

Assurance of Salvation

Introduction

Assurance of salvation is necessary if a believer is to help others spiritually. In churches today some think that they are Christians, most of them hope so, some say so, and a few know that they are saved. Are you married? Are you sure? You are either married or not. There is no halfway place. A person is either saved or lost. You are either "in Christ" or outside. Salvation is a miracle change. Has the miracle taken place? Yes or no? If we are "in Christ" then we ought to have the full assurance of salvation. Many church people do not believe that it is possible to be sure of salvation now. They feel that it is sacrilegious to make such a statement. Faith is a belief in God. If we were saved by works then they would be correct, for one would need to keep working and furthermore, the quality of the works would need to meet a standard. But salvation is a gift (Eph. 2.8) which we receive and then we possess salvation.

I. Definition of Assurance of Salvation

To have assurance of salvation is to be absolutely confident that we are saved and that if we died sudden, we would go immediately to heaven. Assurance of salvation is possessing salvation...possessing the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is eternal life; it is the life of God; it is Divine life. If I possess eternal life, then I am saved...saved for time and eternity. John 10.28-29, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hands."

II. Who May Have Assurance of Salvation?

1. Those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. John 1.12, "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power (authority) to become the Sons of God"
2. Those who believe in Jesus Christ. John 3.16, "...whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life..." John 3.36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."

III. Basis of Assurance of Salvation

Can assurance be based on feelings? No never. Satan might control or influence our feelings. Health, weather, circumstances and environment affect feelings. God has given us three things upon which to base our assurance:

1. The witness of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8.16 "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."
2. The Word of God. Very often, the Holy Spirit witnesses through the written word. I John 5.10 "He that believes on the Son of God hath the witness in Himself"
3. The Changed Life. Everyone around sees the change in us and assures our own heart that we are saved...truly a child of God...truly born again. I John 3.14, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." This is a positive sign, exemplifying salvation. The Christian is a new creature in Christ (II Cor. 5.17) and this is manifested in new affections, new likes, new dislikes, new loves, and new hatreds.

IV. The Problem of Assurance of Salvation

Since the word of God and the Holy Spirit are so clear that it is possible to have the assurance, why do so few have assurance? With some it is because they have listened to the devil's accusations. The acid test boils down to answering two questions:

1. Have I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior?
2. Do I truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

V. Hindrances To An Assurance of Salvation

1. Failure to trust the Word of God. If I am truly saved, then I must pray that God will increase my faith and help me to believe what the Bible says.
2. Spiritual drowsiness. Often Christians fall asleep and lose both their joy and assurance of salvation.
3. Worldliness. The love of the world chokes out desires for God, the Word and prayer.
4. Lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Jn.7.37-39. This is often caused by lack of surrender to the control of the Spirit in our lives. Cure: Do not try to serve two masters. Yield your will to Him and He will guide.
5. Over-emphasis is on doctrines like predestination, election, carnal, or eternal security.
6. Sin and Backsliding: Cure I Jn.1.9

Conclusion:

Lord, search my heart and see if I possess salvation, if Jesus truly lives within. If I am truly saved, help me never to doubt the plain statements of the Bible. If I am not saved, O Lord, take away a false security.