

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, June 27, 2012 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER “Six Links in the Doctrine of Eternal Security – Joy in God” *Romans 5:1-11*

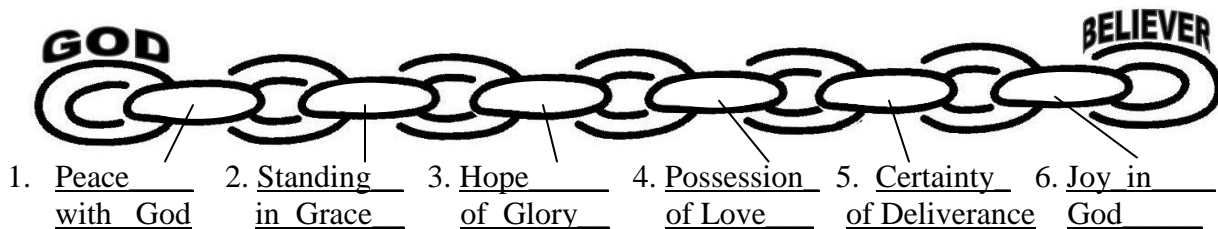
“Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” – Romans 5:11 (NIV)

“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.” – Romans (KJV)

“And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” – Romans 5:11 (NKJV)

“And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” – Romans 5:11 (NAS)

“So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” – Romans 5:11 (NLT)



LINK 6 – JOY IN GOD

1. THE ORIGIN OF JOY

*“A subjective (personal, individual, particular) reality of our belonging to “God is a heart filled with joy.”
– Dr. John Mac Arthur*

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Why or why not? _____

If you agree, why would you say joy is proof, evidence a sure reality of a Christian's eternal security? _____

Listen as Galatians 5:22-23 is read and then respond to the following related questions.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

-Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

- (1) What does this passage say that the qualities listed in the passage are? The Fruit of the Spirit
- (2) Who do these qualities come from? The Spirit (God)
- (3) Who has this person (The Holy Spirit of God) in them? The Believer (a Christians)
- (4) Who has these qualities or fruits in them? The Believer (a Christian)
- (5) Are these qualities (or fruits) something that a believer should have now in this life or does a believer not possess these things until they reach heaven? (Explain your answer) A growing and maturing believer should exhibits these qualities, characteristic or fruits in his or her life now. They are evidence that he or she is a Christian. Remember Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, “... by their fruit you will recognize (or know) them.” Joy is one of the fruits that gives evidence that one is a true believer/Christian... that is perhaps why Paul gave this important characteristic as the final validating link in the security of a believer.

Salvation is not merely a future hope, but a it is indeed a present and abundant joy now. Internal joy is one of the great securities of salvation. Think about it... based upon our study of the eternal security of the believer take a few minutes to record some of your thoughts about how you feel knowing that your salvation is secure and cannot be lost. _____

Is joy not one of the greatest expressions of how it feels to know that your salvation is secure. That deep seeded joy is indeed an important link to God. Remember according to Galatians 5:22-23 that “joy” is one of the fruits of the Spirit, which you have if you are a believer. That joy come from God and validates that you belong to Him who hold you forever and has set His seal upon you in the Holy Spirit guaranteeing your eternal life (see 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14)

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” – 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

“Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” – 2 Corinthians 5:5 (NIV)

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” – Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

2. THE OBJECT OF JOY

What the object of joy is not:

- (1) **The object of our joy is not power (Luke 10:20)** – **“However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”** Rather than being so enthralled with extraordinary manifestation such as power over demons and the ability to work miracles, they should have realized that the greatest wonder of all is the reality of salvation itself – the whole point of the gospel message and the central issue to which all the miracles pointed.
- (2) **The object of our joy is not prestige (status, self-esteem, self-love or fame) (1 Corinthians 13:6)** – **“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.” (NIV)** The New King James says love, **“...does not rejoice in iniquity (sin), but rejoices in the truth.”** Now stay with me on this one. What the Apostle Paul is describing here is a picture of genuine love... divine love... “agape” love. He is teaching that the true love of God manifested in the life of another person will not find as their object of joy some else’s sin or downfall in sin, not even the sin of an enemy. Some might be tempted to think like this, “I would take great joy in just seeing him or her fall flat on their face, totally fail, get caught in their own devices, and games.” That is not joy! Their demise and downfall is not the kind of joy we are talking about. We sometimes want to tear others down to make ourselves look better or in order to feel better about ourselves. It becomes a part of elevating ourselves and lowering others. This is never the object of joy.
- (3) **The object of our joy is not possessions (Philippians 3:1, 7-14)** – **“¹Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe... ⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**

What the object of joy is:

- (1) The object of our joy is God's love for us (John 3:16)**
- (2) The object of our joy is God's love for us demonstrated through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8)**
- (3) The object of our joy is God's love for us demonstrated through Jesus Christ in reconciling us to God (Romans 5:11)**

The reality is that our joy in the Lord is totally contingent upon the security of the believer and the assurance we experience in Him. Here is how someone has put it;

*No assurance, no joy!
Know assurance, know joy!*

It's true! If you have not assurance of your salvation, you will never have joy, but only misery... never really knowing if you are saved, always experiencing doubts and despair. On the other hand, if you know assurance in your life as a believer you can experience really joy in Him, knowing that your eternal destiny is secure and that every day you live and breathe in His love. It also frees you up to grow in deeper relationship with Him every day and that bring even deeper joy in the Lord. The close you get to Him, the more joy will fill your heart.

