

Assurance of Salvation
Part 48

Faith
(#11)



We've been looking at WHAT THE **SPIRIT** DOES to bring about a "**saving faith.**"

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

OUR THEME HAS BEEN:

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)

Using the Scriptures...

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

★ IN ALL THIS, WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE "HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY" PART. ★
(Because it is *just as true*.)

- **TODAY:** We want to look at the RESULTS of all this.
- Our theme is:

Rejoice!!
in what God has done!

*** DISCLAIMER ***

- This applies only to those who have the changes we've been describing.
- Anyone else has no reason to rejoice... except that God has given them another opportunity to repent before they die.

The **RESULT** of the **SPIRIT'S** work? A **NEW LIFE!**

*That's worth **REJOICING** over!*

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

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; **the old has gone, the new has come!**
2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)



The old has **gone**, the new has **come!**

But what does this mean?

- **WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN:**
 - "I'm saved... Now I can get on with my life and my goals."
- **WHAT IT DOES MEAN:**
 - "I'm saved... Now I can abandon my life and my goals, and live out his life and his goals."

{ Did you notice that "MY" and "HIS" are opposites? }

THIS CHANGE INCLUDES: ↘

1) Rising from the "sleep of death." *

"Wake up, sleeper!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."
(Ephes. 5:14b GW)

*(spiritual death)

- Jesus illustrated this by raising people from physical death:

Jesus ... shouted as loudly as he could, "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out.
(John 11:43b-44a GW)

Such people will **NOT** want to return to their old **WAY OF DEATH** (even if it looks like a "good" way).

MEMORIZE THIS:

- A "good way" that isn't "GOD's way" is a sinful way.

OUR way is the DEAD-END way.

There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
Proverbs 14:12 (WEB)

A WARNING: (if you plan to return to your old life)

People can know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and escape the world's filth.

But if they get involved in this filth again and give in to it, they are worse off than they were before.

It would have been better for them never to have known the way of life that God approves of than to know it and turn their backs on the holy life God told them to live.

These proverbs have come true for them: "A dog goes back to its vomit," and "A sow that has been washed goes back to roll around in the mud."

2 Peter 2:20-22 (GW)

2) BIRTH – A new life BEGUN!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope ...

For you have been born again ... through the living and enduring word of God.

(1 Peter 1:3b, 23 NIV)

- If the birth is **GENUINE**, you won't stop here!

(You'll keep going!)

A willingness to grow

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV)

If this isn't your goal, and you aren't willing to change...



then you simply don't have new life in you.

3) LIFE – A new life LIVED!

- **Willing to learn** how to live this new life, enabled by the Spirit (using the Word of God).

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

(Ephes. 4:1b NIV)

- Much of the New Testament was written to teach "new born" followers of Jesus how to live.

Do YOU pay attention to God's instructions, so YOU can know how to live and grow?

- **Followers of Jesus:** They **will** pay attention to his instructions.
 - The desire to obey is embedded in their hearts (Hebrews 8:10b).
- **Those who don't follow Jesus:** They **won't** pay attention to his instructions.
 - Obedience is not embedded in their hearts. They may even view it as a burden, or a bunch of restrictions to their freedom.



God tells us:

I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God; ...

Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!

For I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 45:5a, 22 (ESV)

HOW CAN WE KNOW?

- 1) That he is our God?
- 2) That we are his people?

**NO complex analysis
is needed!**

It's not difficult to understand!

This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are:

Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

(1 John 3:10; 2:5-6 NIV)

YOUR MISSION

"So what can I do?" *

*(to make sure that all these wonderful things belong to me)

First: Receive the truth and put it into action! *

So get rid of all immoral behavior and all the wicked things you do.

Humbly accept the word that God has placed in you. This word can save you.

Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves.

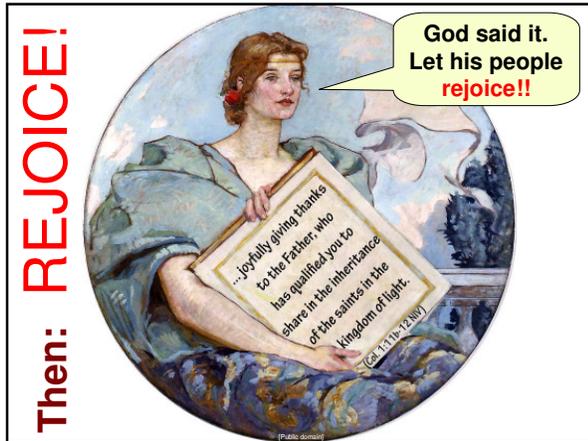
(James 1:21-22 GW)

OUR OLD WAY
OF LIFE

EMBRACING
THE TRUTH

OUR "PATH
FORWARD" –
OUR NEW WAY
OF LIFE

*(This is an ongoing way of life.)



Credits (1)

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