

Subject: *How Can You Be Sure of Salvation?*

Scripture: *2 Peter 1:1-11*

1. The source of salvation – It is a free gift from God.

Those who are saved have “obtained like precious faith with us” (Peter and other believers). Faith (the same precious, valuable faith that was given to the apostles) was something God had freely given, not something they had done or accomplished.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. The substance of salvation – Grace and peace be multiplied in knowing God the Father and our Savior Jesus Christ.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

In 1 Peter 2:7, Peter writes, “Unto you therefore who believe he (Christ) is precious.” Someone is precious to you only if you know them personally. As our knowledge grows deeper and wider, the more His grace and peace are multiplied in us. All believers have more grace for their sins and more peace for their trials.

3. The sufficiency of salvation – Peter writes about five components of salvation.

A. Divine power – Salvation is a great demonstration of God’s power. Believers have no sufficiency of their own, but only through Christ.

B. Divine provision – Christ has granted to believers all things pertaining to life and godliness. To be godly is to live in reverence, submission, and obedience to Christ. He has supplied everything we need to become godly.

C. Divine purpose – We realize the majesty and beauty of Christ, and He becomes precious to us. We have been called to His glory and virtue.

Biblically speaking, there are two aspects to God’s call. There is **the general call** which comes through the preaching and sharing of the gospel, and there is **the effectual call** that always results in salvation. The general call of the Gospel goes out to all people, but some don’t hear it or obey it. The effectual call is different. All true Christians hear God’s call to salvation in Christ and they are saved. The effectual call: 1) is powerful because it comes in the power of God; 2) is productive because it produces repentance and faith in Christ. It produces salvation; 3) is personal because each believer hears and answers this call from God. So when a preacher preaches or a teacher teaches or a person evangelizes, he can proclaim the Gospel to anyone and everyone, and he can rest assured that some will hear God’s call, respond to it, and be saved.

In all the NT letters “call” refers to the effectual call by which sinners are drawn to Christ, repent of their sins, and trust in Him only for salvation

D. Divine promises – God promises to give us spiritual life, eternal life, resurrection life, forgiveness, and so much more. By these promises we believe in Christ and become partakers of the divine nature. We don’t become little gods, but we become like God. That is what we partake in, but there’s something we don’t partake in—the corruption that is in the world through lust (selfish desire). When we’re saved it means we love what God loves and we hate what God hates; we love what we once hated, and we hate what we once loved. Salvation changes our desires and affections. Believers have escaped the world’s corruption. This is process that begins at conversion and continues until we go to our eternal home. This is what Paul had in mind in **Romans 12:2** *And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

E. Divine production – How can you be sure of salvation?

Peter gives us the answer in verses 5-11. The short answer is that you can be sure you have spiritual life if you are bearing spiritual fruit. In salvation God gives us “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (vs. 3). That means we have spiritual life that bears spiritual fruit which is the same thing as godly living. Notice that Peter uses a phrase five times in verses 8-10, 12, 15, “these things” (ESV, “these qualities”). These are the seven qualities he writes about in verses 5-7. Before we take a look at those seven qualities of the Christian life, notice who is responsible for developing them. Verse 5 says, “giving all diligence, add (these things).” The word “add” means to make lavish provisions or we might say, to spare no expense. Verse 10 states again that believers are responsible.

- Virtue – excellence; something had virtue (excellence) if it fulfilled its purpose
- Knowledge – of God, His Word, His standards
- Temperance – self-control; self-discipline
- Patience – lit., the ability to bear up under something; endurance; staying power
- Godliness – lit., to worship well; reverence
- Brotherly kindness – **1 Peter 1:22 (ESV)** *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.*
- Charity – God’s kind of love; the love of choice; **1 Peter 4:8** *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover a multitude of sins.*

Some of these qualities are listed as “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23. They are qualities of Christian character that the Holy Spirit produces in and through our lives. So who is responsible for producing these fruit of the Spirit or fruits of faith, is it God or is it us? The answer is “Yes.” It is both. We can’t do it without God’s grace, and He won’t do it without our effort and diligence.

In verses 10-11, Peter tells us this is the only way to be sure of salvation. The proof of our calling and election is the spiritual growth and fruit we see in our Christian life. If we do these things we will never fall. That is, we can be sure that we will never fall away

from Christ. And we will also have an abundant entrance into God's kingdom when this life is over. This speaks of the rich blessings that God will give us when we arrive in heaven. We have assurance now and we will have abundance then.