

Cornerstone 1: Repent and Return

C1-2 Assurance of Salvation

Introduction

How do I know that I am really saved? This is a question in the hearts and minds of many people. Sometimes they resolve it by coming to the altar to be saved again and again. We do not want you to have to do that. We want you to be assured of your salvation and move on in the Lord. Why are people not assured of their salvation? There are two main reasons: 1) past experiences or religious paradigms can cause people to not be assured and 2) an over dependence on emotion.

1. Why are some Christians not sure of their salvation?

1.1 Past experiences or religious paradigms

- a. Many people come from other religions that require the practitioners to work for their salvation. This very legalistic approach may be carried into the new believers' experience with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Many religions require you to do something because religion is men seeking after god and for you to get close to god you must do something for god. For example, they would ask god for something and then return to thank the deity and do something to earn favor and to get closer to god.
 - Coming from such a past religious paradigm, when you enter the Kingdom of God, you would bring with you those past paradigms and even though they are erroneous you would apply it sometimes to the Kingdom life. BUT it is NOT applicable to the Kingdom of God.
 - What must we do with these past paradigms?
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- God cannot be bribed! In fact, we cannot afford to give Him anything for our salvation because Jesus has done it all for us.
 - We are not in the kingdom of darkness. All kinds of religions are actually in the kingdom of darkness. When we come to Christ we have come to a new Kingdom and the way it operates is totally different.

b. Lacking clear foundations

Without clear instruction from the Word of God, these new believers feel guilty whenever they are not working hard for their salvation. Thus, with this wrong idea, they are in bondage and soon find that their Christian experience is very tiring.

- Imagine all the time feeling guilty and trying to work out something and not being assured of your salvation. This is not the kind of Christianity in the Kingdom of God.
 - You cannot build a Kingdom life on guilt. What must we do?
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1.2 Dependence on Emotion

- a.** Feeling is good but a total dependence on emotion can become a problem. The faith of the new believer is no longer dependent on the promises of God but on how he feels at the moment.

- What should we depend on and why?
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- Regardless of how we feel, we are assured of our salvation because our dependence is on God's Word.

b. Do not make emotions your God or sole guide

In short, the person's emotion becomes the god of his life. If he feels good then God is good. If he feels bad then God is bad.

- Emotions do not determine nor change God's nature.
 - What is God's nature?
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2. What Should Be The Correct Approach?

To grow in your faith in Christ, you have to learn to place these three aspects in their proper order:

2.1 Facts

The truth that changes your destiny is that

These are undeniable facts and they should be top of your priorities.

- In no other religion did someone come to die for you. You are given a set of beliefs to operate from and if you do so you are fine. They could therefore misunderstand the Law set forth in the Old Testament.
- In the Old testament God gave them laws to guide them to Him. No one could really be saved by the Lord. That was why they had sacrifices every day and every year. They point to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.
- Everything in the Old and New Testament points to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man comes to the Father except through Jesus.
- Everything will be in confusion without the truth to anchor you in your life. Be anchored on the infallible Word of God. These are undeniable facts of the truth of God.

2.2 Faith

You decide to trust and believe in Jesus Christ. You accept Him as your personal Lord and Savior. Now you are led by the Holy Spirit as you serve Him with all your heart. All these are activated by your faith in what God has done for you and mankind.

- Where does faith come from?
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- The Word of God when it is preached sparks and ignites faith in you and with that faith you have the capacity to believe.
- Do not deny faith is working in your life because when you let faith operate, then you can believe.
- Faith is a gift to believe that Jesus did everything for you and when you do that with all your heart, that is faith.
- How can we increase in faith every day?

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- How are we empowered?
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2.3 Feeling

You do feel good when you experience the love of God and know with confidence that if you were to die today, you will be welcomed into heaven.

However, your feeling should not be the condition that alters your belief. No matter how you feel and what you feel, nothing can change

The warmth of God's presence can overcome and overwhelm many times. Those feelings are good and can spark faith in our hearts even as we listen to the Word being preached.

- When they are all combined, the Word of God being preached, faith increasing and being exercised and the feelings keep increasing positively, it is a powerful experience.
 - What will assure us of our salvation?
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3. The Meaning of Assurance

[KJV] 2 Tim 1: 12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

- Why is God able to keep us and who will fight for us?
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- He is more than able. There is no enemy bigger than God and HE who is in us is greater than he that is in the world.
- You will realise this truth more and more as you walk with the Lord. Assurance comes from a deep conviction of the Word of God.

4. The Proofs of Assurance

[KJV] 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.

- God holds us in the palm of His hand. No one can snatch us from the palm of his hand. The only way is for you to crawl out. God does not cast us out. But do not walk out or backslide.
 - What do we anchor our life on and how should we walk?
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4.1 The love of God is very powerful

Rom 8: 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The love of God is so overwhelming and contagious and powerful. When we are in Christ Jesus, no one, nothing can separate us from His love. We can be deeply assured of this.

