

## LESSON TWO: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT

### The Believer's Blessed Assurance

*“You really can know that you are eternally saved and on your way to heaven.”*

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (1 John 5:13)

\_\_\_\_\_ is to your spirit what \_\_\_\_\_ is to your body.

Pain does not mean you are dead, it means you are alive.

Pain means something is \_\_\_\_\_.

1 John 5:1 – “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

What are the ingredients of salvation?

Ephesians 2:8-10 – “For by grace are you saved through faith. Not of yourself, not of works.”

Two things that *don't* save us: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Two things that *do* save us: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

G.R.A.C.E. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

F.A.I.T.H. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grace - \_\_\_\_\_ reaching down from heaven.

Faith - \_\_\_\_\_ reaching up to God.

The apostle John wanted believers to have a “know-so” salvation. He used the word *know* over 40 times in the gospel of John and over 25 times in the letter of 1 John.

**3 traits or tests that we know we are children of God:**

If we are born of God, there will be some \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep his commandments. He who says, 'I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:3-6)

You are not saved because you keep the \_\_\_\_\_.

You keep the commandments because you are \_\_\_\_\_.

The key to understanding this scripture is the word *keep*. Keep is a sailor’s term. We need to learn to steer by God's stars.

1 John 3:6 – Does not mean sinless perfection. It means that you cannot, if you are saved, habitually practice sin.

A man who is born of God does not make sin his \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I love what He loves.

1 John 3:14-15 – “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

John 13:35 – Jesus said: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

If we love \_\_\_\_\_, we are going to love \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 5:10-11 – “He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.”

A Christian is a person who has a \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ.

**KEY THOUGHT**

*Sin in the life of the Christian will make him doubt his salvation.*

If you have doubt, reaffirm your faith right now.

If that does not give you assurance, perhaps there is sin in your life—a broken relationship or a commandment you need to put right.

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**LESSON TWO: DAY ONE**

## A "Know-So" Salvation

And this is the testimony, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-13)

All Christians can know they have eternal life. You don't have to wonder, you don't have to guess. You can know it. You don't have to have a "hope-so" religion when you can have a "know-so" salvation. The Apostle John understood that people sometimes have doubts about their faith, so he wrote to encourage us to be sure. Having doubts doesn't mean you're not saved; everyone has experienced doubts. But John wrote this to offer assurance in place of doubt. Assurance of salvation is important. Your soul will last forever, either in heaven or hell, so let's be confident that we know where we will spend eternity.

The method of salvation is very plain in Scripture: "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (1 John 5:1). The way that you are saved is by believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. The name "Jesus" means "Jehovah saves," and those who believe Jehovah saves through Jesus are born again. The Christian faith is just that simple.

John tells us he wrote 1 John so that we may know that we have eternal life.

Read these scriptures from 1 John that use the word know, and complete the following sentences:

**1 John 2:3.** We know that we know God if:

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**1 John 2:29.** Because we know that God is righteous, we also know that:

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**1 John 3:18-19.** We know God's truth is real in our lives if we:

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**1 John 3:24.** We know God abides in us because:

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**1 John 5:2.** We know that when we love God, we will also:

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**1 John 5:14-15.** If we ask God anything according to His will, we know:

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## LESSON TWO: DAY TWO

### Saved by Grace

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

You will never experience the assurance of your salvation if you depend on your actions. I can't trust the best fifteen minutes I ever lived to get me into heaven. God isn't Santa Claus, making a list and checking it twice to find out who's naughty and nice. He isn't weighing your good works against your bad works. You are dead in your sins if you don't know Christ, and a long list of good works won't balance the scales because we aren't saved by works, but by grace.

Grace is the unmerited love and favor God shows to sinners. It's what makes God love us when we are unlovely. He doesn't love you for what you've done, He loves you out of grace. Think of grace as the hand of God reaching down out of heaven. He says, "I love you; I want to save you." Think of faith as your hand reaching back up toward God, saying, "I love You, Lord, and I accept Your love for me." When you put your hand of faith in God's hand of grace, that's salvation.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

1. What are some of the words that are used to describe salvation?

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2. What word is specifically excluded from being a component of salvation?

