

2nd Chance Christian Newsletter (Assurance of Salvation Booklet)

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

Are you sure?

Did you know the Bible says you can know for sure, without any uncertainty?

Please take the time to read this booklet.

It won't take long and will have an impact on your future.

The Bible tells us we will be held accountable for the decision we make about accepting or denying Christ in our life, for all eternity.

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The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the difference between Christianity and the many different religions in existence today. Jesus Christ is the only God who died and is risen. All other religious founders and so-called gods who died have stayed dead. Some were never alive in the first place (mystical god's, carved images, and so on).

All a person has to do is admit that he is a sinner and in need of redemption.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

He must repent of his sins, ask Jesus Christ to be Lord and Saviour of his life and forgive him of his sins, and believe in his heart that God can and will forgive him of his sins.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Believe that accepting Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour will result in eternal life.

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The Bible tells us there is only one way to heaven and that way is Jesus Christ.

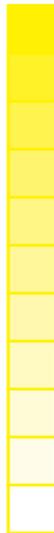
John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

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What does salvation mean to me?

This booklet is a guide only. It in no way replaces a daily reading of the Bible we are told to study.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Salvation should not be taken lightly. It is not a feel good for the moment experience. Most of you who are reading this are incarcerated. Don't let anyone mislead you. There are many who believe to get ahead in life you need to learn to get over on the system. They play the role when they get caught. You know the one. "It wasn't me it was some other guy; I didn't do it why doesn't anyone believe me?" Then when it looks as if we got caught we change our song to "I made a mistake; I've never done it before; it won't happen again; it wasn't my fault," and on and on and on.

Inmates have a reputation for what is known as jailhouse religion. It's called that because inmates get God when they're caught but the moment they're released and they think no one's looking, it's back to the same old lifestyle.

No one believes them because there is no permanent outward change. The absence of an outward change indicates an absence of an inward change. When a person accepts Christ there is an immediate internal (spiritual) change. That change is manifest from the spiritual to the physical realm. Sin no longer is the same. We no longer enjoy it the way we did. The people we hung out with don't seem fun to be around anymore. This doesn't mean we're not tempted or that we don't give in to temptation. It means that what didn't bother us too much before, if at all, will bother us now. As we grow in the Lord, more and more sin we didn't give a second thought to will cause problems in our life. This is especially apparent in the struggle that takes place within the soul. Our soul gets vexed. The peace we had when we first accepted Christ will go. Most of us had committed certain sins for so long that it seared our conscience.

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It is the work of God in the life of the believer that brings forth these changes. After we accept Christ the Holy Spirit starts working in our life. We cannot help but change.

The reason I mention this is because there are some passages in scripture that addresses this attitude. I feel it's only right that I point them out to you before you try to run a game on God.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Psalms 53:1 The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.*

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 18:7 A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

We cannot deceive the Lord. He knows what we think.

1 Chronicles 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

This casting off is eternal. Jesus has authority to give eternal life or everlasting torment.

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

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What I Was:

A) I was spiritually dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

B) I was condemned already.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

C) I had the wrath of God abiding on me.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

D) I was a servant of sin.

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

E) I was headed for the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

F) I was lost, yet sought by Jesus.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

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What God Promised Me:

A) The gift of eternal life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B) The forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

C) Salvation through his grace.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

D) Love in my heart.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

E) The love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

F) The joy of Christ.

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

G) The peace of God, which passeth all understanding.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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What I Did:

A) I called upon the name of the Lord.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

B) I confessed with my mouth and believed in my heart.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

C) I received Him.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

D) I repented of my sins.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Repentance must first take place to receive salvation and to recognize one's lost state, in need of salvation. True repentance is a turning away from sin and turning toward God. Repentance is the first step in having a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. It is the first step in asking forgiveness from God in the life of the backslidden Christian. It is also part of the everyday maintenance of a healthy Christian life in the life of the believer.

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What God Did:

A) Justified me freely.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

B) Washed me from my sins.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

C) Recorded my name in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

D) Adopted me as a son (child) of God.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, **Abba, Father.**

E) Accepted me in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

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F) Sanctified me.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God

G) Made me a new creature.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

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What Does God Expect of Me?

According to the word of God, another term for becoming a Christian is to be born again.

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:6 teaches of two different births—a physical and a spiritual birth

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John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

As a new Christian, to what does the scripture liken you?

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

You cannot do much as a spiritual baby, but what does God expect?

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

What Does the Lord call a Christian who doesn't grow spiritually?

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to *bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Into what does the Lord want His children to grow?

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

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15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

We are called to be Holy for he is Holy.

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer to reflect the image of the person of Jesus Christ, so we become Christ like ourselves.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We are told to leave our old ways so we don't reflect the natural man (in his Adamic or unsaved}).