4.2 Temptations and sins will continue to challenge your faith

[KJV] 1 Pet 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- Jesus will return and the faith that God has given to us would keep us unto salvation.
 - We are saved today, we are being saved as we walk in the Lord and we are ultimately saved such that even this body which is subject to diseases and sickness will no longer be. We will have a new body.
 - In the meantime, persist strongly in your faith and never give up.
 - Temptations will come but no temptation has overtaken you but what which is common to men and God is able to provide a way of escape for you.
 - What can the devil do or not do? Why is this an important truth?
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4.3 The Spirit of God testifies within our spirit that we are children of God

[KJV] Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

- We are children of God. We cannot let our feelings dictate whether we feel like a son or not. The Spirit in us testifies that we are His sons.
 - Jesus, twice in His life the Father opened the clouds and spoke saying, You are my beloved son in whom I am well-pleased.
 - When Jesus died on the cross, the veil separating the Holy place from the Holy of holies was torn into two such that right now we can enter the Holy of holies.
 - The Holy of holies is now in us. The Holy Spirit is dwelling in us and now from the Holy of holies there is a cry that says, I am a child of God, I am the son and daughter of God.
 - How do we know that we are children of God?
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- There will come persecution. Regardless of what people may throw at us, it does not matter as we can face them because the Spirit within us testifies and bears witness that we are unstoppable in the Lord.

5. The Areas of Assurance

Romans 8: 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [g]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- The Holy Spirit in us brings that deep assurance in our hearts.

5.1 Escape Death (Salvation Itself)

[KJV] Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

- Why is salvation not a formula?

- It is not how much we do for God. We cannot do enough for God to be saved. But once we are saved, we can do without limitation everything in the Kingdom for God and to glorify Him.

5.2 Eternal Life

[KJV] 1 John 5: 13 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.

- Where will we spend eternity?

- The deep assurance in us is that we have eternal life.
- Many will face persecution. Would you deny Jesus Christ in the face of death?
- Why do we not need to fear death?

- What should we fear?

- Do not let the temptations of this world draw you away. Do not let a simple denial of Christ seemingly to escape persecution now tempt you into denying Christ.

Eternal life in the presence of God is the most precious thing. Do not ever lose it. Continue to walk with the Lord.

5.3 The Election

[KJV] 2 Pet 1: 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

- All of us have a calling. We are the elect of God. Jesus said in Matthew 24 that you are the elect of God. We are chosen in Christ. God knows the choices that we will make. He knows who would choose Him and who would not. When we choose Him, we become the elect of God.
 - As the elect of God we are very privileged. There is a calling on our lives. Our lives are meant to amount to much, so much that you cannot even imagine it.
 - Why must we make our election and calling sure?
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- The Lord knows the hearts of people. Many Christians today are not prepared for what is to come and this is why we have to prepare people for what is to come so that they can make their election and calling sure.
 - This is the time to make sure you build your Christian life, your Kingdom life on the proper foundation of God and do not let the enemy shake you.

6. The Effects of Assurance

6.1 Showing forth the praise of God

[KJV] Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

- When you are deeply assured of who you are and your destiny in the Lord, you can really show forth the praises of God in and through your life. You have a calling. What is our purpose?
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6.2 Supernatural Love wells up within you

[KIV] 1 John 3: 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

[KJV] 1 John 4: 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The moment you are saved, something happens inside your heart. You begin to love rather than hate others. Loving our neighbors becomes a reality.

- The Bible talks about different kinds of love. What is agape love?

- Phileo or brotherly love can be natural. Romantic love can be natural. However, the love of God is a supernatural. How can we love others who are hard to love?

- Expect the supernatural love of God to well up within you.

6.3 Change comes from within you

[KJV] 1 Thess 1: 4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost. 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

- One of the effects of assurance is a drastic change in your lifestyle. You become a model of what a true believer should be. Your life is a witness and you are also not afraid to witness to others about the love and salvation of Christ.

- How can we let God change us?

- What must happen to our heart?

- What must happen to our mind?

- What must happen to our emotions?

Conclusion

*[KJV] Heb 3: **12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; **15** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

- To maintain the love and the deep assurance that God has given to us, hold on to your faith in Jesus Christ. Receive encouragement from other Christians and encourage others in the faith.
- Do not harden your heart. Let your heart be tender and let the Lord direct your heart like He would direct a water course.

*[KJV] Heb 10: **35** Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. **36** For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

- Persist with courage and you will receive your just reward.
- We can be confident in the Word and confident in the Lord.
- What God has called us to, requires endurance from us and we need to be confident in what God has prepared for us.

- Why can we be confident about the future?
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- Everything that is going to happen has been written in the Bible. All we need to know is to keep trusting in Him. Do not be deceived by the devil.

Keep on walking in the sure ways of God. Be assured of your salvation. You cannot do anything to earn your salvation but you can walk in a deep assurance of the finished work of Jesus Christ in your life.

Prayer: Father bless every new believer. God I know there's an acceleration. I sense it so deeply now that even as they watch this module, memorize the scriptures therein, something miraculous is happening in their lives. A deep assurance of faith, trust and confidence in the Lord that You hold the future of every single believer here. So Lord bless everyone watching this. Let them teach other people the truths that they've learned from this first two modules of the cornerstone of repentance and returning to the Lord. We bless you Father. In the mighty Name of Jesus, amen.