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If a person is caught up in "works" in order to get to heaven they will never have the restful assurance that they will spend eternity with God.

How much "works" is enough?

Or are Christ's "works" enough?

Knowing <u>where</u> we will spend eternity is the most important thing in our life.

We can be "Assured of our Salvation" for the Bible clearly teaches "Assurance."

There is one thing everyone will experience......DEATH!!

Unless we are caught up to Jesus at the Rapture, we will all face death!!

It is a wonderful thing to know where we will spend eternity!!

- It is not right to just "think," "hope," or "pretend" that you are saved.
- You can know you are saved by faith in what God has said in His Holy Word the Bible.
- You can know you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

You are either "saved" or "not saved".

You are either "in Christ" or "in Adam".

You are either going to heaven or going to hell.

• God does not see us as denominations, church goers, church leaders, etc.

He sees us as "saved" or "not saved".

He sees us as either "His child" or "not".

 It is also important to know that in order to be free to share your faith in Christ, you must be confident that you are saved.

 We don't do "good works" to get saved but rely on Christ's "finished works"

...... His death and resurrection!!

- Many people say, "I don't feel saved".
- Salvation is not a feeling.
- It is faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection.
- You may not <u>feel</u> like you are a father or mother but you are still a father or mother.

- Salvation is a gift that we can receive, possess, and be confident of.
- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
 and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by
 works, so that no one can boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

- When someone gives you a gift at Christmas, you don't wonder if you have it or not.
- You simply say, "Thank you."
- It is the same with salvation. Say, "Thank you" Jesus & receive His gift of Salvation!!

- Many people believe they have to work to be saved.
- How much work is enough?
- If a person would continually have to work to be saved they would never be able to find the rest that Jesus promises:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt.11:28-29)

We do not work <u>"to"</u> the cross

but "from" the cross.

- Assurance of salvation is to have the confidence that we are saved.
- It's to know that if you were to die right now, you would go to heaven and spend eternity with Jesus.

- Jesus Christ <u>IS</u> eternal life
- And this is the testimony: 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. (1 John 5:11-12)
- We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)
- When we were saved we entered into Christ's eternal life.
- There is only one life that is going to live for eternity.
- That is the life of Christ. We must be "in His life" by faith.

- In order to experience His life, we have to be "in Christ".
- Jesus took our life into Himself on the cross.
- "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3)
- I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal.2:20) (see Romans 6:1-10).
- This became real in our lives when we received Christ into our hearts and put our faith in His finished work on the cross.

- It is important not to put our faith in feelings.
- Our feelings are part of our soul (mind, will, and emotions).
- Satan has access to our feelings. Our feelings can be up and down.
- But "we walk by faith".

- We base our assurance on <u>three</u> things:
- a) The witness of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Rom.8:16)

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6)

b) The Word of God

Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: 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.

(1 John 5:10-13)

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24)

Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:39)

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:48)

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

(Romans 10:13)

c) and the changed life

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. (1 John 3:14)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor.5:17)

From now on:

- Trust the Word of God for your salvation.
- The Word of God never changes.
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- Stay spiritually alert, come out of the world, put away all sin.
 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
- Walk in the Spirit.
 - So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (Gal.5:16)
 - If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13);
- Don't become "religious" but soft hearted towards Jesus;
- Love fellowshipping with the saints.

Prayers for Assurance Based on Scripture

PRAYERS FOR ASSURANCE BASED ON THE SCRIPTURES

- The following are prayers that you can pray based on Scripture to help you deepen the truth of your salvation.
- Remember, we look to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cross brought about our forgiveness and His resurrection gives us eternal life in Christ!!
- What a glorious thing that we can "look back" to a historical event and have salvation by faith in Christ's death and resurrection.

PRAYERS FOR ASSURANCE BASED ON THE SCRIPTURES

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)

- Did you receive Christ into your heart as your personal Savior?
- Did you believe in His name?
- Then Jesus has given you the right to "become" a child of God.

PRAY: Jesus I have repented of my sins, believe You died for me on the cross and rose from the dead, asked You into my heart to be my Lord and Savior (received You), and I believe in Your Name – Jesus – the Name above all names. Thank You Jesus that I am a child of God. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR ASSURANCE BASED ON THE SCRIPTURES

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)

- Do you believe Jesus is the truth and is telling you the truth?
- Have you heard God's Word about salvation through Jesus?
- Do you believe God sent Jesus?
- Do you have eternal life?
- Will God condemn you?
- Have you passed over from death to life?
- PRAY: Father God, I believe Jesus is the truth and speaks the truth. I believe You sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins and rise from the dead for my new life in Him. I ask You to forgive my sins and come into my heart Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Thank You that I will not be condemned and I have eternal life. I have passed over from death to life. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MORE SCRIPTURES TO PRAY ABOUT

"Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:38-39)

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. (John 10:28-29)

MORE SCRIPTURES TO PRAY ABOUT

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. (John 6:47)

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Father God, I come to You through the shed blood of Jesus and only because Jesus shed His blood for me.

I thank You for sending Jesus to die for me on the cross.

I agree with Your Word and confess I am a sinner.

Father God, I am a sinner. Forgive me for my sins.

Father God, thank You for forgiving my sins.

Jesus, I praise You for dying on the cross for my sins.

Jesus, I praise You for rising from the dead to give me eternal life in You.

Now, Jesus, will You come into my heart and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

I open up my heart and ask You to come into it.

Come and fill me with You. Thank You Jesus!!

Finally, Lord, thank You that I am now Your child and will spend eternity with You in heaven. In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen.

