

LIVING BY FAITH



BEGINNING YOUR WALK
AS A NEW BELIEVER

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The following sample is from the print version of Living by Faith.

Assurance of Salvation

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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

There may come a point in time when you will question whether you are truly saved. If this occurs try not to be alarmed. It is good for us to take stock of our lives on occasion because it helps us to grow in our walk with Christ.

How can you know for sure that you have been saved? God's Word is filled with guidance for every aspect of our lives including the assurance of salvation. He has placed many verses in the Bible to help the believer to know for sure whether they have been saved. Many of the verses we will be looking at are from the book of 1 John. Although we will not go into each verse in the book of 1 John, it is highly recommended that you read all five chapters.

When Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus about salvation, he made it very clear that without salvation we will not spend eternity in heaven.

*...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. -
John 3:3 (Words of Jesus)*

We are also warned that there will be some who profess to be believers that have not truly accepted the Lord as their Saviour.

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. -
Matthew 7:21 - 23 (Words of Jesus)*

The importance of knowing for certain that you have been saved cannot be understated. We do not know how many days, hours, or minutes God has granted us here to have an opportunity to make a choice.

Salvation does not come from good works so we must be careful not to base our assurance on what we may or may not be doing, thinking or feeling. We must go to Scripture and see what God says.

First, we will take a look at how a Christian views sin after salvation.

Read 1 John 1:5 - 10 and 1 John 2:1 - 2.

What do you think it means when it says if we walk in the light?

What do you think darkness refers to in these verses?

Since salvation what is your attitude concerning sin?

Do you commit sin with or without any guilt or shame?

Do you take steps to avoid sin or live by the world's views?

As you read your Bible you will find that there are several references to light and darkness. You may also find other contrasts such as the wise and the foolish. To say that God is light is to say that He is all good. Darkness often refers to things that are bad such as sin, Satan, and living a carnal (non-spiritual) life.

In 1 John 1:5 – 10 we see the contrast between the saved and lost man/woman. We know from Romans 3:23 that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There has only been one perfect person in this world and that was Jesus Christ. He had no sin in him nor did he commit any sins. He was God in the flesh, God the Son, and there was no darkness in him as shown in 1 John 1:5.

We are told that if we profess to be born-again (having fellowship with Christ) and we live in sin (walk in darkness) that we are lying. What about the man or woman that denies sin and continues to commit sin? The Bible says:

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. – 1 John 1:10

Does this mean that all Christians will never commit sin? No, we are all imperfect and are subject to the temptations of sin. But our attitude towards sin will be different. Let's take a look at this a little more closely.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. – 1 John 2:1 – 2

God addresses those that are saved in these verses, his children. He has provided us with His Word, the Bible, to help us to learn how to avoid sin. If we spend time in Scripture we will have a stronger basis to help us to stay away from sinful behavior. If we commit a sin, we can go to the Father asking forgiveness in Jesus' name. We have no need to go through any man or woman to seek forgiveness. It is only through Jesus that we can receive forgiveness for sin.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. – John 14: 15 – 20 (Words of Jesus Christ)

When you are saved God will never leave you. He sends the Holy Spirit to live inside you. The Holy Spirit is God. He is there to comfort you, guide you, and even give you wisdom to discern the truth. He can also convict you of sin. You cannot escape Him if you commit sin. You will feel the same guilt and shame that Adam and Eve felt in the garden when they knew that God was near after they ate of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We see in Ezekiel 36:26 – 27 that the Holy Spirit will help you to live righteously.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will

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