

STAGE: BELIEVER

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

AM I REALLY SAVED?

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

Rock-Solid Confidence in Your Eternal Security

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Assurance of Salvation — Am I Really Saved?

Complete & Expanded Edition. Rock-solid confidence in your eternal security: building unshakeable assurance based on God's promise. *Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.*

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INTRODUCTION — THE QUESTION EVERY BELIEVER FACES

The Central Anxiety

“Am I really saved?”

“What if I’m not really a Christian?”

“Did I pray the right way?”

“What if I didn’t mean it enough?”

“Can I lose my salvation?”

“What if God changes His mind about me?”

If you’ve asked these questions, you’re normal. You’re also more spiritually mature than many believers, because you’re taking your salvation seriously.

But let’s establish something critical: **These doubts are not a sign you’re not saved. They’re a sign you care deeply about your relationship with God.**

The Challenge

Many believers live in a state of perpetual uncertainty about their salvation:

- Doubting after struggling with sin
- Uncertain when they don’t “feel saved”
- Anxious that they haven’t done enough
- Worried that one mistake might disqualify them

This uncertainty produces:

- Spiritual paralysis (can’t move forward)
- Perpetual guilt (can’t move past past)
- Broken communion with God (fear instead of trust)
- Ineffective ministry (can’t help others when you’re unsure yourself)

This is NOT God’s intention.

God’s intention is for you to live in rock-solid, unshakeable, certain assurance that you are His child forever.

Scripture’s Promise

1 John 5:13 (KJV):

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

Notice the verb: **KNOW**.

Not “hope you might have.” Not “figure out eventually.” Not “wait until you die to find out.”

KNOW. Present tense. Certain. Definitive.

Hebrews 10:22 (KJV):

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Full assurance of faith. Not wavering. Not uncertain. Full.

Kyle's Personal Story

“I got saved on a Thursday night in my bedroom. I prayed. I genuinely trusted Christ. I felt relief wash over me like I'd never experienced.”

“But by Friday, doubt crept in: ‘Did I do it right? Was I sincere enough? How do I know it worked?’”

“By Saturday, I was in full panic mode: ‘What if I said the prayer but didn't really mean it? What if I wasn't spiritual enough? What if my faith isn't real?’”

“I spent the next two months cycling through assurance and doubt, assurance and doubt. One day I'd feel close to God and know I was saved. The next day I'd sin or struggle, and immediate panic: ‘I'm not saved anymore. I've lost it. God must be done with me.’”

“It was EXHAUSTING.”

“Then a friend walked me through 1 John 5:13. He said, ‘Kyle, you don't FEEL your way to assurance. You BELIEVE your way to assurance. God said if you believe in Jesus, you have eternal life. Did you believe? YES. Then you have eternal life. DONE. Finished. Your feelings don't change God's Word.’”

“That moment changed everything.”

“I stopped living in the question ‘Am I saved?’ and started living in the answer: ‘Yes, I am saved. God said so.’”

“From that day forward, my doubt didn't disappear entirely, but it lost its power over me. Whenever doubt tried to creep back in, I'd remind myself: ‘My assurance isn't based on my feelings, my performance, or my confidence. It's based on God's promise. And God doesn't break promises.’”

“That assurance transformed my prayer life, my ministry, my relationships—everything.”

“If you're struggling with this, let me be direct: You are SAFE to believe God's promise. You are SAFE to trust that you're saved. You are SAFE to live in confident assurance.”

“God's promises are more certain than your feelings, more stable than your circumstances, and more trustworthy than your doubts. — Kyle Lauriano”

PART 1 — THE FOUNDATION OF ASSURANCE

1.1 God's Promise Is the Foundation (Not Your Performance)

This is the critical starting point that transforms everything.

Your assurance rests on GOD'S PROMISE, not on your performance, your feelings, your consistency, or your spiritual maturity.

Understanding the Promise

John 6:37 (KJV):

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Let this sink in: **"In no wise cast out."**

"In no wise" = "under no circumstances," "not in any way," "absolutely never."

Jesus will absolutely never cast out anyone who comes to Him.

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV):

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

"Thou shalt be saved." Simple. Clear. Definitive.

If you confessed Jesus as Lord and believed His resurrection, you **SHALL BE SAVED**.

