

If You Are Saved and You Know It

Today We want to answer the Question:

-We are tackling the question of Eternal Security or Epistemology

HOW DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE IF YOU ARE SAVED?

- **It would be great to be able to look at someone and tell if they are a Christian or not**
- **It would be great if there was some sort of external sign that would leave no doubt**
- **But it just does not work that way...**
 - Consequently, many people have serious doubts about their salvation
 - They go back and forth wondering if they are really saved or not
- **Others actually believe that they are saved and the Bible says that one day they will be surprised to find out that they actually are not**
 - One of the scariest verses in the Bible provides this warning:
 - Matthew 7:21-23, says “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.
22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’
23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’
- **In order to know for sure that we have saving faith, the Bible says that we ought to test ourselves**
 - 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”

THE PATERNITY TEST

How can we keep from being surprised on Judgement Day?

If You Are Saved and You Know It

- In life if we are not sure who our parents are, we take a paternal test
 - We use DNA tests to such as 23 & Me...Ancestry.com
 - Roughly a quarter (27%) of those who say they have used mail-in DNA testing learn that they have close relatives they didn't know about previously.
 - Can you imagine taking one of these tests and finding out for the **first time that your dad is not really your dad?**

- How do we keep this from happening to us spiritually?
 - Can we do a spiritual Paternal Test?

- The Good news is that we can know for sure who our Daddy is
 - There should be no doubt that when you die you will be with your Heavenly Father in eternity
 - The Bible makes this clear in 1 John 5:1-4 that we CAN HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION
 - It is like a Spiritual Paternity test

THE SPIRITUAL PATERNITY TEST

1 John 5:1-4

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God**, and whoever **loves the Father** loves the *child* born of Him.

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and **observe His commandments**.

³ For this is the love of God, **that we keep His commandments**; and His commandments are not burdensome.

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1. The G_____ Test--Are they made of the same stuff?

VERSE 1: We are "BORN OF GOD" through our Belief/Trust in Christ

- If someone is my child, they have my DNA
- When God is our father, we have His DNA

If You Are Saved and You Know It

- We are made in the image of God
- We are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- We have a new father...not Adam but the Second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:22-49)
- If someone is my child, they look like me (**RESEMBLANCE**)
 - They have some of my features
 - When God is our Father when people look at us they should see our resemblance to the Father
 - Acts 4:13 says that those who persecuted Peter and John were astonished. Even though they were unschooled, ordinary men when they saw their boldness for the gospel, they took note that these men had been with Jesus
- They cannot help it...
 - It is not something that they work at...it comes out of them spontaneously
 - It is the work of the Holy Spirit

2. The C _____ Test —do they act like me?

VERSE 4: “OVERCOMES THE WORLD” --they do not act like the World, they act like their Father in Heaven

- If someone is my child, they think about things the way that I do (worldview)
 - If someone is my child, they act just like me--**IMITATION**
 - If someone is my child, they have the same mannerisms as me
- If we are a child of God we think the same way that our Father does
 - We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)
 - Our way of thinking has been transformed (Romans 12:2)

3. The O _____ Test—are they submitted to my authority? **SUBMISSION**

VERSE 2: OBSERVES HIS COMMANDMENTS

VERSE 3: KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

- If someone is my child, they know their father’s voice
- They do what the father says
- They respond to the discipline of their father

If You Are Saved and You Know It

- They answer when I call

4. The R _____ Test does they love me? FELLOWSHIP

VERSE 1: LOVES THE FATHER

- They are loyal to their father
- They live in fellowship with their father
- They spend time with their father
They do father son/daddy daughter stuff
- They like to please their father

VERSE 2: LOVES THE CHILDREN OF GOD

- They love the things that their father loves
- They love the people that their father loves
They love the people of God

SUMMARY

The question "How do I know for sure that I'm saved?" can be answered in 4 ways...

1. **G _____ test**--Are you trusting Christ more and more?
2. **C _____ test**--Are you acting more and more like Christ?
3. **O _____ test**--Are you obeying Christ more and more?
4. **R _____ test**--Are you growing in your love and affection for Christ?

- We do not do these things to prove that we are children of God, rather these things are evidence that we are children of God
- Acting like we are someone's child does not make you their child
- If you are born into the family, you will have the characteristics of a child of God
- As we mature, we will see more and more of these qualities, behaviors and characteristics

WHAT CAUSES DOUBT

-There are 3 Things that cause us to doubt our Salvation

If You Are Saved and You Know It

- BAD D _____
 - God will never **DISOWN** us because of our **Disobedience**
 - God does not disown His children
 - John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out
 - God will **DISCIPLINE** us because of our **Disobedience**
 - God disciplines His children
 - Hebrews 12:6 For the LORD *disciplines* those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child
 - Sin does create **DISTANCE** in our relationship with God
 - EX King David
 - Psalm 51:11-13
Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.
 - Our sin steals the joy of our salvation
 - It keeps us from feeling God's presence
- BAD F _____
 - Do not let your feelings about your worthiness cause you to doubt your salvation
 - John 6:37 Satan is called the accuser of the brethren
 - He wants you to doubt your identity to keep you from walking in the authority over him
 - What if I do not feel God's presence any longer
- BAD T _____
 - 1 Peter 6:6- 9
In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been **distressed by various trials,** ⁷ **so that the proof of your faith, *being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*** ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ **obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.**

If You Are Saved and You Know It

- Just because you are going through **hardship** does not mean that you are not a child of God
 - In the New Testament the Jews used to think that wealth and health was a sign of salvation
 - Jesus says the opposite: in **John 16:33** that as believers we should expect tribulation and take joy because He has overcome it!
 - In John 15 it says that if the world persecuted our master why would they not persecute us?

- BAD T_____
 - God is not like our earthly father
 - We cannot do anything to make God love us more
 - We cannot do anything to make God love us less
 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39)

QUESTIONS WE WILL EXPLORE ON THE CHAT:

1. Can a Christian lose salvation?
2. Is it possible for a believer to “unbelieve”?
3. Is eternal security a "license" to sin?
4. Do Christians have to keep asking for forgiveness for their sins?
5. What is the difference between SALVATION, SANCTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION