



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

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

Biblical Assurance-Part 2

How to know if you are truly saved

1 John, John 3, 2 Cor 7, James 2

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version

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All emphasis added/insertions are mine

Biblical Assurance

- In addressing biblical assurance, we are not answering “How is someone saved?” but “How can I be sure I am saved?”
- Mankind is saved by repenting of their sins and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (gospel)-Mark 1:15
- What we are trying to answer is “How can I be sure I have genuinely repented and believed?”
- Our enemy (satan) is the “father of lies” (John 8:44) and often “disguises himself as an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14)
- Knowing this to be true, one of the greatest deceptions of our day is convincing people they are Christians (saved) because they don’t want to go to hell and they repeated a prayer asking Jesus into their heart (lives)
- Because of shallow gospel preaching and poor doctrine/theology millions of people believe themselves saved but can find no assurance for themselves in scripture scripture

Biblical Assurance

We need to understand salvation

- It is not repeating a prayer
- It is not jumping from the line going to hell to the line going to heaven

Salvation is a supernatural work of God (not getting someone to make a decision or pray a prayer)

John 3:3, 7, 8

V3 Jesus answer him, “Truly, truly, I say to you unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God”

V7 Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again”

- If someone is not born again, they are not saved and will not enter the kingdom of heaven
- No matter: what they profess, what they know, what they affirm, what prayer they prayed, what they have experienced or what religious activities they do; if they are not born again they will perish

V8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Biblical Assurance

What happens in the new birth (regeneration)?

Ezekiel 36:22-31

V26 I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

v27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules

V31 Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Has this happened to you?

Have you been born again?

Do you have a new heart? Evidenced by a new way of life (new desires)

The book of 1 John is testing your life to see if you have been born again 4

Biblical Assurance

All true Christians will profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior but not everyone who professes Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is a Christian

- **Matt 7:21** *Not everyone who says to me “Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven”v23 I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me”*

In Biblical assurance we are talking to people who profess to be Christians, who believe themselves to be saved, who affirm biblical truths, but may or may not be born again. All true Christians profess Jesus as Lord, but not everyone who professes Jesus as Lord is born again.

There are two types of “faith” described in the bible. One is a work of man (ascent, affirm, profess, moral, religious activities). The other is a work of God (new birth, new heart, new life, repentance, living faith)

James 2:14-26 (Living faith or dead faith)

V14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

Biblical Assurance

After James 2, typically I will walk someone through 1 John to see if they have living faith or dead faith? (Testing their life in light of scripture 2 Corinthians 13:5)

Working through the deceitfulness of false conversions

1 John 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.

“I felt bad when I sinned” or “I knew what I was doing was wrong”

Romans 2:14-16 Conscience (Saved and unsaved have a conscience)

The evidence of salvation regarding sin in your life is discipline leading to repentance (Hebrews 12:4-17 Discipline) (2 Corinthians 7:9-11 Godly sorrow)

Biblical Assurance

What do you say when you have walked someone through biblical assurance and you have concerns about the genuineness of their faith (salvation)?

- In light of the things we have gone through together and the fruit your life bears, I have a lot of concerns about the genuineness of your faith (salvation).
- (Humility) I will encourage them in the grace of God that we are going through this now, as opposed to coming to this reality on judgment day (when mercy and hope are gone forever)
- Philippians 2:12 “*work out your salvation with fear and trembling*”

Help them to see, you are not calling them to bear fruit.

- Most people see this as a call to starting “doing”
 - They assume “Well I already believe, so I just need to put on this fruit and I am good”
- They need to be born again, and there is nothing they can do to be born again
- Walk them through the gospel, tell them if they are lost and need to be saved. Call them to “*repent & believe*” (Mark 1:15) and show yourself to be born again
- They will typically ask “How will I know if it’s real and I am saved this time?”
- Your life will begin to bear the fruit of the new birth (not begrudgingly)