

The Context of Spirituality: The Assurance of Salvation.

Introduction

- A. Christianity has been designed by God to work. The Gospel is the power of God. Rom. 1:16
- B. In the new birth the character and habit patterns of the believer are changed. We become a "new creation." II Cor. 5:17
- C. Our "eternal security" is in God and His Word. However, no one has the right to assurance who does not have evidence of "godliness" in their life
- D. It is important to keep in mind that we are not speaking of our emotions but of the character of our daily life – as manifested in our attitudes and actions.
- E. The text: I John 5:13

I. In Relation to God – the Evidence is Obedience, I John 2:3-5

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Comment: Here we are told that obedience to God will be a dominant characteristic of a believer's life. This does not mean sinlessness – John already condemned that view in I John 1:8,10.

II. In Relation to the World – the Evidence is Separation, I John 2:15-17.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Comment: The true believer will not seek his pleasure in the sinful world culture – nor will he be dominated by the goals, priorities, and methods of the world.

III. In Relation to Sin – the Evidence is Freedom, I John 3:9.

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him, he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. (NIV)

Comment: The continual practice of known sin cannot be a characteristic of the life of the true believer.

IV. In Relation to the Brethren – the Evidence is Love, I John 3:14.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Comment: The true believer will prefer the company of Christians to that of non-Christians. Such preference will characterize his life. The gospel not only changes our heart it gives us the desire to seek our fellowship with the people of God.

V. In Relation to the Holy Spirit -- the Evidence is Progress, I John 3:24.

And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Comment: The Holy Spirit has not only brought us to the new birth but He has made us His temples. He dwells in us to glorify the Lord Jesus through leading us into the practice of the Word of God. John 16:14 The true believer can therefore look into his life and see some measure of spiritual growth.

VI. In Relation to Ourselves -- the Evidence is Understanding, I John 5:20.

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true

Comment: In the new birth every believer receives an understanding of the basic truths of the Bible so he will be able to recognize truth and error. John describes this awareness by use of: the word "anointing" in I John 2:27. The true believer will have an inner certainty that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that the Bible is the Word of God.

Conclusion.

A. If a person is characterized by --

disobedience to God,	.	
love for the world,	.	
known sin,	.	that person is not a believer
dislike for Christians,	.	no matter what they may say.
lack of progress,	.	
ignorance of Bible truths,	.	

B. It is the will of God for the believer to have the assurance of salvation. However, this assurance must be based on Biblical principles and not on emotions or an empty profession.

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