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Step 2: Can a person be assured that he/she has eternal life now?

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Now that you have believed in the redemptive work of Christ on the cross, and you have received Him as your personal Savior . . .

God promises you:

- **Eternal Life John 3:16**
- **Forgiveness Eph. 1:6-7**
- **Sonship John 1:12**

What vou should know:

- **Live by faith, Not by feelings Col 2:6**
- **Live guided by the Holy Spirit 1 John 4:13 Rom 8:16**
- **Live the new life in Christ 2 Co 5:17**

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

One of the first areas of Satan's attacks on your new spiritual life will be his suggestions in your mind that what you have done is ridiculous. His first intent will be to make you doubt what God has done in your heart. It is possible that you will have this thought: "*You don't really believe you are saved: its just your imagination. Your sins are not forgiven just because you received Christ. It just can't be enough*."

We should always respond to such doubts by studying the Scriptures. It does not depend on how we feel about it. What does God say about this? If Satan can keep you doubting, he will have won in ruining the peace and joy of your new life.

In **John 15:11,** according to what Jesus says, what is the source of our joy? _____

If Jesus' words are the source of our joy, we should be filled with a sense of security when we know what He said.

God has promised us **three things** if we have put our faith in Jesus Christ. Write each one beside the verse that promises it.

John 3:16 _____

Ephesians 1:7 _____

John 1:12 _____

According to these verses Jesus promised us eternal life, acceptance and the promise He'll make us a son or child of His.

There are **SIX REASONS** by which we can know that we have eternal life

1. God says it.

Read **1 John 5:13**. According to this verse, which of the following phrases is true?

- ☐ We hope to be saved.
- ☐ . . . We anticipate, perhaps, being saved
- ☐ We can know we are saved.
- ☐ We desire to be saved.

Unfortunately, many people commit the error of basing their assurance of going to heaven on their feelings. It is possible that we have great emotional feelings as we find true pardon in Christ, but emotions can be deceptive. Sometimes people do not *feel* anything, much less that they are saved. The only thing we can rely on at all times is what **GOD SAYS**.

Read **1 John 5:11-12**. Why is it impossible to have received Christ and not have eternal life? _____
_____

The two things are related. You can not have one (Christ in your life) without the other (eternal life).

Therefore, if a person has received Christ, SIMULTANEOUSLY he has received _____.

It is just that simple. Count on it!

If you have received Christ as your personal Savior, you have eternal life. In **John 5:24** there are three things that occur simultaneously when a person believes in (or receives) Jesus Christ. Look up the verse, and then write them:

1. His has _____ _____

2. He will not come into _____

3. He has _____ from_____ to _____

.

Did you see all three? Notice the present possession of *eternal life*, the future promise of *no condemnation* and the past experience of *passing from death to life*.

2. THE SPIRIT OF GOD TESTIFIES TO OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE SONS OF GOD

Read Romans 8:16-17.

The Holy Spirit within us gives us security, a sense of belonging, an understanding of our new relationship with God. How does one arrive at having this Spirit? (**Read Rom 8:15**)

_____
_____

Notice again, just as it is impossible to have received Christ into your life without having eternal life, so it is impossible to have received Christ and not have the Holy Spirit within.

They both happened simultaneously when you received Christ. The only way we know that is not because we feel something, but because God's Word declares that it happened… and we believe it.

The only way to have the Spirit is for God to give Him to the believer at the instant of believing in Christ. After reading **Ephesians 1:13** write the order of events in salvation. Write 1, 2, 3 beside the events according to their chronological order (which one was first, then second…?)

___ Believe

___Be sealed with the Spirit

___Hear the Gospel

When a person receives Christ, he literally is receiving the Holy Spirit. Note how it is said in **Romans 8:9**.

What is the "*Spirit"* that we must have in order to belong to God?

_____

What happens if anyone does not have the Spirit? _____

This *"Spirit of God"* lives inside the believer communicating to his spirit that they are friends and even more, "*sons of God*."