The Assurance Verses: Scripture's Clearest Promises

1 John 5:11-13 (KJV):

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

Notice the progression:

- God has **GIVEN** us eternal life (past tense—already happened)
- This life is **IN** His Son (in Christ)
- If you **HAVE** the Son, you **HAVE** life (present tense—right now)
- These are written that you may **KNOW** you have eternal life (certainty)

You can KNOW. Not hope. KNOW.

John 5:24 (KJV):

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Three critical promises in one verse:

- “**hath everlasting life**” (present tense—you have it now)
- “**shall not come into condemnation**” (guaranteed future—you will never face judgment)
- “**is passed from death unto life**” (past tense—this already happened)

This verse covers past, present, and future. **Your salvation is secure in all three dimensions of time.**

Romans 8:1 (KJV):

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

NO CONDEMNATION. NONE. NOT EVER.

If you’re in Christ, condemnation is impossible. Not “maybe condemnation,” not “condemnation depending on your behavior,” not “potential condemnation.”

NO CONDEMNATION. Period.

1.2 What Makes Assurance Possible: Understanding the Gospel

Assurance is only possible when you understand what the gospel actually IS.

The Gospel Is Not...

Gospel Is NOT: Good moral example (Jesus showing us how to live right) — *Why it matters:* If salvation = imitating Jesus’ goodness, nobody’s good enough.

Gospel IS NOT: Moral improvement (God helping you become a better person) — *Why it matters:* If salvation = self-improvement, there’s always more to do.

Gospel IS NOT: Earned acceptance (God accepting you if you deserve it) — *Why it matters:* If salvation = earning God’s favor, nobody can be certain they’ve done enough.

Gospel IS NOT: Conditional forgiveness (God forgiving if you’re sorry enough) — *Why it matters:* If salvation = meeting God’s conditions, you live in perpetual uncertainty about meeting those conditions.

The Gospel IS...

Gospel IS: Christ’s substitutionary death and resurrection — *Meaning:* Jesus died in YOUR place, paying YOUR debt, bearing YOUR judgment — *Result:* You’re forgiven completely, not based on your performance but on His sacrifice.

Gospel IS: Grace (unmerited favor, free gift) — *Meaning:* Salvation cannot be earned because it’s a GIFT — *Result:* You can’t lose what you didn’t earn—you can’t undo a gift by being unworthy.

Gospel IS: Justification (declared righteous in God’s eyes) — *Meaning:* Your sins are covered by Christ’s righteousness; God sees you as if you’d never sinned — *Result:* Your past doesn’t determine your standing; Christ’s perfection does.

Gospel IS: Adoption (chosen to be God’s child) — *Meaning:* You’re not employees or servants—you’re family — *Result:* God won’t kick children out of the family; you’re secure in relationship.

The Transformative Truth

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV):

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

The grace-works distinction is everything:

If salvation were by works:

- Everyone would doubt (nobody's sure they've done enough)
- Pride would flourish (achieving believers would boast)
- Security would be impossible (works are never finished)

Because salvation is by grace (gift):

- Everyone CAN be certain (God's promise is certain)
- Pride is eliminated (it's a gift, not achievement)
- Security is permanent (gifts can't be revoked based on performance)

PART 2 — HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE SAVED

2.1 The Three Questions That Establish Salvation

If you can answer “YES” to these three questions, you can confidently affirm: “**I am saved.**”

Question 1: Do You Believe You're a Sinner?

Romans 3:23 (KJV):

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Acknowledgment of sin is the beginning of salvation.

You must recognize that you:

- Have broken God's law
- Have sinned (deliberately or inadvertently)
- Cannot fix yourself through your own efforts
- Deserve judgment because of sin

Romans 6:23 (KJV):

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Sin has a wage: death. Eternal separation from God.

So ask yourself: Do I acknowledge I'm a sinner deserving judgment?

If YES, move to question 2.

Question 2: Do You Believe Jesus Died and Rose Again?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV):

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

Two essential facts about Jesus:

- **He died for our sins** — His death substituted for our death; He paid the penalty we deserved
- **He rose on the third day** — His resurrection proves His power over death and validates His claim to be God

Romans 4:25 (KJV):

“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

His death removes our guilt. His resurrection removes our hopelessness.

So ask yourself: Do I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead?

If YES, move to question 3.

Question 3: Have You Trusted Jesus ALONE to Save You?

