

Assurance of Salvation
Part 117

PRACTICAL ("real-life")
OBEDIENCE
– The "Ultimate" Proof

The "**ULTIMATE**"
Evidence of Salvation

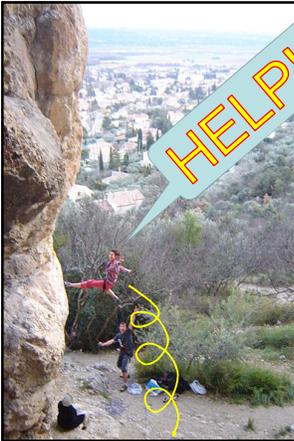
ABSOLUTE
SUPREME
EXTREME
GREATEST
BEST
MAXIMUM
#1
UTMOST

WHAT IS IT?



NOT something extreme that most Christians can *never* accomplish.

THREE... MORE... MILES... STRAIGHT... UP!



HELP!!

(For most of us, you *know* what the outcome would be.)



HELP!!

(For most of us, you *know* what the outcome would be.)

DISCLAIMER:
NO MISSION-MOMENT VOLUNTEER WAS HURT IN THE MAKING OF THIS PICTURE! *CHILDREN, DO NOT TRY THIS IN YOUR BACK YARD!*

The **ULTIMATE** Evidence?

IT'S SIMPLY THIS

"PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE!"

"PRACTICAL" OBEDIENCE?
IS THAT THE OPPOSITE OF "IMPRactical" OBEDIENCE?

NOT AT ALL!

IT SIMPLY MEANS THIS:
If you *claim* you're following Jesus... put to "practice" what you claim you're doing!
We could also call it "**day-to-day**" obedience.

The "**ULTIMATE**" evidence of your salvation is your

Day-to-day Obedience

ABSOLUTE #1 GREAT TEST

Here are some excellent indicators of your obedience (or lack of it):

- "**FREE**" TIME: The choices you make when you do what you *want* to do, with no outside interference.
- "**UNPLEASANT**" TIME: The way you respond to situations that are *not* what you would like.

ASK YOURSELF: What types of things do I habitually *choose* to do?

"DAY-TO-DAY" OBEDIENCE? That's really **PRACTICAL!!**

YES!

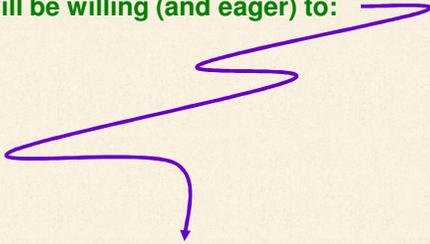
If you do it, *every part of your life* will be effected!

That will be the **ULTIMATE PROOF** that God has changed you from **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** to **ALIVE IN CHRIST!**

PROOF? HOW??

If practical day-to-day obedience characterizes your life...

You will be willing (and eager) to:



You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God. **Evidence #1**

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin. **Evidence #2**

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life. **Evidence #3**

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life.
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-denial. **Evidences #4 & #5**

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life.
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-denial.
- Devote yourself to God's honor and glory. **Evidence #6**

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life.
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-denial.
- Devote yourself to God's honor and glory.
- **Have a spirit of prayer.**

Evidence #7

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life.
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-denial.
- Devote yourself to God's honor and glory.
- Have a spirit of prayer.
- **Love other Christians.**

Evidence #8

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life.
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-denial.
- Devote yourself to God's honor and glory.
- Have a spirit of prayer.
- Love other Christians.
- **Separate yourself from sinful influences.**

Evidence #9

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God.
- Repent of your sin.
- Trust God in all of life.
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-denial.
- Devote yourself to God's honor and glory.
- Have a spirit of prayer.
- Love other Christians.
- Separate yourself from sinful influences.
- **Grow in grace.**

Evidence #10

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God
- Repent of your sin
- Trust God
- Live a life characterized by humility and self-
- Devote yourself to God's honor and glory
- Have a spirit of prayer
- Love other Christians
- Separate yourself from sinful influences
- Grow in grace

**WILLING AND
EAGER TO DO
ALL THE OTHER
THINGS THAT
ARE EVIDENCE
OF SALVATION!**

You will be willing (and eager) to:

- Love God
- Repent of your sin
- Love other Christians
- Separate yourself from sinful influences
- Grow in grace

**WE'VE LOOKED AT ALL THESE
CHARACTERISTICS IN THE PAST.
IN EACH OF THEM, WE SAW THAT...**

God's sovereignty:

- Guaranteed that God's people would be willing and able to do them.

