

One of the most commonly asked (and most important) questions that Christians have is, “How do I know that I am saved?” “How can I know that I belong to God?”

As our world becomes more confusing and many churches water down God’s truth concerning biblical standards of morality and behavior, this question takes on even greater importance. Some churches say that if you’re not “progressive” or if you’re too “conservative,” you’re not saved. Others say that if you’re not blatantly and boldly different from the world in dress and appearance you’re not a Christian. Some say that if you have not manifested a certain spiritual gift, you’re not one of God’s children.

Some of these stipulations are based on biblical passages (many of them taken out of context) while others have been influenced by worldly values and philosophies. So how can one be assured of their salvation, of their everlasting life, and of their membership in the kingdom of God?

The answer is really quite simple. The sole source of assurance that the Bible offers for us to know whether we are sons and daughters of God, adopted into the family by profession of faith in Jesus Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit.

So this morning, we conclude our study on the work of the Holy Spirit by looking at his work in providing us with assurance.

Scripture: 1 Thess. 1:5

## I. The Holy Spirit: Provider of Assurance

### A. He Assures Us of God’s Presence

1. Manifestations in the Life of Individuals
  - a) Knowledge and understanding of the Bible (John 14:26)
  - b) Wisdom & boldness to speak (Mark 13:11)
  - c) Wisdom to know the will of God (Rom. 12:2)
  - d) Spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-10; Eph. 4:11)
2. Manifestations in the Midst of Meetings
  - a) Matt. 18:20

### B. He Assures Us of God’s Pleasure/ Displeasure

1. Conviction VS Guilt
  - a) The Holy Spirit convicts us when we have disobeyed God’s commands or acted counter to God’s desired will (1 Thess. 1:5)
    - (1) Conviction leads us to repentance and towards God (Acts 2:37)
  - b) The Adversary produces guilt over sins
    - (1) Guilt leads us to regret and retreat from God
2. Blessings
  - a) When we obey the Holy Spirit, we experience God’s blessings

- (1) Spiritual prosperity
  - (a) Fruit (Gal. 5:22-23)
  - (b) Growth (2 Peter 1:5-8)
- b) When we grieve, quench, lie to or disobey the Holy Spirit, he withdraws and/or withholds God's blessings from our life
  - (1) God will not honor and bless ungodly attitudes and actions
  - (2) The Holy Spirit does not depart from us but instead disciplines us
    - (a) 1 Peter 1:9; Acts 5:1-11
- C. **He Assures Us of God's Promises**
  - 1. Adoption
    - a) The Spirit cries out to God as "Daddy" from within us (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5)
  - 2. Forgiveness
    - a) The Spirit teaches us that God's word is true (John 14:17); therefore God's forgiveness of those who confess and repent is certain (1 John 1:9)
  - 3. Everlasting life
    - a) The Holy Spirit serves as a down payment on our future inheritance of heaven and everlasting life in the presence of God the Father (Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:5)
  - 4. Security of salvation
    - a) The Holy Spirit seals and guards our salvation (2 Tim. 1:12-14)
    - b) If our salvation is not of our own making but a gracious gift from God through Spirit provided faith in Jesus, then we cannot lose it
      - (1) If we cannot save ourselves, we cannot un-save ourselves

This morning the Holy Spirit has brought you here to learn that you can have assurance of your salvation. But you must first be saved. Will you respond to the Spirit's leading and place the faith he has so generously provided as an act of God's grace in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?

If you have already been obedient to that prompting, will you praise God for such a firm foundation and the assurance that the Holy Spirit provides?