

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 47

Faith  
(#10)



• How NOT to protect yourself from the world's influence.



• This is the only thing that works.

**WHAT THE SPIRIT DOES**  
to bring about a "saving faith."

(Continuing from last week.)

• The reason we can know for sure that our **FAITH** is **GENUINE**.

**Using the Scriptures...**

- The **Spirit** *teaches* us...  
... and we are willing to *learn*.
- The **Spirit** *directs* us...  
... and we are willing to *obey*.

I am the Lord your God,  
who *teaches* you what is best for you,  
who *directs* you in the way you should go.  
Isaiah 48:17b (NIV)

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★ **THIS IS THE "HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY" PART.**

– If we *aren't* willing to do this, ***we aren't saved.***  
It's **OUR** choice, *and we can't blame God for it.*

**THE FIRST STEP:  
TEACHING / LEARNING**

- The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to *teach and convince* us about:
  - **The BAD NEWS:** Our sin and guilt.
  - **The GOOD NEWS:** Jesus' sacrifice and God's offer.
- **ALWAYS BOTH.**  
(He *never* omits the "bad news" part.)

## THE SECOND STEP: DIRECTING / OBEYING

- The Holy Spirit makes us willing to **accept the facts.**
  - The facts we looked at last week.
- The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to **guide our response.**
  - Repentance, trust and obedience.



## RESPONDING TO OUR DARK CONDITION

God, have mercy on me, a sinner!



The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

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## ACCEPTING the truth

- We realize and acknowledge that we are:
  - corrupt and sinful
  - guilty and without any hope
  - deserving of judgment

For **ALL** have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

## "I'm better than that other person!"

- We may look "good" when we compare ourselves to *other corrupt humans*, **but we have no merit we can cling to, in the sight of God.**

Therefore you are without excuse, whoever you are, when you judge someone else. For on whatever grounds you judge another, you condemn yourself, because you who judge practice the same things.

Romans 2:1 (NET)

## RENOUNCING our own efforts

- We **renounce** any human attempt to attain salvation, or to somehow "appease" God.
  - We know these things **don't** work, and they **cannot** earn our salvation.

Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one!

Job 14:4 (NIV)

## SURRENDERING to God

- Yield, submit, surrender to God; quit fighting as a **rebel**.
  - It's **unconditional** surrender that matters.
- Abandon all to him, even life itself.
  - So that he can use us as he wishes for promoting his glory.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.  
 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.  
 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.  
 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4:7-10 (ESV)

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S PROMISE

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.  
 2 Cor. 1:20a (NIV)

### CLINGING to the cross

(and to all it represents)

- We cling to God's way as the only way, our only hope.
- We rely only on Jesus Christ and what he accomplished.

But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14 (NET)

### > What a change in our reaction! <

- **IN THE PAST:** We rejected the way of the cross.
- **NOW:** We rely on the way of the cross!

Then [Jesus] said to them all:  
 "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ...  
 "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Luke 9:23; 14:27 (NIV)

## "CARRY YOUR CROSS"

- It doesn't mean: "Wear it as an ornamental trinket!"
- It may be OK to wear one, but don't stop with that!  
 – It doesn't fulfill Jesus' command!

I didn't wear it as a trinket!

## DELIGHTING in God

- Delight in God; accept his righteousness as ours, and rejoice in it!

Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:11 (NIV)

## Consider this:

- Though sinless, Jesus accepted **our sin** as **his**...  
... so that we could accept **his righteousness** as **ours**.
- **Don't try to take back your sin!**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Cor. 5:21 (NIV)

## VALUING God's ways

- Commit yourself to following him.
  - Yield to **his** will; live for **his** glory.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night. ...

Not so the wicked!

Psalms 1:2, 4a (NIV)

## RESULTS? A NEW LIFE!

- Willing to learn **how** to live this new life
  - enabled by the **Spirit**,
  - who uses the **Word of God** to accomplish his purposes.



Jesus, the "Light of the World," is now **my** light!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Cor. 5:17 (ESV)

## God willing...

- We will look at the results next week.
- **In the mean time...**

## YOUR MISSION (1)

### IF THE THINGS WE LOOKED AT DESCRIBE YOU, THEN:

- **You know:** God has begun a work of grace in your heart.
- **You are guaranteed:** What God has started, he will "carry on to completion."

### ★ GOD DOES THESE THINGS...

But there is also the "human responsibility" aspect for us to do.



## So what YOU can do?

- **GRATEFULNESS:** Thank God that he is working in your life!
- **GROWTH:** Focus on learning God's will, and living as a follower of Jesus!

★ If you have **GENUINE FAITH**, you'll **want to do these things anyway.**

## YOUR MISSION (2)

IF THESE THINGS DO **NOT** DESCRIBE YOU...  
>> WHY WAIT? <<

- **LEARN** what Scripture says, accept it, and live by it!
  - Do **YOUR** part... God will take care of **HIS** part.
- Then you can **THANK** God for what he is doing in your life!

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