

**Romans 8:29-30** “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

**John 6:37, 39** "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out... This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."

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*For Personal Reflection*

Where are you in your relationship with God?

If you died today, do you know you're going to heaven?

If yes, what have you been basing your assurance on?

Do you have faith in what God has already done on the cross through His Son Jesus Christ to give us eternal life?

## Soul Check

*Are You Doubting or Delighting in Your Salvation?*

***What's the Basis for My Assurance?***

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / October 3, 2010*

### Three Places to Look for Assurance of Salvation

#### I. The Very Character of God Himself Should be at the Start of any Assurance You Have

**2 Timothy 1:9-10, 12** “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel... v. 12 for I know *whom* I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

This assurance is based on the UNCHANGING CHARACTER of God.

**Numbers 23:19** “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

**Malachi 3:6** “For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed...”

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

You can be sure that your relationship with Him is not temporary.

**Philippians 1:6** “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

**John 6:37, 39** “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will be no means cast out... This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”

## II. The Finished Work of Christ's Death on the Cross Should be at the Center of any Assurance You Have

10 years ago... during her Senate campaign... Hillary Clinton made a statement that's very typical today. Someone asked Hillary Clinton, "If you were to die tonight, would you know if you would spend eternity in heaven or hell?" Rather surprised, Mrs. Clinton rhetorically answered, "I consider myself like any person of faith to be doing the very best I can. So I cannot tell you where I will be. I can only hope and pray that I will find favor in God's eyes." (*AP Thursday, May 25, 2000*)

**Titus 3:5-6** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

"Whether or not you really have a relationship with God should never be based on an experience, a ceremony, the opinion of others, or something you have done. Reliance upon these things usually breeds doubt. You wonder if you have had the genuine experience, received from the ceremony what you should have, talked to the right people, or done quite enough. Faith in what God has done, however, produces assurance that's steadier and sturdier." *How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?*, Donald Whitney, p. 34

**Romans 3:23-26** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth to be a *propitiation* by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be *just and the justifier* of the one who has faith in Jesus."

**Romans 5:1-2** "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

## III. The Unchanging Promises of God Should be the Ultimate Authority for any Assurance You Have

"Modern muddle-headedness and confusion as to the meaning of faith in God are almost beyond description. People say they believe in God, but they have no idea who it is that they believe in, or what difference believing in him may make... people have gotten into the practice of following private religious hunches rather than learning of God from his own Word; we have to try to help them unlearn the pride and, in some cases the misconceptions about Scripture which gave rise to this attitude and to base their convictions henceforth not on what they feel but on what the Bible says." *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer, Intervarsity Press, 1973, pg. 159

"Experience is, for me, the highest authority. The touchstone of validity is my own experience. No other person's ideas, and none of my own ideas, are as authoritative as my experience. It is to experience that I must return again and again, to discover a closer approximation to truth as it is in the process of becoming in me. Neither the Bible nor the prophets - neither Freud nor research - neither the revelations of God or man - can take precedence over my own direct experience." **Carl Rogers**

"I find I am at my best when I can let the flow of my experience carry me, in a direction which appears to be forward, toward goals of which I am but dimly aware...When I am thus able to be in process, it is clear that there can be no closed system of beliefs, no unchanging set of principles which I hold. Life is guided by a changing understanding of and interpretation of my experience." *Spiritual Junk Food: The Dumbing Down of Christian Youth*, By Cathy Mickels & Audrey McKeever, Winepress Pub., 1999, p. 46-47 Taken from Carl Rogers, *On Becoming a Person: A Therapist's View of Psychotherapy* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1961), p. 23-24 and 27

You need the truth of God's Word outside of yourself to be your guide and authority for life.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**John 5:24** "I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."