desire (b/c of new birth with new heart) to keep His commandments? (Must be in word to know commandments)
- Does your life testify to this desire? Or does your life testify against your profession of Christ?



# Biblical Assurance-Tests 1 John

**Chapter 2:9-10** *Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light and in him there is no cause for stumbling*

- Jesus said they will know you are my disciples by your love for one another (John 13:35)
- Continual and habitual hatred for others is evidence our hearts have not been transformed

**Chapter 3:9-10** *no one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil; whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother*

- Living in continual habitual sin is evidence of not being born of God (saved)
- There is an eternal difference between battling against sin and living in it
- When a Christian sins, they are chastened by the Lord (Hebrews 12)
- If we claim to be Christians but our life is marked by a sinful lifestyle, we can have no assurance of our salvation
- Practicing righteousness (Living faith vs dead faith James 2:14-26)-Living faith is evidenced by producing works in accordance with our faith
- Is there evidence in our lives of purposing to practice righteousness?

# Biblical Assurance

- We are saved by repenting of our sins and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ
- There are many people who believe they “believe”, they profess Jesus as Lord, and practice religious deeds but they are lost
- We can know if we have merely given mental ascent or have truly been born again by testing our lives against scripture to see if we pass the tests
- If we profess Christianity and believe we are saved but fail the tests, then what?
  - Most people at this point will say, “Ya, I need to start living out this whole Christian thing” (Put on moralism so I can pass the test)
  - What they really need is to be born again and believe in the gospel
- Where are you today? Did you pass the tests of biblical assurance?