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

In other words we practice what we preach. We read the Bible, believe, and obey. If we are saved we live as if we are so that other people know that we're different and why. We profess our faith in the way we live. We tell people about Christ in our life so they may come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Jesus is that light in the world that is now in us-the light that the Bible talks about.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

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Assurance of Salvation

It is not unusual to have questions about the salvation that the Lord gave you when you believed in Jesus Christ. We also have an adversary who wants us to doubt. His name is Satan.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Satan will try to get you to doubt your salvation. He may cause you to wonder if you are really a believer and tell you that because you don't feel any different from before, nothing really happened. Then if you sin and slip back in your old ways Satan is quick to sow seeds of doubt by telling you that believers don't sin or that you have lost your salvation.

Just remember to use the Bible as your guide. Always refer to the scriptures as the last word in any given situation. We fight the spiritual war with the sword given us by God.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

That sword is the word of God. We are not doing the fighting; God is, in us through His word. When doubt comes it is not from God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth

2 Corinthians 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

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The Bible is clear about who it is that casts seeds of doubt.

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

A clear parable on what Satan does when someone hears the word of God is in Matthew.

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Jesus then explains this in verses 18 to 23.

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

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20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Remember it is Satan's goal to rob, steal and destroy. He is the accuser, he accuses man to God and God to man.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Don't be deceived; stay in the Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

When doubt comes, and it will come, the scriptures are our only defense.

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What is meant by assurance?

The purpose of this study is to show you that by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you can be saved now and forever and you can know it for certain.

Assurance of salvation means we have the intellectual and spiritual certainty that we belong to God, that we possess eternal salvation. Based on the scriptures we can know that we have eternal life. This is a simple read-along booklet for those who don't have their own Bible. All the verses are printed out but are by no means a complete study. When I make a statement I shall sometimes verify it with scriptures. Some may appear to be off the topic but will give you a sense that the Bible covers all topics in life. For example: **2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** proves my statement that scriptures are for getting us through life.

I suggest you get your own authorized King James version of the Holy Bible and read it daily. I look at the Word of God as a life jacket and life as a massive storm. It has gotten me through times that my own ways have gotten me into.

The Bible isn't just for when you're locked up. Those of us who get a second, third or fourth chance, as many of us have, need to cling to the Word most. We have given in to temptation in so many different ways. The Devil has an assortment of devices to choose from. No matter how well we think we're doing or how long we've been doing what we think is right, there is never a time our need for God is less. Satan is always trying us or waiting for an opportunity to tempt us.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

As faith brings us salvation, it is also needed to grow in our Christian life.

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Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The key words in this verse are “keep” and “persuaded”.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

On the basis of this verse of scripture, God wants us to have assurance of salvation.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The key word above is “know.”

Why do we need assurance of salvation?

Assurance brings us joy.

1 John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Assurance brings us confidence in God.

1 John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

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Assurance brings us comfort of heart.

Colossians 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Assurance enables us to overcome the world.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Assurance enables us to effectively serve the Lord by telling others about Jesus.

John 1:40 One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

John 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Acts 16:10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

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What is the basis of assurance of salvation?

Many Christians base their assurance of salvation upon personal feelings. The problem is that feelings change. One day you may feel saved but the next day you may question those feelings.

We have more to go on than our human feelings; we have the unchanging, unchangeable word of God.

This word is IMMUTABLE, unchangeable, invariable, unalterable. It is not capable of change or susceptible of to it (Noah Webster 1828).

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for God to lie*, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

In the next two verses, the key words are- “record” and “hath.”

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

There are three grounds for our assurance.

A) The person of God, who cannot lie, says so.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

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B) The promises of God.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

C) The presence of God.

The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are in fact God's children.

1 John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

When we are saved God gives us his love.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

How do I know I'm saved?

Here is a Bible check list. I know that I'm saved because I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

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Because I received the Son.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

I have love for the brethren.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

I have a desire to keep God's commandments.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

I have a desire to turn from the world and all its sin.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I'm starting to overcome the world.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

I have the witness of the Spirit within.

1 John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

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What brings assurance of salvation into my life?

It is possible you may have doubts from time to time. Just remember that Satan is a liar. **John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* Satan's first recorded words in the Bible were casting doubt upon God's word, **Genesis 3:1** *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?* Compared this with what God really said: **Genesis 2:16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*
17 *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.* Then Satan lied. **Genesis 3:4** *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

Here are some ways you can get assurance, or deepen your assurance in what God has done for you.

A) Learn the word of God.

Your salvation is based upon what God has said, not upon how you think or feel. Thus it is important for you to read and study the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:14 *But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;*

15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

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B) Thank God for his gift of salvation.

According to Romans 6:23, you have received the gift of life. Have you thanked God for this gift yet?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanksgiving is evidence of faith.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

C) Make a public testimony before others.

