

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES COURSE PAPER 2

ASSURANCE

Bible Memory Verses: 1 John 5:11-13

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life: he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Having now understood the importance of being "born again" in our last study, we need to come to a place where we can 'relax into the things of God'. If we doubt our salvation this relaxing is impossible, like sitting in a chair that you are not sure will hold you.

It is interesting, and profitable, to read through the first epistle of John, where there are at least 30 references to things that we can "know." See how many you can find and fit in with the seven points below. (Note especially 1 John 2:3, 2:20, 3:2, 3:19 and 5.13).

How can I be sure I am saved?

When we look at the Bible, we find that there are several means by which we may be certain of salvation. Here are seven principal means of assurance and it is worth noting that all are objective evidences; nowhere does the scripture tell us that we are saved because we "feel saved" - Look again at John 3:6 and see that feelings originate in the flesh.

1. THE CLEAR TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH WE RECEIVE BY FAITH

In John 6:37, Jesus said:

The Bible is very plain that we are saved because we have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can believe God's word - see Hebrews 6:16-20, John 6:68, where Peter said to Jesus,
"Lord

and Mark 4:13-20. If we have met the condition of asking Christ into our lives, the Bible - God's Word - tells us that we are saved. Write out Romans 10:13:

and also Galatians 3:26

2. THE INNER WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT WE HAVE BEEN MADE CHILDREN OF GOD

Romans 8:15-16 says

This is not a 'feeling' or an 'emotion' but much more a dawning awareness born in the depth of our spirit that we are God's children, we are Spirit's people - John 6:63, Galatians 4:6-7

3. THE DISCOVERY THAT, AS WE OBEY HIS WILL, GOD IS WORKING WITH US.

God has committed Himself to those who are His children and has promised to reveal Himself in and through His people. Philippians 2:12:

(also see James 2:21-24, Romans 6:15-18, Mark 16:16-18).

4. THE DESIRE TO BECOME LIKE THE LORD JESUS

Romans 8:29 tells us:

As we commit our lives to Christ, He begins changing us, making us like Himself. (See also 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6, 2 Corinthians 3:15-18, 1 Peter 1:14-16)

5. THE CHASTENING PROCESS CHRIST PUTS US THROUGH

See what Romans 5:3-5 says

Jesus was perfected and learned obedience through suffering (Hebrews 5:8-9), and we also are perfected and learn obedience the same way (Phillipians 3:10-11). See also Hebrews 12:4-11.

6. THE LOVE OF THE BROTHERS

Look particularly at 1 John 3:14 which says

If God loved each of us enough to die for us, and His nature is being formed in us, we will love one another. Look also at John 13:34-35, and 1 Peter 1:22-23.

7. BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

Write out 2 Corinthians 5:5

Now also read Acts 5:32, Ephesians 1:13-14, Hebrews 2:3-4. See how the baptism in the Holy Spirit is spoken of as a "seal" and "a deposit".

Other verses relevant to today's subject can be found in Philippians 3:20-21, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:9-10, Titus 2:11-14.

In the light of all this, can you SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT YOU ARE BORN AGAIN? (2 Timothy 1:12). Then expect to grow in God and go on to further experience in Him.