Do you know with assurance that you have the Spirit and thus are a child of God? ☐ yes ☐ no

3. CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN OUR LIVES.

One of the first changes that occur is the sense of our unworthiness and sinfulness. In fact, this is the first proof in the epistle of 1 John that the Holy Spirit has begun His work of conviction in a person. If you ask almost anyone if they think they are a "good" person, most will answer "Yes, I try to be." Only someone who knows the truth of God's Word that he has broken God's law and thus is a guilty sinner would respond to the question, "No, I am guilty." What is the first test in 1 John 1:8 to reveal whether we are saved or not? _____
_____

Which of the following changes have you experienced? (Mark as many of them as are true in your life)

☐ Peace within	☐ Desire to read the Bible
☐ New sensitivity to sin	☐ Change in attitudes
☐ Victory over some sins	☐ Sense of being forgiven
☐ Love for God	☐ New care for others

Look at **2 Corinthians 5:17.** What is the universal experience of true Christians in this verse? _____
_____
_____

When Christ enters a person, changes begin. Our world view changes, our sensitivity to sin changes and our normal life style begins to change. This "*new creature"* (the new believer) continues to change as he is taught the Word of God and as he begins to practice it in his life. His perspectives, attitudes and relationships will change progressively when his new life grows in importance to him. Have you seen some of these changes in your life?

☐ Yes ☐ No If your answer is "yes" write them below:

_____
_____
_____

4. WE LOVE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

The Bible is clear with respect to this experience in **1 John 3:14**. Read it. How can we **know** that we have passed from death unto life?

_____
_____

Which of the following have been your experiences?

☐ I desire to be with other Christians.

☐ I desire to be encouraged by others.

☐ My prejudices have changed.

☐ I desire to help other Christians.

We know that we have eternal life because we love other Christians and we want to be with them. Is that true of you?

_____

5. WE WANT TO SHARE OUR SAVIOR WITH OTHERS

In **Romans 5:5** we find another result of having the Spirit live within us. What is it? _____
_____

Look at Rom 5:8 to see what the *love of God* does: Christ gave his life for sinners. This same love has been placed in our hearts toward others. It is evident when we want to give our time and effort to tell our unsaved friends of Christ's forgiveness.

In **Acts 4:20** what was it that the Apostles could not stop talking about?

_____
_____
_____

The testimony of many people is that after accepting Christ, the first reaction is a desire to tell others that they can have the same experience of salvation. Their first thought upon knowing a new person is: "Does he know the Lord?"

6. WE WANT TO LIVE A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE

A person cannot say that he has received Christ as Savior and Lord and still want to live in habitual sin. True repentance always produces changes in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit makes us sensitive to sin, so that he does not want to live like he did before.

Read **1 John 3:3-7.** The use of the verb phrase "*commit sin"* or "*sins*" means *habitually practicing sin*. How would you describe the believer's relationship to sin?

_____
_____
_____

Only by the *GRACE OF GOD* can we be "pure." Now read **Titus 2:11-12**. What does the Grace of God teach us to do?

1. "Renounce _____

2. "Live _____

If we say that we have received Christ and we continue to live in sin, we are deceiving ourselves. Each part of our life —(our work, our habits, friendships and recreations) — must remain under the light and authority of the Word of God.

Do you desire to live a pure life for God? Be honest. ☐ Yes ☐ No

The evidences are important because all Christians should **KNOW FOR CERTAIN** that they are saved. There are two references that make this clear.

2 Peter 1:10 says that it is necessary to make our "*vocation and election* _____."

We are expected to investigate the promises, examine our relationship with Christ to see if there are genuine signs or symptoms of Christ's presence in our life.

2 Corinthians 13:5 exhorts us to examine ourselves to see if _____

If you have these evidences in your life and know that you have received Christ as your **only and sufficient Savior**, then you can rest in His promise in **John 6:37**, "*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me: and him that cometh to me I will* ***in no wise cast out****.*"

If you have come to Christ in faith trusting in His death and resurrection as just payment for all your sins, and desire Him to be a permanent part of your life, then these symptoms should be a part of your life. You can rest in the promise that your sins will never be remembered:

NKJ **Hebrews 10:17** *then He adds,* "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Review #2: THE SECURITY OF SALVATION

1. Who says that we can KNOW THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?
_____
_____ (1 John 5:13)

2. The Spirit of God testifies to our _____ that we are _____ of _____ (Rom 8:15).

3. The changes in our lives give evidence that we are a new _____ (2 Cor 5:7).

4. Now the true believer has_____ for other _____. (1 John 3:14).

5. So real is our experience of salvation that we want _____ with others. (Acts 4:20).

6. When the believer understands what Christ suffered on the cross for his sins he wants to do more, he wants to live_____. (1 John 3:3-7).