

IS THERE SOME WAY A PERSON CAN KNOW THAT HE IS SAVED?

INTRODUCTION

Most people who have come to the Lord have had some doubts about their salvation at one time or another. Sometimes doubts arise because a person is not dealt with Scripturally when he responds to an invitation to be saved. When this is the case there is no basis for a person to be assured of salvation (II Chron. 20:20; Isa. 7:9).

At other times doubts arise because a person has gotten out of fellowship and away from the Lord. Since certain things are characteristic of those who are unsaved and condemned, when a believer begins to live as an unsaved person he will naturally be convicted of his sins and filled with doubts (II Peter 1:5-10).

There are other times when people begin to doubt their salvation because the devil has filled their minds with doubts about what God has said. This was the tactic which the devil used on Eve in the garden of Eden (Gen.3:1-5). This is apparently why John began to doubt when he was put in the prison house (Mat. 11:2,3).

To answer the question concerning one's assurance of salvation there is a Biblical test a person can take and if he can answer these questions correctly the he can know that he is saved.

Question # 1 Do you have a desire to pray and to talk to God?

When a person gets saved the Holy Spirit comes and takes up residence in the believer and the Spirit will prompt him to pray (Rom. 8:15). This truth is illustrated when Saul was converted to Christ (Acts 9:11).

You may not be the most eloquent person when you pray but if you have a desire to talk with God and call upon Him there's some good evidence that you're a saved person.

Question # 2 Are you living your life in obedience to what the Lord says?

When a person gets saved he will have a desire to please the Lord and he will obey what the Lord wants him to do (I Jn. 2:3-5; Rom. 8:14).

When a person wants to keep the Lord's words and live a life of obedience he demonstrates that he is a born-again child of God. This evidence is what the Lord Jesus was talking about in Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46).

Question # 3 Do you have a love for the Lord's people and want to be with them?

When a person gets saved he will have a love for the Lord's people and will want to gather together with them (I Jn. 3:14). This is what we see evidenced by others in the New Testament (Acts 2:44; 1 Cor. 11:18, 20). When a person shows no love for the Lord's people and doesn't want to be with them he demonstrates that he is unsaved (I Jn. 3:17; 2:19).

Question # 4 Can you understand the Scriptures when you read them?

The Bible tells us that the Scriptures are spiritually discerned or understood (I Cor. 2:14). When a person gets saved he will have the indwelling Spirit of God to give him understanding (Jn. 16:13-15; I Cor. 2:9-12). When people are unsaved they cannot understand God's Word because the Holy Spirit does not indwell them and illuminate their minds concerning the Scriptures. This truth was evidenced in the lives of Nicodemus and the Ethiopian Eunuch before they were saved (Jn. 3:4; Acts 8:30,31,34).

You may not comprehend everything you read in the Bible but if you can read God's Word and understand what God is saying then there's good evidence that you're saved.

Question # 5 Are you convicted by the Lord when you do wrong?

When a person is saved and he does wrong the Lord will convict his heart about his wrongdoing (I Jn. 3:16,19). This was certainly evidenced in David's life (Psa. 51:1-3).

Question # 6 Are you chastened by the Lord when you do wrong?

When a person is saved and he does wrong the Lord will chasten him in love to correct him (Heb. 12:6-8). If a person can continue to live a sinful life without any conviction and without any chastening then it is quite evident that he is not born of God and not saved (I Jn. 3:6-11).

Question # 7 Does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your own spirit?

When a person is saved the Holy Spirit will bear witness with the believer's spirit (Rom. 8:16). He does this by confirming the truth of God's Word to the believer as he reads God's Word. In other words He testifies to the believer that what God says applies to him because he belongs to God.

This confirming ministry is precious and thrilling to the believer's heart as he spends time with God in His Word.

If you get a blessing out of reading God's Word as you are enlightened by the Holy Spirit to see what applies to believers then there's good evidence that you are saved.

Question # 8 Are you overcoming the world or being overcome by it?

When a person is saved he will be able to overcome the things which this world has to offer (I Jn. 5:4; 2:15,16). He will not put the cares, the riches, and the pleasures of this life before the things of God (Lk 8:14). This is what characterizes many who make professions of faith but by their preferences and their priorities they evidence that they are overcome by the world and what it has to offer. Notice how these things overcame certain ones (Lk. 14:15-24; Mk. 10:17-22; Lk. 12:16-20).

If the things of God take priority in your life and you are preferring the things of God over the things which this world offers then there's good evidence that you are saved.

CONCLUSION

The question of assurance concerning one's salvation can be determined by his own truthful answers to the foregoing questions.

There are many other Scriptures which give much assurance to those who have sincerely called upon the Lord in faith out of a repentant heart and have accepted Christ as their Saviour. Notice Jn. 5:24; 10:27-29; Phil. 1:6; I Jn. 5:10,11,13; Jude 24,25.