

SAFE AND SURE!

1 John 5:13

Int: Assurance of salvation is vitally important for several reasons. 1) No Christian will know full joy until he first finds full assurance. 2) No Christian will ever be of much use helping others get saved until first he is sure that he is saved. 3) No Christian can face death with confidence without assurance.

It is the privilege of every saved person to KNOW he is saved. How does a person come by assurance? Here are four lines of evidence that, taken together, should bring assurance into your relationship with Christ and leave you shouting instead of doubting!

EXTERNAL: Evidence of the Word of God

The best way to know you are saved is to know what the Bible says you must do to be saved and to know that you have done it!

Jesus said, “Whoever comes to me I will never cast out” (Jn 6:37). The Bible says, “For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10:13). God’s Word says, “Come to Christ.” I did. God’s Word says “Call on his name.” I did. That settles it!

Do you have this external evidence?

INTERNAL: Evidence of the Holy Spirit

When God forgives a sinner, he lifts away the load of guilt and gives deep-settled peace, a consciousness that all is well between the soul and the Savior. “The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God” (Rom 8:16).

If you have it, you will know it. Do you have it?

Do you have this internal evidence?

PRACTICAL: Evidence of a changed life

When the authorities questioned him, the man born blind to whom Jesus gave sight said, “I cannot answer all your questions but this one thing I know. Once I was blind but now I see” (Jn 9:25). Jesus had made a great change in his life!

It is still true that those who meet Jesus come away with lives changed. I have assurance as I look at my life. I see points of conflict and struggle, dark spots as well as light, but it is clear God has been at work in me.

Do you have this practical evidence?

PATERNAL: Evidence of Fatherly correction

When I misbehaved as a child other people were reluctant to lay a hand on me, but not my Dad! He constantly reassured me that I was really his son and that he really loved me because when I did wrong he promptly corrected me!

“For whom the Lord loves he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives” (Heb 12:6). God’s corrective discipline is exclusive. He reserves it for his true children. If a professing Christian can go wrong and stay wrong without God’s discipline falling, it proves he is not a son of God after all (Heb 12:8).

I have experienced the discipline of God.

Do you have this paternal evidence?