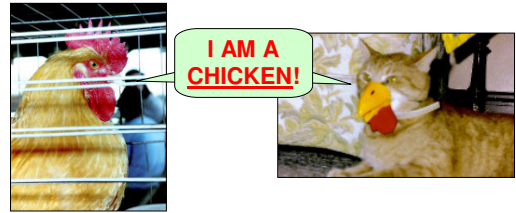


Assurance of Salvation Part 46

Faith (#9)

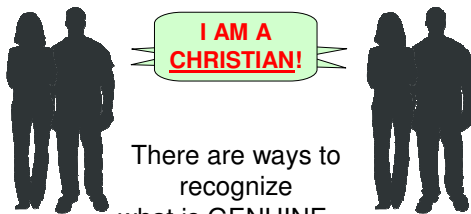
It's easy to claim you're something.



But there are ways to recognize
what is GENUINE.

Pictures - Dennis Heide © 1993 & 1995

It's easy to claim you're something.



There are ways to
recognize
what is GENUINE...

... but it's **NOT** always the external
appearance that matters.

JESUS SAYS WE CAN
RECOGNIZE THEM.

So then, you will recognize them by
their fruit.

Matthew 7:20 (NET)

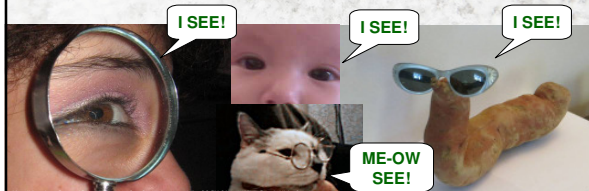
- Do we accept what Jesus says as true?
- Or do we pretend it's not true...
 - Because we want to "believe" the person is saved?
 - Because we don't want to "hurt their feelings"?

TO BRING ABOUT "SAVING FAITH":

The Spirit works silently

> BUT <

the things the Spirit accomplishes are the
evidence we can see.



Our focus:

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

(Continuing from last week.)

- The reason we can know for sure
when 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)

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.**
(The Spirit never gives us a HALF-truth.)

THE BAD NEWS: OUR HOPELESS CONDITION

- We don't like to hear it, because it sounds so "negative."
- But it's **TRUTHFUL**,
and is needed
for salvation.
- **In the Bible**
we discover...



We are hopelessly **SINFUL**

- We are rebels, fighting against God.
- We have offended the holy and righteous God.
- We have turned away from God and have rejected his holy law.

About **GOD**:

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrong.

(Habakkuk 1:13a NIV)

About **US**:

As it is written,
"There is no one righteous; no, not one.
There is no one who understands.
There is no one who seeks after God.
They have all turned aside.
They have together become unprofitable.
There is no one who does good,
no, not, so much as one."

(Romans 3:10-12 WEB)

We are hopelessly **GUILTY**

- WE deserve **ONLY** judgment – no mercy or pity.
- God is **RIGHT** to give us this judgment.

The person who sins will be the one who dies.

(Ezekiel 18:4b NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, ...

(Romans 6:23a NLT)

We have **NO MERIT** to cling to

- We have NOTHING we can cling to, which can earn God's favor.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Romans 7:18 (NIV)

- Even after we are saved, we have NOTHING to boast about (in salvation),

**** except for **GOD**. ****

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... not by works, so that no one can boast.

(Ephes. 2:8-9 NIV)

Therefore, as it is written:

"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

(1 Cor. 1:31 NIV)

We have **NO HOPE** to cling to

- There is NOTHING we can do to get out of this judgment.
 - Eternally without hope and utterly condemned.

Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ... without hope and without God in the world.

(Ephes. 2:3b, 12b NIV)

SINFUL, GUILTY, NO MERIT



HOPELESS



... those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

(Hebrews 12:14b NLT)

UNTIL ... WE ... DISCOVER...

But God is so rich in mercy, ...

(Ephes. 2:4b NLT)

THE GOOD NEWS: OUR HOPE

- We like to hear this part, because it sounds "positive."
- But it has no saving value, until we've accepted the BAD news .
- **In the Bible we discover...**



Our **SUBSTITUTE**

- God gave his Son to bear our punishment.
 - So he wouldn't have to cast us from his presence.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NLT)

... the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23b NLT)

God's **JUSTICE** MAINTAINED

- Through Jesus, God can have mercy yet still maintain justice.
 - God's Law, which demands death, is vindicated.

... he did it* to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

(Romans 3:26 NIV)

* (God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement.)

Our **OPPORTUNITY**

- We are invited to return to God for mercy!
 - We are promised that if we come, we will not be turned away!

'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

(Luke 18:13b NIV)

I will never turn away anyone who comes to me.

John 6:37 (GW)

Our **OBLIGATION**

- God also commands us to come.
 - If we refuse to do so, our sin becomes even greater.

... he commands all people everywhere to repent.

(Acts 17:30b NIV)

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

(2 Thes. 2:10b NIV)

On what basis can we have salvation?

- Because of anything we did? **NO!**

He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy.

He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5 (NLT)

- It's based simply on God's **PROMISE!**

... the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ...

Titus 1:2 (NIV)

And this is what he promised us--even eternal life.

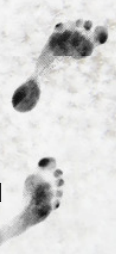
1 John 2:25 (NIV)

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)

Have **YOU** taken this FIRST STEP?

- You have strayed into sin. *Are you willing to return to obedience?*
- Jesus says, "Come, follow me." *Will you?*
- Are you willing to TRUST God in all matters?



If so, then take
the SECOND STEP!

- Once the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to teach us these things...



- He continues, by using the Word of God to accomplish the "action" part in our lives.

THE SECOND STEP:
DIRECTING / OBEYING

- The Holy Spirit makes us willing to respond rightly to the facts.
- The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to guide us in repentance, trust and obedience.

We plan to look more at this

**NEXT
WEEK**

Until then...

YOUR MISSION – THINK

Review the "fact" part of
genuine
FAITH & SALVATION.

YOUR MISSION – ASK (1)

Do these things characterize my thoughts
about God and self?
Do they influence my views about life?

- IF NOT...

**WHAT ARE YOU WILLING
TO DO ABOUT IT?**

(Your response will determine your eternal destiny.)

YOUR MISSION – ASK (2)

- IF THEY DO ...

- You're on the way to knowing that your faith is **GENUINE!**
- Start the NEXT STEP: Begin evaluating your actions. **Why?** Because:

**"ACTIONS" ARE AS MUCH A PART OF
GENUINE FAITH AND SALVATION
AS IS "KNOWLEDGE."**

Credits (1)

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Credits (2)

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