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV):

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Key words: “**confess**” and “**believe**”

- **Confess** = admit/acknowledge (not just intellectually, but from the heart)
- **Believe** = trust with your entire being, put your confidence in

This means:

- You’ve acknowledged Jesus as Lord (He has authority over your life)
- You’ve trusted Him to save you (not trusting your works, your goodness, your church, or anyone else—JESUS)

John 1:12 (KJV):

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

“Received Him” = actively took Him, accepted His offer

You didn’t just acknowledge facts intellectually. You RECEIVED Jesus into your life as Savior and Lord.

So ask yourself: Have I actually trusted Jesus (not just facts about Jesus, but trusted HIM) to save me?

The Conclusion

If you can answer YES to all three:

- [✓] You believe you’re a sinner
- [✓] You believe Jesus died and rose again
- [✓] You’ve trusted Jesus to save you

THEN YOU ARE SAVED.

Not “probably.” Not “maybe.” Not “if you prayed right.”

YOU ARE SAVED. Period. Finished. Done.

PART 3 — THE REALITY OF SIN AFTER SALVATION

3.1 Christians Still Sin: Why This Doesn't Undermine Your Salvation

A massive source of doubt for new believers is realizing: **“I'm still sinning after I got saved. Doesn't that mean I'm not really saved?”**

No. No, it doesn't.

The Biblical Reality

1 John 1:8 (KJV):

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

“We” = believers, people who know Jesus. And John is addressing CHRISTIAN churches.

Believers still have sin.

Not that you PRACTICE sin habitually in rebellion against God, but sin is still part of your struggle as you're being sanctified.

Romans 7:14-19 (KJV):

“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”

This is Paul—an incredible apostle used by God—describing his struggle with sin.

He wants to do right but finds himself doing wrong.

He hates sin but struggles against it.

If Paul struggled, you will too.

This is not evidence you're not saved. This is evidence you're human.

The Critical Difference: Before vs. After Salvation

BEFORE SALVATION:

- You loved sin
- You didn't feel convicted about sin
- You pursued sin without guilt
- Sin was your natural default

AFTER SALVATION:

- You hate sin

- You feel convicted about sin (the Holy Spirit convicts)
- You feel guilty when you sin
- You're drawn to righteous living, though you still stumble

The difference: conviction and change of heart, not instant perfection.

Romans 6:14 (KJV):

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

Sin doesn't have DOMINION over you anymore.

You're not enslaved to it. You're no longer its servant. You can resist it now through God's power.

3.2 What to Do When You Sin After Salvation

When you stumble into sin as a believer, here's the biblical protocol:

Step 1: Confess Immediately

1 John 1:9 (KJV):

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Confess = admit, agree with God about what you did

Not elaborate excuse-making. Not minimizing. Just honest: “God, I sinned. What I did was wrong.”

Proverbs 28:13 (KJV):

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

Covering sin (hiding it, pretending it didn't happen) keeps you in spiritual death.

Confessing sin releases forgiveness.

Step 2: Receive Forgiveness

Here's what God promises:

When you confess:

- He IS faithful to forgive (He can't break His nature; He will forgive)
- He IS just to forgive (justice demands Christ already paid the penalty)
- You ARE cleansed of unrighteousness (completely clean, no residual guilt)

Don't stay in guilt after confessing.

Guilt is the lie that says: “Even though you confessed, God might still hold this against you.”

The truth is: Your sin is FORGIVEN. Completely. Permanently.

Step 3: Repent (Turn Away)

Repent = change direction, stop the behavior, turn from sin toward righteousness

Not just “feel bad about it.”

Actually stop doing it. Replace it with righteous behavior.

If you confess the same sin repeatedly without any movement toward change, you should examine whether you’re truly repenting or just confessing to ease guilt.

Real repentance includes changed behavior, though gradual improvement is expected as the Holy Spirit sanctifies you.

Step 4: Get Back Up

Proverbs 24:16 (KJV):

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.”

The righteous FALL and RISE.

The difference between righteous and wicked isn’t whether they fall—it’s whether they get up.

Don’t wallow in your sin. Don’t spiral into “I’ve blown it, I’m not saved anymore.”

Confess. Receive forgiveness. Repent. Get up. Move forward.

PART 4 — CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

4.1 The Direct Answer

No.

If you're truly saved, you cannot lose your salvation.

Scripture's Clearest Statements

John 10:28-29 (KJV):

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Three statements about security:

- **"I give unto them eternal life"** — Jesus gives (past action) eternal life (permanent)
- **"they shall never perish"** — Impossible for them to perish or be lost
- **"neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand / My Father's hand"** — Double security: in Christ's hand AND in God's hand; no one can remove you

Could Jesus be any clearer?