God's sovereignty:

- Guaranteed that God's people would be willing and able to do them.

Human responsibility:

- Guaranteed that God's people would actually choose to do them.

God's sovereignty:

- Guaranteed that God's people would be willing and able to do them.

All these characteristics will be present in us, at least to some degree!
(We won't be 100% perfect, but we will desire it.)

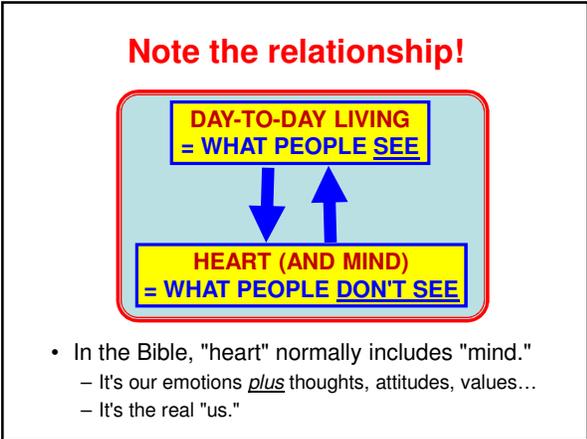
Human responsibility:

- Guaranteed that God's people would actually choose to do them.

It's important to realize that the characteristics of our day-to-day living...

Are a reflection of what is in our heart.

reflection reflection reflection reflection reflection reflection reflection reflection reflection reflection



So we must guard our hearts from any and every corrupting influence.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

"Wellspring of life"?

- Everything we do flows from the values and motives of our heart.
- That's why we must guard it.

How do we "guard" it? ONLY by:

1. Paying attention to the instructions of Scripture.



2. Keeping on the "straight and narrow" path of obedience.

Proverbs 4:20-27 (NIV)

ATTENTION TO SCRIPTURE

My son, pay *attention* to what I say;
listen closely to my words.
Do not let them out of your sight,
keep them within your heart;
for they are life to those who find them
and health to a man's whole body.
**Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.**

= SCRIPTURE!

THE
FOUNDATION
THAT
MAKES
GUARDING
POSSIBLE

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

THE "STRAIGHT AND NARROW"

**Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.**

Put away perversity from your mouth;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

Let your eyes look *straight ahead*,
fix your gaze directly before you.

Make level paths for your feet
and take only ways that are firm.

Do not swerve to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:20-27 (NIV)

EXAMPLES
OF HOW TO
GUARD
YOUR
HEART

= WALKING THE "STRAIGHT
AND NARROW" PATH

As we look at this concept of
practical day-to-day obedience,
we're going to see
a basic principle in Scripture:

When people habitually do the things that
characterize a saved person...

→ It is only because they are saved!

In future weeks:

- We'll have to look at various issues, including:

"What if we sin?"

(since nobody is 100% sinless)

- **BUT FOR TODAY...**

YOUR MISSION:

1) Take to heart (and to mind)
this basic principle.

2) Use it to evaluate your life.

When people habitually do the things that
characterize a saved person...

→ It is only because they are saved!

YOUR MISSION:

THEN...

**3) Focus on doing
what you know is right.**

When people habitually do the things that
characterize a saved person...

 It is *only* because they are saved!

Credits

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NIV" - 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.zondervanbibles.com)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Person climbing on a cliff - By Leon Brooks [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rock_climber_on_the_wall.jpg
- Person "falling" from a cliff - By Bruno Zunino (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Volk_village_escape.jpg
- Man scratching head - Scanned by Open Clip Art Library user Johnny Automatic [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Headscratcher.png>
- Backgrounds (not a solid shade or provided as part of Microsoft PowerPoint®) - Dennis Hinks © 2013-2016.
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2016.
- 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.