



The Security of the Believer

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Scriptures are printed verbatim with references noted but highlights and underlines are added. Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted.

A. A personal definition of “salvation”:

*Salvation is the conviction that, though you were previously lost and separated from God, you are now redeemed by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and saved for all eternity. You may or may not have had a dramatic experience upon conversion, and you may or may not feel any different, but you have **the settled confidence that Christ has entered your life**, has saved you, and recreated you and will never leave you or forsake you.*

B. A personal definition of “assurance”

A secure and ‘assured’ salvation experience is based not on feelings but on the facts of God’s Holy Word and Holy Work. Assurance of eternal salvation happens when the believer emphasizes God’s activity, rather than the “believer’s activity, in “the guaranteeing process” in the gift of eternal life and salvation process. Though the true believer may—and will—backslide at times, he/she shall certainly persevere in their walk with God and ultimately spend eternity with God in heaven. A “settled confidence” occurs when one realizes they have indeed surrendered their lives to Christ who alone guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost.



The eternal security of all true believers is the work of God alone who guarantees that His gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost.

C. How can a true believer be confident (i.e., assured) he/she has eternal life?

The basis of our assurance for the security of salvation does not rest with man, but with God alone. Only He can give this assurance. The security and assurance¹ of every true believe is based on three important factors:

- Direct statements from the Holy Word of God.
- The witness of the Holy Spirit in the every heart.
- The outward evidence of an inward change.

¹ NOTE: There is a difference between “security” (which is a theological truth) and “assurance” (the realization of that truth) of the believer.

A. Direct statements from the Holy Word of God.

- The securing work of God, the Father

Ephesians 1:4, NASB95 - ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will ...

Romans 8:28-30, NASB95 - ²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 5:7-10, NASB95 - ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Titus 1:1-2, HCSB - ¹ Paul, a slave of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, ² in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,...

- The securing work of God, the Son—Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:7, NASB95 - ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace...

Romans 3:25, NLT - ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

Romans 5:1, NLT - ¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Colossians 2:13, NLT - ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

1 Corinthians 1:2, NLT - ² I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

1 John 1:2, NLT - ² This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

Hebrews 7:25, NLT - ²⁵ Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.

John 5:24, NLT - ²⁴ "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

John 10:27-28, NASB95 - ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

- The securing work of God, the Spirit

Titus 3:5, NASB95 - ⁵ *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

Ephesians 4:30, NASB95 - ³⁰ *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Ephesians 1:13-14, NIV - ¹³ *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴ **who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession**—to the praise of his glory.*

B. The witness of the Holy Spirit in the every heart.

Hebrews 10:15, GNT - ¹⁵ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*"

Realize that our *relationship* with God will never change once He is made the Lord of our lives. What does change is our *fellowship* with God. Your earthly father will always be "your father" but your fellowship with him may be more close at times than at other times. Here are some reasons that our *fellowship* with God changes.

- Some don't realize what God's Word teaches.
- Some trust only in their senses and/or their own reasoning.
- Some base their assurance of salvation on "feelings".
- Some fall back into a sinful way of life.
- Some don't know yet who they are in Christ.
- Some think we must do good works to remain saved.
- Some haven't grown in their Christian life yet.
- Some people don't spend time with God each day and wonder why they're "out of fellowship" with God.

The Bible says, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.*" (Acts 16:31) In that short verse, we have both a command and a promise. The command is clear: "**Believe in the Lord Jesus.**" That means put your full trust and confidence in Him, and Him alone—not your feelings and not what you do or don't do. Christ, and His work on the cross, and your decision to give your life to Christ as Lord must be the source of assurance for your salvation. If you do that, the promise is clear: "**You will be saved.**"

The command: **Believe**

The Promise: **You will be saved**—*this is what God says!*

C. The outward evidence of an inward change.

2 Corinthians 5:17, NASB95 - ¹⁷ *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

God accepts you however you are at the time of salvation. As His Holy Spirit begins to grow you in your walk with Christ, the result of your belief and obedience in God's Word will be a changed life. This "new life" in Christ should result in your having. . .

- A new attitude about sin.
- A new realization about important matters of life.
- The "fruits of the Spirit" will be seen in your life.

"You shall know them by their fruits." - Matthew 7:20 (NASB)

Rest assured that if you have asked Christ to be the Lord of your life that **salvation in Christ is sure!** The Bible says so; The Holy Spirit tells us we are His; and our transformed lives, changed by the power of God also tell us so. Let's believe it and rejoice in it.

What If I am still not sure?

If you are still not sure, it may very well be that you have never personally asked Christ into your heart as Savior and Lord. You may know a lot about Him *but you don't know Him—as Lord!* You may know *about* the President of the United States, *but you don't know the President of the United States.*

Knowing about God is not the same as knowing God. If these words seem to ring true in your heart, it is the Holy Spirit telling you now is the time for you to seriously make Jesus Lord of your life. It will be the greatest discovery in your life.

THIS STATEMENT IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE:

Nothing is more important than settling—once and for all—whether a person is genuinely saved.

Eternity is certainly at stake. Heaven and Hell are *in the balance.*

If you have serious doubt about your salvation, please see your pastor or a trusted Christian friend immediately to bring needed resolution to this important matter.

ANSWERING THE CALL
DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT 

Dr. Tom Elliff has a sermon in which he talks about "How to know if you are a true believer". He says there will be three evidences of a genuine believer who's life is changed in Christ:

1. **There will be an *upward path.*** (In other words, there will be evident progress in the Christ's walk.)
2. **There will be an *inward peace.*** (God's Holy Spirit will settle the believer's heart regarding this question.)
3. **There will be an *outward witness.*** (True believers have to tell others what God has done for them—they can't keep quiet.)