

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

CONFIDENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

SCRIPTURE READING:

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

¹²He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³These 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.

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:11-15).

INTRODUCTION:

A. Based on 1 John 5:13, the Believer should live with great confidence and assurance that he is a Christian – the person who places their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and receives spiritual rebirth through Him.

B. 1 John 5:13 teaches that God gave Believers a written record so they may know eternal life is theirs right now, not just hope for it.

1. Believers can have a factual assurance (“Know So” Salvation) of eternal life rather than wishful thinking or uncertainty (“Hope So” Salvation).
2. Confidence rests on faith in God’s Word which is the finished work and promise of Jesus Christ, rather than a Believer’s changing feelings or personal performance (works).
 - a. Personal feelings are changeable and unreliable.
 - b. God’s Word is changeless and reliable – Stand On God’s Word – He Keeps His Promises.

Study Question:

What is the difference between Hoping you are Saved verses Knowing you are saved?

C. The Paid In Full Receipt

Imagine buying a valuable item at a store. As you walk out the front doors, the security alarm suddenly goes off, and a guard stops you, demanding to know if you stole it. If you have nothing but your own word, you will feel anxious and defensive. But if you reach into your pocket and pull out a printed receipt stamped “PAID IN FULL” with the store’s official digital signature, all anxiety instantly vanishes. Your hand over the paper, the guard steps aside, and you walk away with quiet, unshakeable confidence.

The enemy of our souls frequently triggers false alarms, accusing Believers of not being “good enough” to be Saved. If we try to argue using our own goodness, we will always lose confidence. 1 John 5:13 is the Believer’s written receipt. It proves that the price for our adoption has already been fully paid by Jesus Christ. When doubt accuses you, you don’t argue your own merit – you simply hold up the receipt of God’s written Word.

Based on the subject of this Bible Study, we will consider our Salvation in Three Tenses – Past, Present and Future.

I. SALVATION AND THE BELIEVER'S PAST LIFE (JUSTIFICATION)

Justification is being Saved from the Penalty of Sin. It is to be freed from guilt, declared not-guilty. Righteous once and for all. It is a one-time act by God at the moment of salvation.

A. Christ is Required to Take Care of the Sins of our Past Life

- “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” (Rom 10:9-10).
- “Confess” and “Believe” leads to being Saved. Therefore, there is no reason to doubt being Saved.

B. The Impacts of Christ's Death on the Cross for Those Who Believe in Him as Their Savior

1. Christ took away our sins, forgave us and made us whole (1 Pet 2:24).

- “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet 2:24).
- Christ died for our sins, in our place, so we would not have to suffer the punishment we deserve.

2. Christ has Forgiven Our Sins (Ps 86:5)

- “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee” (Ps 86:5).
- God is good (kind), ready to forgive (wipe away sins), and abundant in mercy (love, compassion). His mercy and forgiveness is freely available “unto all them that call upon thee.”

3. God has Made Believers “White as Snow” (Isa 1:18)

- a. A deep stain is nearly impossible to remove from clothing.
- b. “White as Snow” represents complete spiritual cleansing and the total removal of guilt through God's forgiveness.

4. God has Blotted Out our Sins (Isa 44:22)

- “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee” (Isa 44:22).
- God has erased the Believer's sin debt, where guilt is completely canceled and the memory of sin is permanently removed.

5. God has forgotten our Sins (Jer 31:34)

- “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jer 31:34).
- “I will remember their sin no more” – God chooses to never again hold a Believer's past sins against them.

Study Question:

Do you have complete confidence in your Salvation after reading the promises of God related to your past sins?

II. SALVATION AND THE BELIEVER'S PRESENT LIFE (SANCTIFICATION)

Sanctification is being saved from the Power of Sin. It is being transformed daily by the Holy Spirit.

A. Our Standing Before God – Now (Present)

1. There is no condemnation (Not Guilty)

God has declared us not guilty and has offered us freedom from sin and power to do His Will.

2. Freedom from condemnation does not excuse sin

This freedom from condemnation establishes Believers in Grace and calls Believers to Walk by the Spirit.

B. Believers are the Children of God (Rom 8:16)

- “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom 8:16).

- This is how Believers stand before God – **Now!** The Holy Spirit tells the Believer that He is a Child of God and a member of God’s family. He does it primarily through the Word of God.

