

Assurance of Salvation
Part 12

What it means to have
"Life in Christ"



Assurance of Salvation
(Make sure while you can!)

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?
—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

(2 Corinthians 13:5, ESV)

1. Actions that prove you *aren't* saved.
 2. Actions that prove *nothing*.
 3. Actions that prove you *are* saved.
- 

What it Means to Have Life in Christ
(= to be a follower of Jesus)
(= a disciple)

*** A complete contrast *
with the past.**

2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**: the old has gone, the new has come!

1. You have been set **free** and no longer *have* to sin!

John 8:34, 36 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Of course, the Devil and the flesh (sinful nature) will be telling you something different.



2. You no longer have to be a slave to the world's *corrupt* definition of "freedom"!

- WORLD: "Freedom" means *"the ability to do as I please."*
- DISCIPLE: "Freedom" means *"the ability to do what is right."*



3. You serve a new master

(This master doesn't require shackles!)

Romans 6:17-18 (NIV)

THEN: "... you used to be slaves to sin, ..."

NOW: "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

NOT A PART OF
FREEDOM IN CHRIST! →



4. You now have a new type of "offering."

Romans 6:13 (NIV)

THE OLD WAY IS NOT AN OPTION: "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness."

THE NEW WAY IS YOUR ONLY OPTION: "but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."

5. There will be things in your life that prove you are saved.

Their **PRESENCE** guarantees salvation, for an **UNSAVED** person **cannot** do them!

Their **ABSENCE** is proof that you do not know God.



? **THINGS THAT PROVE SALVATION?**

? Why are they proof? ?

? **Here's why:**

- They are **absent** when the Spirit of God is absent.
- They are **present** when the Spirit of God is present.

(All who belong to God have the Spirit of God in them. There are no exceptions.)

Their presence will increase as we grow in Christ

- All who belong to God will *grow* in Christ; we will become more "spiritually mature."
- The presence of these characteristics will also grow, as we grow in Christ.

This growth is illustrated in the New Testament

(1)

1 Corinthians –
Written to "babies" in Christ

Many of the New Testament books were written to *new* Christians who didn't know much about growing up in Christ.

(2)

2 Corinthians –
They had grown quite a bit
(still room for more growth)

But once they *learned*, they *grew*.
(The fakes didn't grow.)

GROWTH IN CHRIST

How does it work?

You start out as a "newborn" and you act like a "newborn"...

*** But you DON'T STAY THAT WAY. ***



It won't always be a smooth "growth curve."

There will be "ups and downs."

BUT THE GROWTH WILL BE THERE.

This is because
**** GOD GUARANTEES THE GROWTH WILL BE THERE. ****



You say it's impossible?
(you're right)

- The picture is obviously faked.
- If it were real, the water would have spilled all over.



It's the same way with the Christian life.

- When the Holy Spirit *enters* a person at salvation, he changes the person.
- If the Spirit is in you, the *effects* of his presence will "overflow"
 - Into your life.
 - Then into the world around you.

The influence of the Spirit

- Your values and conduct will change – and the change will continue, as the Spirit continues to work inside you.
- You will **not** suppress this growth and the "overflowing" of the Spirit's presence.
(That's what the **FAKES** do.)



2 DIFFERENCES
(This "overflowing glass" illustration isn't perfect.)

- 1) A "newborn" disciple **doesn't have to wait** until he's 100% full, to begin "overflowing" with the goodness of God!
- 2) We are being filled with **something much greater** than any water source!
(= the Spirit of God)



GREATER THAN THIS!

Next week (God willing)...

We will look at the question:

"How can God **guarantee** that things will be this way?"

Until then...

YOUR MISSION:



#1

If your life is still characterized by the "old" ways of sin...

- Don't lie about the truth!
- Instead, repent and begin to follow Jesus!

#2

If you claim to follow Jesus, then FOLLOW him!

- In other words, let your *words* and your *life* agree with each other!
- As a group, we can encourage each other to do this!

#2

*"We should think about each other to see how we can encourage each other to show love and do good works."
(Heb 10:24, ESV)*

#2

- We should remember that the Spirit uses the Word to accomplish his work in us.

Do you want the Spirit to do something in your life?

Then do the things that make it possible!

If you first do this... [= WORD]

Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, ***live in your hearts*** and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel ***each other***. (Col. 3:16a, NLT)

Then you'll be able to do this... [= SPIRIT]

... ***let the Holy Spirit fill and control you***. (Ephes. 5:18b, NLT)

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 10:24 - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.esv.com)
- Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:16 - Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.nlt.com)
- Other Scripture passages - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervan.com)

PICTURES

- RED LIGHT - By maix? (Image:Ampel.svg) [CC-BY-SA-2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>), via Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ampel.svg#light_dark_red.svg]
- YELLOW LIGHT - By maix? (Image:Ampel.svg) [CC-BY-SA-2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>), via Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ampel.svg#light_dark_yellow.svg]
- GREEN LIGHT - By maix? (Image:Ampel.svg) [CC-BY-SA-2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>), via Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ampel.svg#light_dark_green.svg]
- Girl with binoculars - By Shannon Smith, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_young_girl_looks_out_over_a_marsh_area.jpg
- Shackles - Tropenmuseum of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:COLLECTIE_TROPENMUSEUM_Luizen_vastling_voor_ouvangeten_T.M._912-475.jpg#media]

Credits (2)

PICTURES

- Green smiley - By Cool tap (File:smiley.png) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Agood_Smiley.png
- Open book - By Meul (Meul) (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Livre_ouvert.svg
- Baby - Walter J. Pilsak [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Babyausen.jpg>
- Growth chart - By Sigbert (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WachstumskurveDienstePP10d.png> (modified)
- All glasses of water - By Derek Jensen [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Glass-of-water.jpg> (all modifications of the original)
- Drip from faucet - Chris 73 [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Water_drop_animation.gif (modified)
- Dove - By Reinhardhaake (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Craft_St._Dionysius_Jerd_Sebastian_2212.JPG (modified)
- Waterfall + glass - Waterfall: User:Urban [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:km018.jpg>; glass - same as listed above.
- Fountains - Dennis Hinks © 2013
- Presentation and any textured backgrounds (i.e., not a solid shade) - Dennis Hinks © 2013
- **DISCLAIMER:** The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree; some might not.