

Assurance of Salvation

QUICK REFERENCE COUNSELING KEYS Excerpt

God's Guarantee for You . . .

*“My sheep hear my voice,
and I know them, and they follow me.*

*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish,
and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

*My Father, who has given them to me,
is greater than all, and no one is able
to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”*

(John 10:27–29)

*Trusting your life to Christ results in three glorious
gifts of grace. . . . You are saved by the Savior. . . .
You are sealed by the Spirit. . . . You are secured by
the Father for safekeeping until the day you inherit
your home in heaven and see your Savior face-to-face!
This is God's guarantee for you.*

—June Hunt

Q: “What happens to someone who is genuinely born again, experiences a changed life, but later disbelieves . . . at least for a period of time? If a person stops believing, doesn't that person also stop being saved?”

No, the Bible says once you are truly born again—once you receive the new birth—you receive an *“inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.”* Every honest believer experiences periods of doubt. Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is the flip side of the same coin. Sincere doubt signifies a search—a search that God honors.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.”
(1 Peter 1:3–4 NIV)

Q: “I accept the Bible's assurance that no one can snatch a true believer out of Jesus' hand. However, because of my own sin, can't I snatch myself out of His hand of protection, as well as out of His very presence?”

No, Jesus specifically said “no one”—not “no one except yourself”—can snatch you out of His hand . . . and that includes you! In addition, notice just before those words, He said, *“They shall never perish.”*

*“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish,
and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me,
is greater than all, and no one is able
to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”*
(John 10:28–29)

Anxiety over Salvation

Those who have anxiety may have . . .

- **Guilty** conscience
- **Confusion** about God's judgment
- **Works**-orientation
- **Legalistic** lifestyle
- **Insecurity** about God's view of you
- **Fear** of the future
- **Feelings** determining decisions

Assurance of Salvation

Those who have assurance probably have . . .

- **Clear** conscience (Hebrews 10:22)
- **Confidence** in God's mercy (Hebrews 4:15–16)
- **Grace-orientation** (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- **Liberty** in lifestyle (Galatians 5:1)
- **Security** about God's view of you (Colossians 1:22)
- **Faith** in the God of the future (2 Timothy 1:12)
- **Facts** determining decisions (Romans 8:1)

"I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me."
(2 Timothy 1:12)

Common Causes of Insecurity

- **Questioning** a childhood decision
- **Failing** to forgive an offender
- **Continuing** in unrepentance of sin
- **Lacking** the willingness to change sinful patterns
- **Depending** on church membership
- **Relying** on personal effort and works
- **Lacking** faith in Scripture
- **Expecting** feelings or emotions to confirm salvation
- **Intellectualizing** spiritual truths
- **Confusing** backsliding with loss of salvation

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"
(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Key Verse to Memorize

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

Key Passage to Read and Reread John 10:27–29

Salvation Check List

From the Book of 1 John¹

- Do I live by the truth, rejecting deeds done in darkness? (1 John 1:6)
- Do I enjoy fellowship with other believers? (1 John 1:7)
- Do I have a love for God's Word and seek to obey it? (1 John 2:3–5)
- Do I reject the values I see in the world system? (1 John 2:15–17)
- Do I look forward to the return of Christ? (1 John 3:2–3)
- Do I sin less than I did before I claimed to become a Christian? (1 John 3:6)
- Do I experience opposition because of my love for Christ? (1 John 3:13)
- Do I genuinely love other Christians? (1 John 3:14)
- Do I truly believe in Jesus by fully relying on Him for my salvation and my future? (1 John 5:10–11)
- Do I experience answered prayer? (1 John 3:21–22; 5:14–15)
- Do I have discernment of spiritual truth? (1 John 4:6)

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
(Romans 8:1)

Blessed Assurance

Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9–10)

Stand on the promises of God. (1 John 2:25)

Submit to Christ's living in you and through you. (Galatians 2:20)

Understand that when you have Christ's life in you, you have eternal life. (1 John 5:11)

Rely on God to finish what He has started. (Philippians 1:6)

Expect the Holy Spirit to confirm the truth to your spirit. (Romans 8:15–17)

Discover the assurance of eternal security. (Ephesians 1:13–14)

"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."
(Ephesians 1:13–14)

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1. For this section see H. L. Roush, Sr., *Sounds of the Heart* (Belpre, OH: H. L. Roush, Sr., 1990), 107–9.



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