C. We are to Live Each and Every Day in Step with Christ

- “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).
- Living in step with Christ, gives the Believer confidence of daily fellowship with Him and continual (on-going) cleansing of sin.

D. Believers Can Face Temptation Everyday with Confidence by Being in Fellowship with Christ

- “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Cor 10:13).

- 1. No temptation will come your way that has not been faced and conquered by other Believers.**
- 2. God is faithful, He will be with the Believers, He will not allow a temptation to come the Believer’s way that he will not be able to resist.**
- 3. For every temptation, God promises to provide “a way to escape.”**
 - Augustine, great saint of God had lived with a prostitute before his conversion. After he was wonderfully saved, he was walking down the street and this prostitute saw him. She shouted his name and he kept walking. He saw her, but kept his eyes straightforward and walked. She continued crying after him and ran after him. And finally, she said, Augustine, it is I. To which he replied, I know, but it is no longer I. – (Source: Truth Challenge)

Study Questions:

- How does understanding that temptation is “common to man” change your perspective on your personal struggles?
- In what ways have you experienced God’s faithfulness in providing a way out of temptation in your life?

III. SALVATION AND THE BELIEVER’S FUTURE LIFE (GLORIFICATION)

Glorification is being Saved from the Presence of Sin. It is to be completely rescued from sin and death at Christ’s return.

A. Believers can be confident that the same Christ who forgave their Past, will keep our Present, and will guard our Future.

B. All Three Tenses of the Believer’s Life are Safe and Secured in the Hands of God.

- “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 5:24).
 - Christ promised that Believers have passed from death to life (The Past), that Believers have eternal life right now (The Present), and that Believers will never be condemned (The Future).

C. The Believer’s Future is Secured Because of Christ’s Promise to all Who Come to Him

- “²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 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” (John 10:28-29).
 - Satan cannot harm the Believer’s soul nor can he take away their eternal life with God.

D. Nothing Can Separate Believers from the Saving and Keeping Power of God’s Love, “which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- “³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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” (Rom 8:35-39).

E. Satan Will Remind Believers of their Past and Recent Sins after Salvation

He (Satan) tells us lies about God and His Word to shake our confidence and rob us of our joy. Satan is the deceiver, Father of lies, tempter, accuser, serpent and ruler of this world. - “Satan never takes a vacation from opposing the Believer; his hatred is continuous, but God’s protection is absolute.” - Unknown

MEMORY VERSE:

“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 5:13).

CONCLUSION:

A. Confidence in the Christian life is ours for the taking – Never doubt God and His Word – Do not listen to Satan.

Despite all of our failures and past mistakes, God is Faithful to His word – “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).

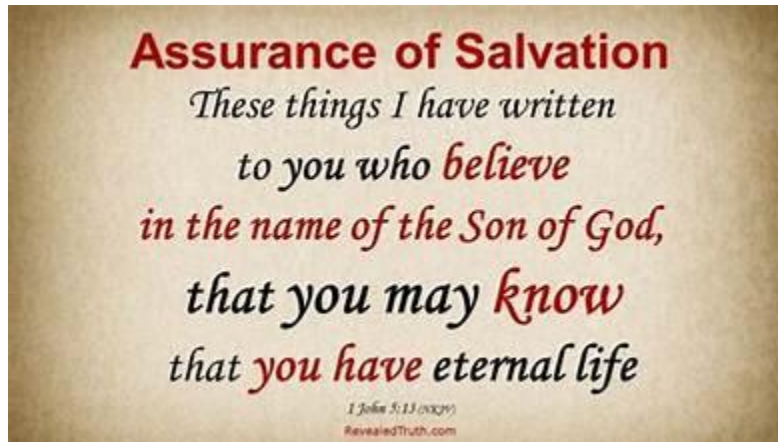
B. Praise the Lord! God took our past life – which was spiritually dead and under condemnation – and completely cleared our record. God traded our sin for Christ’s righteousness.

C. Redeemed – How I Love to Proclaim It

Redeemed – How I love to proclaim it, Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb,
Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child and forever I Am.

D. Assurance of Salvation is knowing you’re Saved because God wrote a promise to Believers. In 1 John 5:13, John says those who believe in Jesus may know they have eternal life. Your confidence rests on God’s Word, not your feelings or performance.

E. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:
Pastor Carl Bennett
Corinth Christian Fellowship
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).