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3. Write your own definitions of the following words found in Ephesians 2:8-9:

Grace: \_\_\_\_\_

Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Works: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Using your definitions, rewrite Ephesians 2:8-9 in your own words:

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If we think that any part of our salvation depends upon us (works), we will never have assurance because we will never know if we have done enough. Complete this statement in your own words: I can have complete confidence that I am saved because:

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**The Scales Theory**

Most people have the mistaken idea that when they die, God will put all their good deeds on one side of the scale, and all of their bad deeds on the other. They think as long as their good deeds outweigh their bad, God will let them into heaven.

In reality, our salvation is based totally upon the mercy and grace of God. Titus 3:5 says, “not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.”

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## LESSON TWO: DAY THREE

# The Lordship Test

The book of 1 John was written to give Christians assurance of salvation. The apostle used the word *know* over 25 times in his epistle, because he wants all of us to know for certain we have been born again. Over the next three days we will study the three tests John gives that we can have assurance that we are saved.

The first test is the Lordship Test. Is Jesus Lord of your life? John says in 1 John 2:3-4, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him', and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

John doesn't beat around the bush. He simply says that if you say that you are saved, but you don't do what God says, you are a liar. Don't misunderstand this: he isn't expecting us to be perfect. Everybody sins. If we didn't sin, we wouldn't need salvation. Yet “we know that we know him if we keep His commandments.”

The word *keep* was used by sailors sailing by the stars. They would plot the heavens, then keep the boat going in the right direction by “keeping to the stars.” To keep His commandments means to steer your life by His Word. That's the goal of the Christian life. We sometimes take our eyes off Him and fail, but the desire of our hearts is to keep His commandments. You aren't saved by keeping them, but one of the marks of a Christian is that you desire to live according to those commandments. You want Christ to be Lord of your life.

Jesus is Lord of your life when you follow his commandments. According to 1 John 5:3, His commandments are not:

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According to 1 John 3:22, what is a benefit we receive when we keep His commandments?:

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According to 1 John 3:23, what are two things we must do to obey His commandments?:

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Read Luke 10:25-28 and Exodus 20:1-17. Complete these sentences: When I love God with all my heart, I show it by:

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When I love my neighbor as myself, I show it by:

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## LESSON TWO: DAY FOUR

# The Fellowship Test

John says in 1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.” When you love the Heavenly Father, you love His children as well. You love your brothers and sisters in Christ. It's one of the traits of the twice born. “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21).

Some people seem to think they can worship God all on their own, never going to church or meeting with others. They say, “God knows I love him. I don't need to assemble with others.” But God clearly instructed us to love the brethren, and to keep assembling together as His family. You see, when you were saved you became a partaker of God's divine nature. You received the nature of God, which is love. If God's nature is in you, you will love others the way He loves others. “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born if God, and knows God. He that loves not, knows not God for God is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

If you are really saved, God's love will be in you. You aren't saved by loving others, but you love others because you are saved.

What is the test of love in the following passages from 1 John?

### 1 John 2:9-10

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### 1 John 3:10-18

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**1 John 4:7-11**

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**1 John 4:20-5:2**

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What practical principles for loving others can you find in those passages?

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## LESSON TWO: DAY FIVE

# The Relationship Test

Salvation is a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are Christians have an on-going relationship with Him.

And this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son of God has not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.  
(1 John 5:11-13)

The Bible never says to look back to some past experience for proof of your salvation. It says to look at your current relationship. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? Is He your friend and companion? Or is He somebody you were introduced to once but never bothered to get to know? You see, the question is not, “Did you believe in Jesus?” but “Are you believing in Jesus?” Do you have a relationship with the Lord now?

What do the following verses suggest about our relationship with Jesus Christ?

**1 John 2:1-2**

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**1 John 3:1-3**

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**1 John 4:4-6**

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**1 John 4:12-19**

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**1 John 5:3-5**

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**1 John 5:19-21**

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