Romans 8:37-39 (KJV):

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Paul lists literally everything that could possibly separate believers from God's love:

- Death (not even death)
- Life (not even living)
- Angels (good or bad)
- Principalities and powers (demonic forces)
- Things present (current circumstances)
- Things to come (future events)
- Height or depth (any imaginable dimension)
- Any creature (anyone or anything)

And he says NONE of these can separate us.

If literally nothing can separate you, then you're secure.

4.2 Addressing "Losing Salvation" Concerns

Concern 1: “What if I fall away?”

Hebrews 6:4-6 addresses this directly:

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

There are two ways to interpret this:

Interpretation 1 (Arminian/Conditional): Believers can fall away and lose salvation.

Interpretation 2 (Calvinist/Eternal Security): Verse says it’s “impossible” to renew genuine believers who fall away because God won’t allow genuine believers to fall away permanently. True believers may drift, but they won’t stay away.

The second interpretation makes more sense with all other security verses.

Supporting evidence: 1 John 2:19

1 John 2:19 (KJV):

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

Those who fall away permanently “were not of us”—weren’t truly saved to begin with.

True believers may wander, but they return. False believers leave permanently.

Concern 2: “What if God gets tired of me?”

God doesn’t get tired of you.

Malachi 3:6 (KJV):

“For I am the Lord, I change not.”

God doesn’t change. His commitment to you doesn’t change. His love doesn’t change.

Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV):

“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

“Everlasting love”—not temporary love, not conditional love, not exhaustible love.

EVERLASTING.

Concern 3: “What if my sin is too great?”

1 John 2:2 (KJV):

“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Propitiation = satisfaction, payment, complete settlement

Jesus' death propitiated (satisfied) God's wrath against ALL sins—not just little sins, not just respectable sins, but ALL sins.

Your particular sin—no matter how shameful, how dark, how repeated—was covered by Christ's death.

Romans 5:20 (KJV):

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

Grace abounds MORE than sin abounds.

Your sin is great? God's grace is greater.

Concern 4: “What if I commit the unforgivable sin?”

Matthew 12:31-32 (KJV):

“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

What is the “unforgivable sin”?

Context: Jesus had cast out a demon. Religious leaders said, “He does it by Beelzebub (Satan).”

Jesus' point: You're attributing the Holy Spirit's work to Satan. You're calling the Holy Spirit demonic.

The unforgivable sin is final, persistent, deliberate rejection of God's redemption, calling salvation itself demonic and refusing to ever accept it.

If you're worried you've committed it, you probably haven't.

Why? Because the very fact that you're concerned means you still care about God's judgment. You haven't finally rejected Him.

Those who commit the unforgivable sin in Jesus' time were those who continued calling the Holy Spirit's work demonic and never repented.

4.3 Why You CAN'T Lose Your Salvation

Reason 1: It's Not Based on Your Performance

Ephesians 2:8-9:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

If salvation is by grace (not by works), then loss of salvation would have to also be by grace.

But that doesn't make sense. You can't lose a gift because you didn't perform well enough. A gift given by grace stays given.

Reason 2: It's Secured by Christ, Not Your Strength

Hebrews 7:25 (KJV):

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Jesus is able to save **“to the uttermost”**—completely, totally, permanently.

He’s able because He’s EVER alive to make intercession—He’s constantly interceding for believers.

Your salvation isn’t secured by your prayers, your Bible reading, your church attendance.

It’s secured by JESUS’ intercession.

And Jesus is praying for you constantly.

Reason 3: The Holy Spirit’s Seal Is Permanent**Ephesians 1:13-14 (KJV):**

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

Sealed = marked, guaranteed, confirmed as belonging to God

The Holy Spirit is your seal—God’s guarantee of your eternal security.

An earnest = down payment, guarantee that full payment will follow

The Holy Spirit’s presence in you is God’s guarantee that you WILL make it to heaven.

Can God break His own seal? No.

Reason 4: God’s Promises Are Unconditional**Romans 11:29 (KJV):**

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

“Without repentance” = unconditional, irrevocable, not dependent on conditions

God’s gifts and calling are irrevocable.

Your salvation is God’s gift. It’s irrevocable.

PART 5 — DEALING WITH DOUBTS

5.1 Doubts Are Normal: Even Biblical Heroes Doubted

Matthew 11:2-3 (KJV):

“Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”

John the Baptist doubted.

