

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST STUDY QUESTION

Name:

Date:

Assurance of Salvation

Key Text: 1 John 5:11-13

Memory Verse:

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." 1John 5:13

It is not unusual for new Christians to sometimes be confused about the authenticity of their relationship with God. Often, because of our obvious shortcomings, we doubt our salvation. This session will help you find a place of positive assurance in your new life as a Christian.

1. When it comes to assurance of their salvation, people fall into three categories:

- A. Those who are confident that they have salvation.
- B. Those who sometimes doubt their salvation.
- C. Those who hope they are saved but lack assurance.

Which category best describes you?

2. It is possible to have a false assurance of salvation based on wrong assumptions. We will examine three of such assumptions and try to discover why they are erroneous.

A. "I believe there is a God."

How can a person believe in God and yet not have salvation? James 2:19

B. "I'm basically a good person"

Why is our own goodness a false basis for being included in God's kingdom?

Romans 3:23, Isaiah 64:6.

C. "I attend church, and pray often, in fact, I have been baptised and confirmed."

Why are religious activities not equivalent to salvation? *Ephesians 2:8, 9.*

Can you think of any other assumptions that give a false assurance of salvation?

3. From our key text and memory verse, we are assured that we can know for sure that we are saved, because of what is written in the word of God. Let us examine a few verses and see what they say about our salvation.

A. *John 1:12*

According to this verse, what two things must we do?

When we do these things, what does God do?

B. John 5:24

What, according to this verse, are the three results of hearing and believing?

Present _____

Future _____

Past _____

C. 2 Corinthians 5:17

What takes place when a person becomes a Christian?

4. There are three tests that every believer can carry out in their own lives to know for sure that they are saved.

A. The repentance test. Acts 3:19

What does it mean for a person to repent?

B. The obedience test. *Matthew 7:16-18; 1 John 2:3-6.*

What type of 'fruit' is expected from someone who has a genuine relationship with Christ?

C. The witness test. *Romans 8:15-16*

According to this verse, what does the Holy Spirit do for the believer?

Prayer

Key Text: *Philippians 4:6, 7*

Memory Verse: *"Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" John 16:24*

Just as we enjoy talking to and sharing the company of those whom we love, God enjoys our fellowship when we pray to Him. Prayer is more than just presenting a list of your requests to God; it involves communicating with Him about everything that concerns us and also expressing our appreciation to Him.

1. We will commence this study by reading some Bible verses that teach specific things about prayer.

A. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

How can we practically 'pray without ceasing'?

B. *Matthew 6:6, Mark 1:35*

Why is it important to have a specific time of private prayer?

C. *Matthew 13:19, Acts 2:42*

What benefits do we get from church prayer meetings which personal prayer may not afford us?

2. The Bible establishes some important conditions for answered prayer and also reveals some hindrances to prayer.

A. *John 15:7*

How can God's words abide in us?

B. *1John 5:14, 15*

How can we know for sure that we are asking according to God's will?

C. *Psalm 66:18*

What must we do to ensure that sins do not hinder our prayer?

D. *James 4:3*

What is the importance of a right motive when we pray?

3. When we have fulfilled the above conditions and eliminated the hindrances, we have God's assurance that He will answer our prayer.

What do the following verses tell us about God's desire to answer our prayers?

Jeremiah 33:3, Ephesians 3:20

4. We will conclude this study by looking at a suggested pattern for praying – the 'ACTS' pattern. Write down what the following words mean to you.

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

The Word of God

Key Text: *2 Timothy 3:16, 17*

Memory Verse: **“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.” 1Peter 2:2**

Just as any relationship depends on communication, our relationship with God thrives on a consistent two-way communication with Him. God talks to us through His word, and we speak to Him through prayer. The Bible is more than a general declaration of God's mind; it is more than a compilation of 66 individual books. It is a personal message from God, a loving Father to His beloved child. We have a responsibility to open this personal love letter from God and find out what He has to say to us.

1. Although the Bible was written through the agency of human lives, God is the real author of the Bible. *2 Timothy 3:16, 17*

According to this passage, what four things is the bible profitable for?

What will be the end result in our lives?

2. Apart from the four things mentioned above, there are many other benefits of studying the Bible. As we read the following verses, take note of the benefits they highlight.

A. *1 Peter 2:2*

In what three ways is the word of God a spiritual parallel of physical food?

B. *James 1:22-25*

How, according to this passage, does the Bible compare to a mirror?

What is your own responsibility here?

C. *Psalms 119:9, 11*

What is the prescription here for living a pure life?

3. We will now look at a practical approach to studying the Bible

A. Approach your Bible study with the right attitude, i.e. you must be willing to learn, be eager to hear God speak to you and be ready to obey whatever He tells you.

B. Set aside a portion of time daily to study the Bible -this becomes your daily 'appointment' with God. Be consistent and choose a time and place where you will not be distracted.

C. Read prayerfully and carefully. During your reading, look for one of three things.

Can you explain these three things in your own words?

Insight

Command

Promise

D. Select one verse from your passage that really strikes you in a special way and meditate on it.

What does it mean to 'meditate'?

What is the benefit of meditating on God's word? *Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3*
