

God's Assurances of Salvation

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Introduction: How can one be sure that another is serious about a transaction?

A. Our God wishes us to know that He is trustworthy and merciful.

(Micah 7:18-19)

1. Because men have not looked carefully at the character of God they have failed to see the strongest assurance possible of the salvation God gives.
2. When men do not trust in God then their salvation becomes some form of trusting and boasting in men. **(Eph 2:8-9)**

B. Many who have been raised in religious homes have failed to have this assurance.

1. Let us learn to think as God does. How can we know that we are saved?
2. We are saved by a living faith that works! **(1 Jn 5:11-13)**
3. When we stand before God on what basis will He let us in?

I. The Cross of Christ gives assurance

A. What is "salvation?" - σωτηρία, ας, ἡ salvation, deliverance; (1) physically, as rescue from danger *deliverance, preservation, safety* (HE 11.7); (2) as a religious technical term *safety of the soul* in a spiritual sense *salvation* (2C 7.10); (3) of the messianic deliverance at the end of the present age *salvation* (RO 13.11) – **Friberg**

1. Why did Jesus have to shed His blood for our sins?

(1 Pt 1:18-19; 2 Cor 5:20-21)

2. It is crucial to understand that salvation comes through the sacrifice of Christ.

B. The love of God is extended to us unconditionally. **(Rom 5:6-8)**

1. How much further away from God can you get than being an enemy?
2. The love of God is also individual, He died for me.
3. Much of the efforts Satan makes are in the area of distorting God's character or distorting God's plan. How many have turned away from God because they had too bad of a past?
4. Paul often tells others the vivid example of his salvation and the implications this has for all men. **(1 Tim 1:12-16)**

C. Would God do all of these things and then make it impossible for men to be saved?

1. When people come up with hypothetical's, doubts about the transmission of the Bible, questions about division in the religious world to create doubt in you, think again of the message of the cross. **(Rom 8:31-35)**

2. Please do not think that others or even God has more to do before you can be saved. **(Rom 10:6-10; Acts 22:16)**

II. God has given Christians the "earnest" of the Spirit for our assurance

A. There are actions God takes after we are saved that give us assurance.

(Eph 1:13-14; 2 Cor 1:21-22)

1. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is described as an "earnest" (guarantee –NKJ).

2. ἀρραβών, ὄνομα, ὁ transliterated from the Hebrew; literally, as a legal and commercial technical term, an advance transaction that guarantees the validity of a contract or a full purchase price *down payment, first installment, pledge*; figuratively in the NT, of the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers (2C 1.22)
 3. What is “earnest money” compared to the full value? **(Eph 3:20-21)**
- B. The longer you serve God the more you will see His promises blessing your life.
1. As we see this we are reminded that this is simply a small taste of heaven.
 2. We as Christians should be the most thankful, optimistic people on earth.
 3. As we abound in this thanksgiving we are motivated to serve. **(Phil 2:1-4)**
- C. These blessings from the Spirit come from the sword of the spirit. **(Eph 6:17)**
1. The covenant we have from God gives us great privileges and most of all the presence and care of God Himself.
 2. It is so important that we understand the exceedingly great promises of God. **(2 Pt 1:3-4)**

III. God “seals” us with the Spirit for our assurance

- A. Our walking by faith in a good conscience bears a needed testimony in our hearts! **(Rom 8:15-17)**
1. There is not one but two witnesses in this verse!
 2. As we see the promises of God along with our claiming these promises by faith, we find assurance.
- B. This is similar to being “sealed with the Holy Spirit.” **(Eph 1:13-14; 4:30)**
1. σφραγίζω - *seal*; (1) literally *seal up, secure by putting a seal on* (MT 27.66); figuratively, as keeping something secret *seal (up), conceal* (RV 10.4); (2) as providing a sign of identification or ownership (*mark with a seal* (RV 7.3); metaphorically, of endowment with the Spirit (EP 1.13); (3) figuratively, from the idea of an official seal on a document; (a) *confirm, attest, certify* (JN 3.33) –
 2. “It is generally a ‘mark’ imposed by God, by which God recognizes a Christian’s authenticity and ownership... The seal with which Christians are sealed is basically a Divine identification process, by which God recognizes who are His children.” – Carl Lungstrum
- C. Throughout history those who have been molded by the teaching of God’s Spirit are known by God and for any man who looks closely at His people.
1. The people of God will mourn over sin! **(Ezk 9:3-4)**
 2. The people of God will put the spiritual above the physical! **(Jn 6:27)**
 3. Circumcision for the Jews should have been a mark that they were wholly obedient to God. **(Rom 4:11)**
 4. God knows those who are His and their life shows it! **(2 Tim 2:19)**
 5. God protects those who are His during judgments He makes upon the world. **(Rev 7:2-4; 9:4)**

Conclusion: Do you have assurance of where you stand with God?