

Can I Know For Sure ?

Text : **II Peter 1: 2-11 ; I John 5: 9-13**

S#1.
S#2.

A. Are you a Christian ? If so why ?

1. Why should one remain a Christian ?
 - a. Christianity is a restrictive lifestyle.
 - b. Many people do not like Christians.
 - c. Popular science ridicules Christianity.
2. I'm a Christian because I do not want to go to Hell.
 - a. I know I commit sin and I need to be forgiven.
 - b. I am afraid of the judgment to come.
3. I'm a Christian because I want to go to Heaven.
 - a. Heaven is a wonderful place where everyone is happy.
 - b. I try to live right so God will take me to Heaven.

B. Most people who believe in God say they want to go to Heaven.

1. We've had a lesson on why Heaven is worth waiting for.
 - a. Heaven is in the eternal plan of God.
 - b. Our patience in waiting tests our faith.
 - c. Christian live in anticipation of Heaven.
 - d. We will not be disappointed.
2. We then looked at some particulars about Heaven.
 - a. Heaven is a real place with tangible substance.
 - b. It is an eternal place which is filled with God's glory.
 - c. But it is an exclusive place ONLY for God's invited guests.

C. The question we will address with this lesson is, can I know I'm going there. S#3.

1. The Apostle John wrote a letter to faithful Christians assuring them they can know.
I John. 5: 13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
2. The Apostle Peter wrote a letter assuring Christians that Heaven is ours.
II Pet. 1: 10-11 – Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain S#4.
about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

S#5.

I. One of the most common question is, “How can I know I am going to Heaven?”

A. One of the largest denominations teaches it is “the sin of presumption” for one to affirm confidence that he is going to Heaven.

1. Their religion is based upon a works system.
2. They make billions creating doubt and charging to pray doubters out of purgatory.

B. Many Christians who should be confident of their salvation, live in doubt.

C. Question : Upon what basis do people forfeit their assurance.

1. Some are plagued by doubt and unbelief in God’s promise ?

S#6.

Tit 1: 2 – ... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

2. Some doubt based upon your own imperfections ?

a. If you are battling sin, that’s a good thing.

Gal 5: 17 – For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

S#7.

b. Salvation, eternal life, does not depend upon our successfully keeping the rules.

Eph 2: 8-9 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

c. Compare : **Rom. 6:1-2** ... The Christian cannot ignore the rules and live in sin.

3. Some doubt because they have a lack of desire within to seek and obey Christ.

a. Jesus will not be second on our priority list.

S#8.

Mat 6: 33 – But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, (**10:37** .. dad or mom)

b. God requires that one surrender himself .. his personal ambitions.

Rom. 12: 1-2 – .. I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

II. Many base their assurance on false foundations.

S#9.

A. My parents or preacher told me I was saved and sure of Heaven.

S#10.

B. I did the right things.

1. I was baptized.
2. I prayed the sinners prayer.
3. I came forward and confessed Jesus as my personal savior.

C. I am a religious person.

1. I go to church.
2. I love to sing gospel songs.
3. I am involved in church activities.
4. I read the bible and I know a lot about it.
5. I feel guilty when I sin.

D. I know in my heart that I am saved. (*Remember Saul of Tarsus.*)**III. In I John the Apostle presents seven marks of one who has saving faith. S#11.****A. A person of faith walks in the light.**

1. **I John 1: 5-7** – This is the message we have heard from Him and announce **S#12.** to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin
2. The faith that saves motivates one to conform his life to that of Christ.

B. A person of faith knows he sins and confesses his sins.

1. **I John 1: 8-2:2** – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and **S#13.** the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. **2 - 1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
2. Everybody sins, but when Christians confess their sin, they are made pure.

C. People with saving faith strive to keep the commandments of God.

1. **I John-2: 3-4** – By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His **S#14.** commandments. **4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;
2. **I John-5: 3-4** – For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; **S#15.** and His commandments are not burdensome. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.
3. No one is able to obey perfectly, **but** the person of faith has a heart to obey.

4. Obedience is not a burden, but it does not come by accident.
 - a. Obedience is a proactive lifestyle : watchful, observant, submissive
 - b. Proactive obedience requires study in order to understand and conform.
5. God will assist the person of faith as he strives to obey Him.

Phil. 2: 12-13 – So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not **S#16.**
as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out
your salvation with fear and trembling; **13 for it is God who is at work**
in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

D. One who has saving faith loves the brethren.

1. **I John-2: 9-10** – One who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is **S#17.**
in the darkness until now. **10 The one who loves his brother**
abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.
 2. **I John-3: 10** – By this the children of God and the children of the devil are **S#18.**
obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not
of God, **nor the one who does not love his brother.**
 3. **I John-3: 13-14** – Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. **14** **S#19.**
We know that we have **passed out of death into life,** **because**
we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.
 4. **I John-5: 2-3** – **By this we know that we love the children of God,** when we **S#20.**
love God and observe His commandments. **3** For this is the
love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His
commandments are **not burdensome.**
- * a. It's never a burden to serve those we love. (*Love cannot be done in 1 hour a week*)
b. Our relationship with God is **directly linked** to our relationship with his children.

E. Those with saving faith affirm sound doctrine.

1. **I John-2: 21-22** – I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, **S#21.**
but because you do know it, and because **no lie is of the truth.**
22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
2. **John-8: 32** – You shall know the truth and **the truth will set you free.** **Cf- I John 4: 1**
3. **Gal. 1: 7-8** – There are some who are disturbing you and want to **distort the** **S#22.**
gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should
preach to you **a gospel contrary to what we have preached** to you,
he is to be accursed!
4. **Doctrine is important and the church is important.**

F. Those with saving faith seek righteousness.

1. **I John-2: 29** – If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone **S#23.**
also **who practices righteousness is born of Him.**

2. **I John-3: 3-4** – And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, **S#24.**
just as He is pure. **4** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.
3. **I John-3: 9-10** – No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed **S#25.**
abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. **10** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious:
anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.
4. **Heb. 12: 14** – Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which **S#26.**
no one will see the Lord.
5. **Rom. 6: 22** – But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

G. Those with saving faith have the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

1. **I John-4: 13** – By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, **S#27.**
because He has given us of His Spirit.
2. The Christian is given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at baptism.
Acts 2: 38 – Peter said to them, " Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. God works through the Spirit to help us conform to His image.
Phil. 2: 12-13 – So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not **S#28.**
as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
4. The spirit will bring about the change God requires of those who will live w/ Him.
Gal. 5: 22-25 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **S#29.**
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

CONCLUSION :

A. Those who go to be with God eternally are selected on the basis of their heart.

1. **Eph. 2: 8-10** ...Those who place all their faith and trust in Jesus to save them. **S#31.**
2. **Gal. 2: 20** ... Those who will surrender their will to God's. **S#32.**
S#33.

INVITATION : Those who surrender to God will not be disappointed. **II Tim 1:12**

S#34. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Peter 1: 2-11**

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. **4** For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **5** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, **6** and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, **7** and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

I John 5: 9-13

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. **10** The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. **11** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.