

Saved and Assured

1 John

1. **Do you believe in Jesus rightly (1 Jn. 2:18-27; 4:1-6, 15)?**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is that salvation from sin and eternal life with God in paradise is God's free gift to every person who heeds Jesus' call to repent and believe in Him (Mk. 1:15; Eph. 2:8-9). There have always been preachers and prophets who claimed to teach the truth about Jesus and salvation, but in fact were liars and false teachers (1 Jn. 4:1-5). To believe in Jesus rightly means that you believe what He has said about Himself in His Word (1 Jn. 4:15; Jn. 20:31).

2. **Do you walk in the darkness or walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:6-2:2; 3:4-12)?**

The activities and patterns of your life will give testimony to whether or not you have received eternal life (Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:10; cf. Jn. 15:2-6). Walking in the darkness means to have a life characterized by doing the things that God has commanded us not to do (1 Jn. 3:4, 10) and by not doing those things which God has commanded us to do (cf. 1 Thess. 4:3). This is a question of patterns and habits (1 Jn. 1:6-8, 10), because the Christian life is characterized by confession of sin, repentance to God that leads to godliness (1 Jn. 1:9; 2:1-2).

3. **Do you obey what God has told you to do (1 Jn. 2:3-6, 28-3:3)?**

The issue of obedience to God's commands is central to the message of 1 John. Obedient performance of God's commands is not the basis upon which we are given eternal life (cf. Rom. 4:1-5), but it is a result of having received eternal life (cf. Eph 2:10). One of the sure ways that we can know that we have received eternal life is that we obey His commands (1 Jn. 2:3). A person with saving faith looks forward to the return of Jesus, and that anticipation motivates the believer to live righteously (1 Jn. 2:28-29; 3:3).

4. **Who do you love? (1 Jn. 2:15-17; 3:14; 5:13)**

The question of whether or not you have been born again comes down to who or what you love (Lk. 12:34). If your love is for the things of this world, then you have not received eternal life (1 Jn. 2:15-17). One of the most obvious indicators of whether or not you have received eternal life is whether or not you love your brother (1 Jn. 3:10). Love is defined by the example of Jesus Christ (1 Jn. 3:16; cf. Phil 2:3-5). The other recipient of the true believer's love is God Himself (cf. 1 Jn. 5:1). The way in which love for God and love for Christ is manifested is in obedience to His commands (1 Jn. 5:3).

5. **Is the Holy Spirit dwelling in you (1 Jn. 3:24b; 4:13; 5:10)?**

The Lord has promised to give the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Him (Eph. 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit's indwelling presence in us is a confirmation that we have been born again (1 Jn. 3:24; 4:13). The Holy Spirit is constantly at work in the believer to war against sin and to live in obedience to God (Gal. 5:16-17). And He, the Holy Spirit, testifies with and to the believer that we have been born again (1 Jn. 5:10; Rom. 8:14-16; cf. Mk 14:36).