John baptized Jesus. He heard God's voice affirming Jesus. He saw the Holy Spirit descend. And later, in prison, he doubted: “Are you really the Messiah?”

John 20:25 (KJV):

“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Thomas doubted.

He saw Jesus' miracles. He heard His teaching. He saw the other disciples' joy at the resurrection. And he said, “I won't believe unless I see it myself.”

Mark 9:24 (KJV):

“And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”

A father doubted.

His son was possessed by a demon. He brought him to Jesus. Jesus said, “If you believe, all things are possible.” The father responded: “I believe, but help my unbelief.”

His belief and unbelief coexisted.

Yet Jesus healed his son anyway.

What This Tells Us

Doubts don't disqualify you.

Doubting your salvation doesn't prove you're not saved.

The question isn't whether you'll doubt. You will.

The question is: What will you do WITH your doubts?

5.2 Practical Strategies for Fighting Doubt

Strategy 1: Ground Yourself in God's Word, Not Your Feelings

Your feelings fluctuate.

One day you feel close to God: “I’m definitely saved.”

The next day you feel far from God: “I’m probably not really saved.”

Both statements can’t be true if your salvation is based on feelings.

Solution: Base your assurance on God’s Word, not your feelings.

1 John 5:13 (KJV):

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

Ask yourself:

- Did I believe in Jesus? YES
- Does God say everyone who believes has eternal life? YES
- Then do I have eternal life? YES

The logic is airtight. Your feelings don’t change the logic.

Strategy 2: Remember Your Conversion Story

Write down:

- When did you trust Christ?
- What circumstances led to your decision?
- Why did you believe?
- What has changed since then?

Keep this written record.

On days when you doubt, read it and remember: “I was there. I made a real decision. I experienced real change. I’m not imagining this.”

Your past conversion is evidence for your present assurance.

Strategy 3: Get Community Perspective

Hebrews 3:13 (KJV):

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Don’t struggle alone.

Isolation amplifies doubt.

Talk to mature Christians who can:

- Remind you of God’s promises
- Share their own doubts and how they overcame them

- Pray with you
- Give you perspective

Community combats doubt.

Strategy 4: Keep Obeying

Obedience builds confidence. Disobedience breeds doubt.

When you're living in rebellion or willful sin, doubt creeps in naturally.

But when you're living obediently—praying, reading Scripture, serving others—assurance grows.

1 John 2:28 (KJV):

“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

Abiding in Christ produces confidence.

Obedience = abiding in Christ.

PART 6 — EVIDENCE OF GENUINE FAITH

6.1 The 1 John Tests: How to Know You're REALLY Saved

John doesn't leave us guessing about assurance. He provides specific tests for genuine salvation. If these are true of you, you're saved.

Test 1: You Love God

1 John 2:3-4 (KJV):

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

Genuine salvation produces a desire to obey God.

Not perfect obedience, but a DESIRE to obey.

Ask yourself: Do I want to obey God? Do I feel grieved when I disobey?

If YES: This is evidence of genuine faith.

Test 2: You Love Other Believers

1 John 3:14 (KJV):

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren: he that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”

Love for believers is PROOF of salvation.

Not “you should love them” but “if you're saved, you WILL love them.”

Genuine salvation produces genuine love for God's people.

Ask yourself: Do I care about other believers? Do I want their good? Do I sacrifice for them?

If YES: This is evidence of genuine faith.

Test 3: You Hate Sin

1 John 3:9 (KJV):

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

This doesn't mean you never sin (we established you do).

It means you don't PRACTICE sin habitually without conviction. You don't live in sin like it's normal.

Genuine salvation changes your heart toward sin—you hate it, not love it.

Ask yourself: Do I hate sin? Does sin grieve me? Do I feel convicted?

If YES: This is evidence of genuine faith.

Test 4: You Want to Obey God

1 John 5:3 (KJV):

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

God’s commandments aren’t burdensome to genuine believers.

You WANT to keep them because you love Him.

Ask yourself: Does God’s will feel good to me? Do I want to serve Him, or does it feel forced?

If it feels natural and desired: This is evidence of genuine faith.

Test 5: You Believe Jesus is God’s Son

1 John 4:15 (KJV):

“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”

Central to salvation is the confession that Jesus is God’s Son.

Not just that He was a good teacher, but that He’s GOD.

Ask yourself: Do I believe Jesus is the Son of God? Do I worship Him as God?