Have you told someone that you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ? Look at 1 John 4:15 and see the relationship between confessing Christ and assurance.

1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

One way you can confess Christ publicly is to come forward at the invitation at a church service. At all the altar calls I have been to there was no intention to embarrass anyone. Don't forget Satan will tell you not to go, you don't need it, there's another way. Don't be like Eve and listen to him. Don't forget what the Bible says - repent, believe and receive. The fear we experience about publicly confessing being a sinner in need of salvation and then professing Christ does not come from God; it comes from Satan.

2nd Chance Christian Newsletter (Assurance of Salvation Booklet)
We were created one way by God.

Genesis 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

We became another way because of sin.

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

That fear can be cast out with God's love.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Usually at any decent church service the pastor will ask if there is anyone that doesn't know Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. The reason I say at any decent service is because I have been to many churches in my struggles in and out of jail, I still visit different ones from time to time and have spent months in some without hearing the gospel covered or the invitation given to come up front and accept Christ. We must keep in mind that is fulfillment of scriptures. The Bible asks the question. When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith? The sad fact is that Christ is no longer preached, believed or lived in a lot of churches.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?.

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Promises.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

And warnings.

Revelation 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

D) Attend services when the church doors are open.

Fellowshipping with your brothers and sisters in Christ will encourage you. Many of them have experienced the same doubts you may have. Hebrews 10:25 commands us to do this.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Then there's another assurance from God.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

E) Live a righteous life.

Sometimes a full assurance does not come until God sees we mean business for Him. God knows our heart condition and thoughts. According to Isaiah 32:17, the work of righteousness is peace, the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance is for ever.

Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

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Remember the promises of the scriptures are eternal, as Christ is.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

So is the promise of eternal torment.

Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Accepting Christ's payment for the penalty of sin is eternal, so is denying Christ and thus refusing that payment. Those who do will be required to pay the penalty themselves. That payment is also eternal.

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Remember our peace and assurance is based upon believing
God's promises and not our feelings.

What will happen if I sin?

Is it possible for a Christian to sin?

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Does God want a Christian to sin?

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

When a Christian sins he is to confess it.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we sin and confess it, Jesus appears before God the Father on our behalf.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Can we ever lose our salvation?

We shall never perish.

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

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I have heard the weak argument that we can lose our salvation if we turn our back on God. It is sad to think that people believe they are more powerful than God. **John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.**

- To explain that lie they need to ignore all the promises and scriptures-about eternal life, **Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.**

-about God not being able to lie, **Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**

-That we do no works for salvation: **John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

- That all the work was done on the cross: **John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

- That when we are forgiven our sins are as far away from God's memory as the east is from the west: **Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

God will in no wise cast out those who come to Christ.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

The responsibility of keeping us saved is the Lord's not ours, and Christ can lose nothing.

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

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The life I now have is everlasting.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are saved by the grace of God kept by the power of God.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Christ is able to present us faultless.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Christ will continue His good work until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

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Our salvation has been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Our salvation is the gift of God. A gift taken back by the giver is no gift.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

We have done nothing to gain salvation. If we have done nothing to gain it, we can do nothing to lose it.

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Before we were saved we were in the control of Satan

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

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Now we are children of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Christians are the sons of God.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

In our earthly family, when a child does wrong, his parents do not cast him out of the family and disown him. They will correct and chasten their son; but he is still their son and a member of that family.

When a Christian sins, he is not cast out of the family, thus losing his salvation. However, like any loving father, God may chasten the erring Christian.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Some things to keep in mind about God.

He is omniscient-having universal knowledge or knowledge of all things, infinitely knowing, and all seeing

He is omnipresent-present in every place at the same time. He has an unbounded or universal presence-ubiquity. Omnipresence is an attribute peculiar to God.

He is omnipotent -almighty and possessing unlimited power. He is all powerful. The being that can create worlds must be omnipotent.

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Definitions from Webster dictionary (1828 edition)

There is no god that can claim the attributes and authority of God the Almighty.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

The proof of our salvation is in the fact that Christ is risen.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

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15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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The baptism in Romans 6:4 is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are clearly two baptisms that concern us in scriptures. The baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place at the moment of accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. This is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer. That is the inward event. Water baptism is the outward event that declares to the Church what took place inside us; that we are in agreement with like minded believers.

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Water baptism by submersion, shows our relationship to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is a picture of spiritual baptism.

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

We are being obedient to the Word of God when we get water baptized after we are saved.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

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I pray you stay strong until we meet in eternity, and that the Lord blesses you and your walk with Him. Always keep your eyes on the Lord until we are united with him forever. Do all things for the glory of God, always giving thanks and praise through the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit forever and ever,
Amen.

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