HUMBLY SAYING "THANK YOU"

• NOW, LET'S LEARN THE "TWO WORDS" THAT WE NEED TO USE TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WONDERFUL MESSAGE. When someone gives you a gift at your birthday party, what do you say? You say, "Thank you". That is all it takes if you have believed on Jesus Christ. Start saying "THANK YOU". When the devil comes to try to steal the "joy of your salvation", simply put your trust in God's Word and begin to say something like this:

HUMBLY SAYING "THANK YOU"

- Jesus, thank You for saving me. I will praise Your name forever.
- Jesus, thank You for eternal life. I love You Jesus.
- Jesus, thank You for dying for me. Jesus, You are Lord.
- Jesus, thank You for forgiving my sins. I worship You.
- Jesus, thank You for Your Good News. I adore You.
- You are Lord. Jesus is Lord. Hallelujah!!!!

HUMBLY SAYING "THANK YOU"

 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Adapted from:

www.sermonseeds.org/Master%20Index.htm For more downloadable teachings see: www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

(1 John 5:11)

- What is a testimony?
- A witness under oath gives a testimony in a court case.
- The Testimony was The Stone Tablets inscribed with the Law of Moses.
- The Ark of the Testimony was the ark containing these tablets.

- Testimony is also Evidence/Proof in support of a fact or assertion.
- A public declaration regarding a religious experience.

- In the First Letter of John, we have the Holy Spirit giving John the words of his testimony regarding Jesus.
- Let's look at 1 John 1:1-4:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

THIS IS! 1 John 5:11-13, 20

The life appeared;
we have seen it
and testify to it,
and we proclaim to you the eternal life,
which was with the Father
and has appeared to us.

THIS IS! 1 John 5:11-13, 20

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.

And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We write this to make our joy complete.

(1 John 1:1-4)

THIS IS! 1 John 5:11-13, 20

 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

(1 John 5:12)

 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

THIS IS!

- THIS IS THE TESTIMONY
 - And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
 (1 John 5:11)

THIS IS!

- THIS IS THE REQUIREMENT –
- He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

(1 John 5:12)

THIS IS!

- THIS IS THE REASSURANCE -
- I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

TRUE, REAL, & ETERNAL LIFE!

- THE AVAILABILITY OF ETERNAL LIFE (v.11)
- And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1 John 5:11)

TRUE, REAL, & ETERNAL LIFE!

- THE ATTAINMENT OF ETERNAL LIFE (v.12)
- He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:12)

TRUE, REAL, & ETERNAL LIFE!

- THE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE (v.13)
- I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

- THE GIFT OF LIFE (v.11)
- And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1 John 5:11)

- THE POSSESSION OF LIFE (v.12)
- He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:12)

- THE ASSURANCE OF LIFE (v.13)
- I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

CONCLUSION:

 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true-even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)

ASSURANCE

Torrey's Topical Textbook

Assurance: Produced by Faith

- In him and through faith in him we may approach
 God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)
- That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)
- let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22)

Assurance: Made Full by Hope

- We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. (Hebrews 6:11)
- We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, (Hebrews 6:19)

Assurance: Confirmed by Love

- We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. (1 John 3:14)
- This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence

(1 John 3:19)

 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

(1 John 4:18)

Assurance: Is the Effect of Righteousness

The fruit of righteousness will be peace;
 the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. (Isaiah 32:17)

Assurance: Is Abundant in the Understanding of the Gospel

 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

(Colossians 2:2)

 because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. (1 Thess.1:5)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Their Election

 Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD will hear when I call to him.

(Psalm 4:3)

 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, (1 Thess.1:4)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Their Redemption

 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. (Job 19:25)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Their Adoption

- The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:16)
- Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Their Salvation

Surely God is my salvation;

 I will trust and not be afraid.
 The LORD, the LORD,
 is my strength and my song;
 he has become my salvation." (Isaiah 12:2)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Their Eternal Life

 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: The Unalienable Love of God

 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Union With God and Christ

- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor.6:19-20)
- Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test
 yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless,
 of course, you fail the test? (2 Cor.13:5)
- for we are members of his body. (Eph.5:30)
- But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: (1 John 2:5)
- We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (1 John 4:13)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Peace With God by Christ

 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Preservation

- I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. (Psalm 3:6)
- From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. (Psalm 3:8)
- God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. (Psalm 46:1-3)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Preservation

- Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.
- One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
- For in the day of trouble
 he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
 he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle
 and set me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:3-5)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Answers to Prayer

 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

(1 John 3:22)

 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

(1 John 5:14-15)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Continuance in Grace

 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Comfort in Affliction

 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
 (Psalm)

73:26)

 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Comfort in Affliction

 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

(2 Cor.4:8-10)

• Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor.4:16-18)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: Support in Death

 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Support in death.

(Psalm 23:4)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: A Glorious Resurrection

- And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; (Job 19:26)
- And I—in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness. (Psalm 17:15)
- who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:21)
- Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: A Kingdom

 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

(Hebrews 12:28)

 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (Rev.5:10)

Saints privileged to have Assurance of: **A Crown**

 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Tim.4:7-8)

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

Assurance: Give Diligence to Attain To

 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:10-11)

Assurance: Strive to Maintain

- We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. (Hebrews 3:14)
- And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? (Hebrews 3:18)

Assurance: Confident Hope in God Restores

Why are you downcast, O my soul?
 Why so disturbed within me?
 Put your hope in God,
 for I will yet praise him,
 my Savior and my God. (Psalm 42:11)

Assurance: Exemplified by David

- Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)
- You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.
 - Whom have I in heaven but you?

 And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
 - My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:24-26)

Assurance: Exemplified by Paul

- That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Tim.1:12)
- The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (2 Tim.4:18)

Assurance: Exemplified by Paul

LET'S PRAY:

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