

# ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

## 1. Actions that prove we aren't saved:

[The following list is from: Romans 1:18-32; 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:19, 25, 29, 31; 5:3-7; Colossians 3:5-9; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 2:11-12; 3:3; 1 Peter 4:3; Revelation 21:7-8. (This is *not* a complete list of all possible sins!)]

- abandoning themselves to sensuality
- abominable idolatry
- abusive
- abusive language
- adulterers
- all liars
- anger
- arrogant
- bitterness
- Boastful
- brutal
- callous and unloving
- carousing
- clamoring
- coarse joking
- conceited
- deceit
- deceived
- degraded passions
- Disobedient
- disobedient to parents
- Dissensions
- drinking parties
- drunkards
- drunkenness
- eagerly indulging in all kinds of impure conduct
- enslaved to all kinds of desires and pleasures
- envy
- every form of malice
- every kind of wickedness
- evil
- evil desires
- exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images
- exchanged the truth of God for a lie
- factions
- faithless
- Falsehood
- foolish
- foolish talk
- full of envy
- God-haters
- gossips
- greed (this is idolatry)
- hating each another
- hating what is good
- hatred
- having a form of godliness but denying its power
- heartless
- idolaters
- idolatry
- immorality
- impurity
- insolent
- inventing ways of doing evil
- jealousy
- living in envy
- living in malice
- lovers of money
- lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
- lovers of themselves
- lustful
- lustful acts
- lustful impurity
- lying to one another
- male prostitutes
- malice
- men abandoned natural sexual relations with women and burned with lust for each other
- men committed indecent sexual acts with other men
- murder
- obscenity
- outburst of anger
- passionate lust
- practicing homosexuals
- practicing magic
- proud
- rage
- reckless
- revelry
- ruthless
- selfish ambition
- senseless
- sensual living
- sexual immorality
- sexually immoral
- slander
- slanderers
- slanderous
- spiteful
- strife
- suppress the truth in their wickedness (since what can be known about God is plain to them)
- swindlers
- the cowardly
- the fornicators
- the greedy
- the idolaters
- the morally polluted
- the murderers
- the unbelieving
- they did not give thanks to him
- they did not honor him as God
- they know God's righteous decree (that those who do such things deserve death), but they continue to do them and approve of others doing them
- thieves
- those practicing magic arts
- treacherous
- unforgiving
- ungodliness
- ungrateful
- unholy
- unwholesome words
- unwilling to retain their knowledge of God
- wanton revelry
- without self-control
- women exchanged natural sexual relations for those going against nature
- worldly desires
- worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator
- wrath

**NONE** of these sins can characterize the life of a saved person.

“That’s what some of you were! But you have been washed and made holy, and you have received God’s approval in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:11 (GW)

“Those who live in Christ don't go on sinning. Those who go on sinning haven't seen or known Christ.” 1 John 3:6 (GW)

“Those who have been born into God's family do not sin, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they have been born of God.” 1 John 3:9 (NLT) [This refers to lifestyle – the way you live.]

## 2. Actions that prove nothing:

- Good deeds
- Knowing the Bible
- Religious activities
- Gifts and abilities
- Conviction of sin
- Feeling "assured" about our salvation
- Knowing the time of one's supposed conversion

**MANY** (not all) of these are a *necessary* part of following Jesus. But **ALL** of them can be done by people who are NOT followers of Jesus. Because of this, they *cannot* prove we are saved.

## 3. Actions that prove we are saved:

People who are saved will be willing (and eager) to:

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

**For ALL saved people:** *God guarantees these things will happen... and he teaches us to do them!* He uses Scripture to cause what is *genuine* to grow in us. He will accomplish our salvation; and in the end, we will give *God* the credit for what he has done!

**FAKES** may try to imitate godly characteristics; but eventually, their fakeness will be seen for what it is. They can have fake "assurance." But since they *don't* base their "assurance" on Scripture, it is just as fake as they are.

**The KEY to assurance of salvation is this: When GOD saves a person... changes begin to occur!**

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**Can God's people have lack of assurance?** YES, and here are 2 reasons:

1) **When you're living a life characterized by obedience:**

The DEVIL may accuse you, since you *aren't* 100% sinless perfect.

But take courage, because God knows the changes he has made in your life. Yes, you can see your weaknesses; but you can also see the changes that God is accomplishing in your life. And since you *are* imperfect, you *know* that those changes are there *only* because of God.

2) **If you're starting to drift into disobedience:**

GOD may send you doubts as a warning. He may also discipline you.

- IF YOU ARE GENUINE: This warning will help you return to doing what is right.
- IF YOU'RE A FAKE: You will not heed the warning. You'll remain spiritually lukewarm, or else will go deeper into sin.

**★ MAKE IT YOUR GOAL TO LIVE THE PROOF, AND YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT YOU ARE SAVED! ★**