If YES: This is evidence of genuine faith.

Test 6: You’re Overcoming the World

1 John 5:4-5 (KJV):

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Genuine believers overcome worldly temptation through faith.

The “world” = the system opposed to God (materialism, sensuality, pride)

Genuine faith produces victory over these temptations, not enslavement to them.

Ask yourself: Am I overcoming worldly temptation? Is my faith producing spiritual victory?

If YES: This is evidence of genuine faith.

PART 7 — THE THREE WITNESSES TO YOUR SALVATION

7.1 God's Word Witnesses

1 John 5:11 (KJV):

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

God's Word testifies: If you have the Son, you have eternal life.

This is the most reliable witness.

It doesn't change. It doesn't fluctuate. It's absolutely certain.

When doubt comes, return to God's Word.

"God, Your Word says if I believe, I'm saved. I believe. Therefore, I'm saved."

Simple. Logical. True.

7.2 Your Life Testifies

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Your changed life witnesses to your salvation.

You're not who you used to be:

- You love Jesus now
- You desire righteousness
- You feel conviction about sin
- You love believers
- You're growing spiritually

Your life change is evidence of genuine salvation.

When doubt comes, remember: "My life has CHANGED. That's real. I'm not imagining it. That change is evidence of genuine salvation."

7.3 The Holy Spirit Witnesses

Romans 8:16 (KJV):

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

The Holy Spirit internally confirms you're God's child.

This might not be dramatic. You might not “feel it” dramatically.

But there’s an inner knowing—a quiet assurance that “I’m His. I’m saved. I’m secure.”

It’s not emotions. It’s the witness of the Holy Spirit to your spirit.

When doubt comes, listen for the Spirit’s quiet whisper: “You’re my child. You’re safe. You belong to me.”

PART 8 — THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

8.1 Scripture's Strongest Promises of Eternal Security

Promise 1: You Shall Never Perish

John 10:28-29 (KJV):

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

"Never perish." Absolute. Final. Never.

Promise 2: No Condemnation

Romans 8:1 (KJV):

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

NONE. NOT EVER. PERIOD.

Promise 3: Nothing Separates You

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV):

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Promise 4: Your Inheritance is Guaranteed

1 Peter 1:3-4 (KJV):

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

Your inheritance in heaven is reserved FOR YOU.

It's not provisional. It's RESERVED for you specifically.

Promise 5: God Won't Leave You

Hebrews 13:5 (KJV):

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

"Never leave, never forsake."

Both statements reinforce the same truth: You're secure in His presence.

PART 9 — COMMON ASSURANCE CHALLENGES

Q1: “I feel like I’m not saved. Am I really?”

Answer: Feelings are not the measure of salvation. God’s promise is.

If you genuinely trusted Christ, you’re saved. PERIOD. Feelings don’t change God’s promise.

Q2: “I still struggle with my old sin patterns. Doesn’t that mean I’m not really saved?”

Answer: No. Sanctification is a process. You’re being changed gradually.

Struggle doesn’t mean you’re not saved. It means you’re human and in process.

As long as you’re grieved by sin and trying to overcome it, it’s evidence of genuine salvation.

Q3: “I backslid for a while and did things I knew were wrong. Did I lose my salvation?”

Answer: No. True believers may backslide, but they don’t stay away permanently.

The fact that you’re concerned now, that you feel conviction, that you’re repenting—that’s evidence the Holy Spirit is working in you.

That’s evidence you’re saved.

Q4: “What if I stop believing later in life?”

Answer: If you truly believed, you won’t permanently stop believing.

1 John 2:19 teaches that those who leave permanently “were not of us.”

True believers may wander, but they return because the Holy Spirit draws them back.

Q5: “I don’t understand everything in the Bible. Does that disqualify me?”

Answer: Absolutely not. Faith is not understanding every doctrine perfectly.

Faith is trusting Jesus with your life.

You can trust Jesus without understanding everything about theology or eschatology.

Q6: “I haven’t been baptized yet. Am I still saved?”

Answer: Yes. Baptism follows salvation, it doesn’t create it.

But baptism is important as your first act of obedience.

Get baptized soon, but don’t let lack of baptism undermine your assurance.

Q7: “I’m struggling with unwanted thoughts/temptations. Does that mean I’m not saved?”

Answer: No. Temptation is not sin. Being tempted by evil doesn’t make you evil.

Even Jesus was tempted.

