

Lesson 6

How Can I Be Sure?

After a person has placed his trust in the Lord Jesus, many times the first problem they have is knowing for sure they have eternal life. Many times it is the work of the Devil to plant this doubt in the new believer's mind. In this lesson we want to look at Scriptures that will show us how we know we have eternal life and how we know it is permanent.

In **John 5:24** our Lord gave a neat little outline of how our salvation works. We want to note the verbs in the verse. First, we read, "**He who hears My word,**" so we ask ourselves have we heard the Word of God? Second, we read, "**and believes Him who sent Me,**" so we ask, have we believed the Word? Third, we read, "**has eternal life**" so we ask, what do we have? So when we can say that we have heard the Word, and believed the Word, then we can say that we have eternal life. The reason that we know this is true is because the Bible, which is the Word of God, says so. If God says it, then I believe it, and that finishes it.

BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS SO!

The Apostle John was used of God to write the Gospel of John and the epistles of I, II, and III John. He wrote a lot about how we can know we have eternal life. So let us note a couple of these Scriptures. In **John 20:30,31**; we see that there are many things that could have been written about the life of our Lord. But the things that were included in the text were written so that we might believe. This is the reason why the Bible was written and has been preserved for us all these years, so that we might know God through His Son, and believe on Him. Another Scripture is **I John 5:11-13**. There again we see that the Scriptures were written so that we might believe.

Then the text goes on to tell us that the Scriptures were written so that we might know that we have eternal life. It is not enough that we think we have eternal life or that we hope that we have eternal life. The Bible was written that we might know we have eternal life. So when anybody asks us how can we know, we simply say, "because the Bible says so, and God does not lie."

BECAUSE THIS LIFE IS ETERNAL, NOT TEMPORARY!

Another question that people sometimes have, is what do I have to do to keep this eternal life? Another way of putting it would be, is this new, spiritual life temporary or permanent? One way to illustrate this would be with the following story: Let us say there is a fire in a ten story building. On the tenth floor there is a man who needs to be rescued. The fireman places a ladder up to the building and climbs up to get the man. At the tenth floor the fireman grabs a hold of the man and begins to climb back down. On the way back down the man loses his grip, does the man fall? The answer is no because the man is held safe in the grip of the fireman who has saved him from the burning building.

This is exactly what we are told in **John 10:27,28**, “**and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.**” When we believe on the Lord Jesus, we are safe in His hand. Our eternal security depends on Him holding onto us, not upon us holding onto Him. We must keep in mind that we were not saved because of anything we have done, but only because of what He has done. Therefore we stay saved because of what He has done and not because of anything we do.

BECAUSE THE SON OF GOD IS ON OUR SIDE!

So what is our Lord doing to make sure we do not go lost? In **Romans 8:31-39**, we see that our Lord is on our side, He has made sure that nothing or anyone, including ourselves, “**shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ .Jesus our Lord.**” So if we ever begin to wonder if the Lord is still holding onto us, we can go to this Scripture and see that we are safe in His hands. In the book of **Hebrews**, this is called the High Priestly ministry of our Lord. A good example of this is found in **4:16**. There we see that we can come to the Lord at any time and He is there to give us the mercy and grace that we need.

BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Not only does the Son of God keep us eternally secure but so does the Holy Spirit. In **Ephesians 1:13** we are taught that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. This seal proves two things. The first is ownership, that is we belong to the Lord Jesus. If the Devil should come and try to claim us, He cannot do it because we belong to God. The second thing that this seal means is that we are secure. Anything that is sealed is secure until the seal is broken. The only one who can break this seal is God. We have already seen in **Romans 8** that He will not break the seal because He is on our side.

The sum of what we want to learn here is this: The life we receive from God by placing our trust in the Lord Jesus is eternal life. The very word, eternal, means that it is permanent. If it were not permanent then another word would have to be used, like, “maybe life.” Then we know that this life is eternal because the Word of God says so and God cannot lie. Finally, we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit which shows we belong to God and we are secure in Him. In our next lesson we will begin to look at some of things that Christians do because they are Christians.

Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Questions for Review:

1. If we have heard the Word and believed the Word, what do we have?
2. Why were the Scriptures written?
3. In the illustration, did the man fall when he lost his grip on the fireman? Why or why not?
4. Does our security depend on the Lord holding onto us or us holding onto Him?
5. Why is it true that nothing can separate us from the love of God?
6. When we go to the Lord as our great High Priest, what do we receive from Him ?
7. Who else keeps us secure in God?
8. What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit?
9. Is the life God has given us, eternal life or maybe life?
10. Do you have eternal life? How do you know?