TWO QUESTIONS ON ASSURANCE

Can we be assured of our salvation? There can be no doubt that God wants us to be assured 1 John 5:13 reminds us, *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."* He want us to "know," but how can we ourselves really "know"? To answer that we need to answer two other pressing questions

2 Question of Assurance:**1. Is our salvation secure and assured?****4 Proof that Salvation is Secure**

- (1) The Sovereign Decree of God the Father (John 3:16-18) -**
- (2) The High-Priestly Work of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:23-25) –** He ever lives to make it secure and assured.
- (3) The Sealing and Guaranteeing Work of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) –** The Holy Spirit marks you with an irrevocable mark that can't be taken away assuring you that you belong to God.
- (4) The Affirmation of Scripture, God's Holy Word (1 Peter 1:23-25) –** God's word doesn't life and it never fails. You have been saved and you can be assured of this because you were born again not of perishable seed but of imperishable (nothing can destroy it) through the Word of God... the affirmation of Scripture.

2. **Can we actually experience that assurance and security?** Is it possible to know (have assurance) that we are saved... we can't have and experience real joy without it... so is it possible to know? The answer is "yes," but how do we know and get that assurance?

Invalid Proofs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Signing a card | (6) Regular church attendance |
| (2) Walking an aisle | (7) Emotional feelings |
| (3) Raising a hand in a service | (8) Religious duty and service |
| (4) Baptism | (9) Keeping spiritual disciplines |
| (5) Church membership | (10) Family heritage |

Valid Proofs: There are two ways according to the New Testament that we can experience assurance and security.

- (1) **Pure Doctrine** – In other words, “know the truth.” 2 John 9 says, “Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.” One of the things that causes a person to doubt their salvation and lack assurance is a poor understanding of the doctrine of salvation in Christ. True assurance is available only to those who abide in the true biblical doctrine of Christ. If you have a wrong view of Jesus Christ, you will not experience assurance and security in your salvation. People who follow the teaching of cults or unbiblical religions, and do not affirm the Christ of the Bible, will never experience a genuine sense of assurance. That is why they work so frantically to earn salvation. They try to be affirmed by their work because they never experience assurance. The same is true for a person in the church who may not have an accurate understanding of how Christ saves us. They may be genuinely saved by calling on the name of Christ, yet never have grown in God's Word enough to understand that we are saved by the finished work of Christ and what He has done... not what we have done. They may work and serve feverishly in order to gain a peace and assurance of their salvation, but it never comes because they have not yet learned to fully rely on Christ and His grace alone.
- (2) **Pure Living** – In other word, “living the truth.” Matthew 7:18 says, “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.” One of the things that causes a person to doubt their salvation and lack assurance is when they sill sin and can't seem tot stop. If you see corrupt fruit in your life, it's logical to assume you're a corrupt tree. It is vital that you see a pattern of holy living in your life if you are ever going to know assurance. Paul wrote in Titus 2:11ff that, “The grace of God that bring salvation has appeared to all me, teaching us that, denying ungodliness.. we should live soberly, righteously, and godly...” lives. Therefore, if you are not denying ungodliness in your life, you will have a difficult time at best believing and convincing yourself that you are really saved. In other words, you will lack assurance.

TWELVE TESTS ON ASSURANCE:

1. **Do you enjoy fellowship with Christ and His redeemed people?** – If you regularly participate in the such fellowship, that is a sign you are a Christian. When you are saved you enter into fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, and everyone who has fellowship with the Father and the Son. When you were saved you entered into fellowship with the Father and the Son. If you have shared in the prayers, praises, and testimonies of God's people, that's an indication you belong to Him. (1 John 1:3)
2. **Are you sensitive to sin?** – If you have a continual sensitivity to the sin in your life and are in awe of Holy God, that's an indication you are a Christian. (1 John 1:8-10)
3. **Do you tend to hate the world and its evil?** – if you love the system of the world and all that it stands for, that indicates you are not a Christian. However, if you have a basic hatred of the evil in this world, even though you may fall into its trap now and then, that's an indication you are a Christian. (1 John 2:15)
4. **Are you obedient to God's Word?** – (1 John 2:3-5)
5. **Do you await the coming of Jesus Christ?** – If you love Christ and eagerly await His coming, that indicates you are a Christian. (1 John 3:2-3)
6. **Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life?** – A true Christian will experience a decreasing frequency of sin in his or her life. (1 John 3:5-6)
7. **Do you make sacrifices for other Christians?** – (1 John 3:14, 16)
8. **Do you experience answered prayer?** – Answered prayer is the result of keeping God's commandments and doing what is pleasing in His sight. So if you're seeing answered prayer, that indicates you are a Christian. (1 John 3:22)
9. **Do you experience the internal work of the Holy Spirit?** – Although you may be experiencing doubt at the present time, if you can look back and see the Spirit's leading in the past, that's an affirmation that you belong to God. (1 John 3:24)
10. **Are you able to discern between spiritual truth and error?** – A true Christian does not fall prey to false teaching about Jesus Christ, the doctrine of salvation, and other basics of the faith. (1 John 4:1-6)
11. **Do you believe what the Bible teaches?** – (1 John 5:1)
12. **Have you ever suffered on account of your faith?** – The devil doesn't attack where there is nothing to attack. He doesn't attack the tares but the wheat (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43). When you are attacked by the enemy remember he is judged, you are saved.