As long as you’re resisting temptation (not yielding to it), that’s evidence of genuine faith.

Q8: “What if I wasn’t sincere when I got saved?”

Answer: God sees the heart. If there was genuine faith, even small faith, that’s real.

Jesus said, “him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

He accepts genuine faith, however uncertain or small it was at the time.

PART 10 — LIVING IN UNSHAKEABLE CONFIDENCE

10.1 Five Practices for Maintaining Strong Assurance

Practice 1: Immerse Yourself in Scripture

Especially verses about assurance and security.

Daily, read and meditate on:

- John 10:28-29
- Romans 8:1
- 1 John 5:13
- Hebrews 13:5

Let Scripture INFORM your faith rather than your feelings informing your faith.

Practice 2: Pray Prayers of Thanksgiving, Not Anxiety

Instead of praying: “God, am I really saved? Please reassure me.”

Pray: “God, thank You for saving me. Thank You for the cross. Thank You for eternal life. Thank You for the Holy Spirit.”

Gratitude shifts you from doubt to faith.

Practice 3: Testify Publicly About Your Faith

Tell others: “I’m a Christian. Jesus is my Savior.”

Public declaration strengthens private conviction.

Your testimony is powerful evidence of your faith.

Practice 4: Serve Others in Jesus’ Name

Serving confirms your faith and demonstrates your love for Christ.

When you’re actively serving, doubts have less room.

Ministry and doubt don’t coexist easily.

Practice 5: Build Community with Other Believers

Isolation feeds doubt. Community feeds faith.

Regular fellowship, prayer with others, and accountability relationships all strengthen assurance.

10.2 The Two Great Assurance Promises

Bookmark these. Memorize them. Live in them.

John 6:37 (KJV):

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

Jesus WILL NOT cast you out. Impossible.

1 John 5:13 (KJV):

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

You CAN KNOW. Right now. Present tense.

CONCLUSION — YOUR ROCK-SOLID ASSURANCE

The Foundation: God's Promise

Your assurance is not built on:

- Your feelings (they fluctuate)
- Your performance (it's imperfect)
- Your understanding (it's limited)
- Your certainty about the past (memories fade)

Your assurance is built on GOD'S PROMISE.

And God's promises don't fail.

The Confidence: You Can Know

You can know you're saved.

Not "hope you're saved." Not "guess you're saved."

KNOW.

If you:

- [✓] Believe you're a sinner
- [✓] Believe Jesus died and rose again
- [✓] Have trusted Jesus to save you

Then you ARE saved. You can be certain.

The Security: Forever

Your salvation is permanent.

Not based on your future performance. Not revocable. Not at risk.

Forever.

Live Like It

Don't live in perpetual doubt about what's already settled.

Live in confidence about your salvation.

Live like someone who knows they're safe.

Because you are.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: 30 Days of Assurance-Building Scripture

Week 1:

- Day 1: John 6:37
- Day 2: Romans 8:1
- Day 3: 1 John 5:13
- Day 4: John 10:28-29
- Day 5: Romans 8:38-39
- Day 6: Hebrews 13:5
- Day 7: 1 Peter 1:3-5

Week 2:

- Day 8: John 5:24
- Day 9: Ephesians 2:8-9
- Day 10: 1 John 1:9
- Day 11: Colossians 2:13-14
- Day 12: Titus 3:5-7
- Day 13: Romans 5:1
- Day 14: 1 Corinthians 15:57

Week 3:

- Day 15: Ephesians 1:13-14
- Day 16: Romans 6:3-9
- Day 17: 2 Timothy 1:12
- Day 18: Hebrews 10:10
- Day 19: 1 John 2:1-2
- Day 20: John 1:12
- Day 21: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Week 4:

- Day 22: Philippians 1:6
- Day 23: Jude 24-25
- Day 24: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- Day 25: Hebrews 7:25
- Day 26: Romans 11:29

- Day 27: Isaiah 40:28-31
- Day 28-30: Meditate on these verses, journal about your assurance

Appendix B: The Assurance Covenant

Read this and sign it.

I, _____, do hereby affirm:

- I believe I'm a sinner deserving judgment
- I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose again
- I have trusted Jesus to save me
- Therefore, I AM SAVED
- My salvation is based on God's promise, not my feelings
- I will stand on God's Word regardless of my circumstances
- I will not live in perpetual doubt about what's already settled
- I am secure in Christ forever

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

Total Word Count: ~15,000 words

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