

Assurance of Salvation Part 45

Faith (#8)

"Saving Faith"



What is the
PROOF we
have it?

(Which ship
represents
YOUR faith?)



PROOF that we have it?



NOT WHAT WE KNOW about it.
– "**Knowledge**" about it doesn't prove we have it.



NOT FEELING CONVINCED about it.
– "**Feelings**" about it don't prove we have it.

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PROOF that we have it?



It's what God did that proves we
have it. **THIS** is what we rely on.

My soul finds rest in God alone;
my salvation comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
(Psalm 62:1-2 NIV)

Thumbs up: chris (CC-BY-SA 3.0)

(As we have seen in previous issues...)

God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility go together

- **SOVEREIGNTY** involves:
 - God's role in salvation; what Jesus did.
- **RESPONSIBILITY** involves:
 - Our willingness to repent, trust, obey, etc.

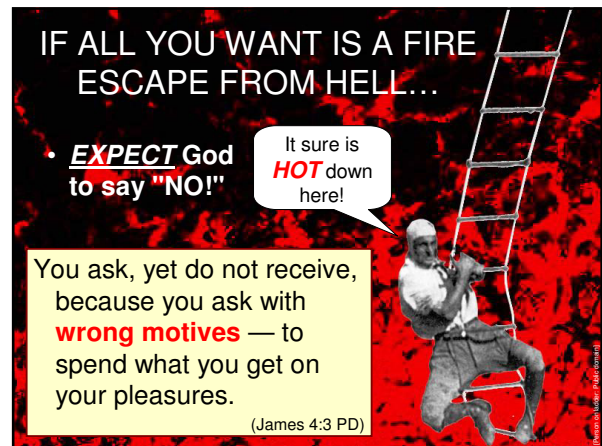
These things go together and "interlock."
Because of this, they form
an "ironclad" PROOF of salvation.

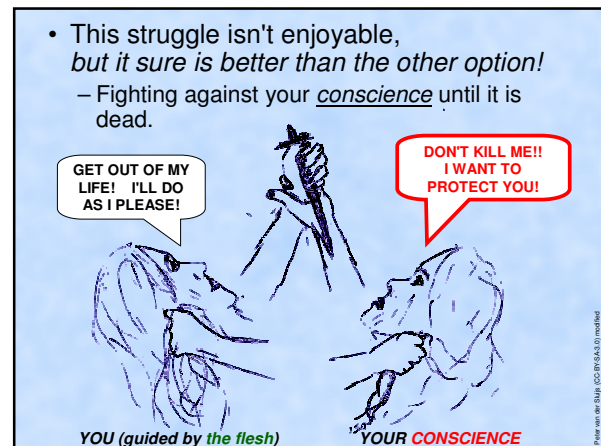
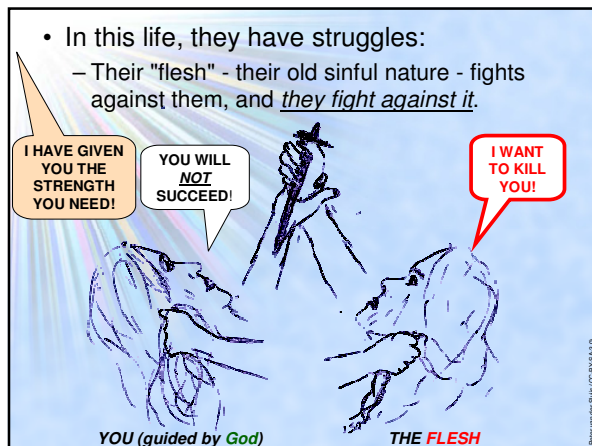
God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility go together



Thank God that they DO interlock!

**This is the only reason we can have
assurance about anything!**





Has anyone led YOU astray?

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray.

He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

1 John 3:7-8a (NIV)

Since following Jesus is our desire, but also a struggle...

- Some Scripture passages express the joy of following.

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

Psalms 119:14 (NIV)

- Others are commands, encouragement or warnings to follow.

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thes. 5:11 (NLT)

- Still others express prayers or desires to follow more perfectly.

Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth!

Grant me purity of heart, that I may honor you.

Psalms 86:11 (NLT)

About the "sovereignty" part ...

- We cannot *directly* see or feel what God does, but **we can see its effects in our lives.**
- Jesus illustrates this with the wind:

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.

So it is with everyone born of **the Spirit.**"

John 3:8 (NIV)

When the effects are present...

- We know God is working in our lives.
- He is accomplishing things *far beyond* what we could ever do *on our own*.
 - Such things go *against* the sinful nature we were born with.

... him who is able to do immeasurably **more than** all we ask or imagine, ...

Ephes. 3:20 (NIV)

What happens?

- The Holy Spirit uses the **Scriptures** to accomplish God's purposes in us.
- It is *because* of the Spirit's work, that we become:
 - **Receptive** of what Scripture tells us about sin, salvation and life.
 - **Willing to respond** appropriately to those things.

Just Scripture (i.e., the Bible)?

- Memorize this word: **"YES!!!"**

YES!!!

(i.e.) The message of the Bible

- He may use other things to get your attention.
- But he uses **what the Bible says** to get you changed.

Consequently **faith** comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of Christ.

Romans 10:17 (NET)

The end result?

- We begin to "follow Jesus"!
- Doing so becomes *the desire of our heart*, not "a bunch of rules and religion."

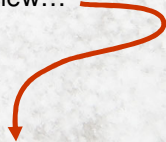
I will put my laws *in their minds* and write them *on their hearts*.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Hebrews 8:10b (NIV)

> NEXT WEEK <

- We will look more at the specific things the Holy Spirit accomplishes, to bring about a "saving faith."
- But here's a quick overview...



Using the Scriptures...

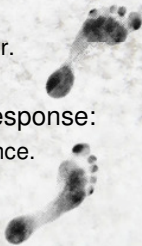
- The Spirit teaches us...
... and we are willing to learn.
- The Spirit directs us...
... and we are willing to obey.

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)

The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures

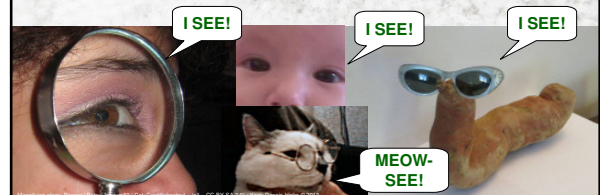
- **FIRST STEP:** to teach and convince us:
 - Our sin and guilt.
 - Jesus' sacrifice and God's offer.
- **SECOND STEP:** to guide our response:
 - Repentance, trust and obedience.



REMEMBER:

The Spirit works silently...

★ But the learning and obeying are the evidence we can see. ★



Your mission: **THANK!**

THANK GOD! Because:

- He opened the door to genuine faith!
- His sovereignty guarantees that all who are willing can have genuine faith!

Your mission: **DO!**

DO the things that the Holy Spirit uses to accomplish salvation!

- Find out what Scripture says.
- Accept and begin to follow it.

He, the Spirit, will take care of the rest!

Credits (1)

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Credits (2)

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