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EVANTELL'S

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Your Salvation: A Certainty Or A Guessing Game

BY LARRY MOYER

Founder & CEO, EvanTell

Your salvation should never be a guessing game. If it is, it will be very difficult to grow spiritually and will negatively impact every area of your life, including your personal outreach.

Biblically, there's no reason a believer should guess or doubt his place with Christ. God does not extend a possibility but a promise regarding your position in eternity: "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life..." (1 John 5:13).

In 1 John 5:13, *know* means "to be absolutely certain"—like people know their address or how many fingers are on a hand. You should be just as certain that heaven is your future destination.

That assurance is ours the *moment* we place our trust in Christ alone to save us. He died for us as our substitute, paid for every wrong we've done, and rose again the third day. Jesus promises to those who trust in Christ alone, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 5:47). We don't have assurance based on how we perform as Christians. Instead we are confident that the One who saved us is the One who helps us.

Why is that assurance so critical to our spiritual growth? We cannot grow closer in a relationship with someone if we don't first know that person. If "He loves me/He loves me not" is our mentality, we may be certain of our feelings toward Him but uncertain of His feelings toward us.

If you doubt your salvation, it becomes very difficult to "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). How can we draw close to a God in prayer whom we are not sure we know? How can we dig into a love letter (the Bible) from a God we're not sure knows us?

In relation to evangelism, it's even more difficult to introduce people to a person you're not certain you've met, invite them to be part of a family you are not sure you're in, or tell them about a home where you are not certain you will join them. If instead you are as certain of heaven as though you are already there, you can enthusiastically say, "I want you there, too!"

God never designed your salvation to be a guessing game. He said it; He made a way for it; He guaranteed it! Upon trusting Christ, you are His—forever! Let that excite your growth and your outreach.

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3 Misconceptions about Assurance

BY DAVID SOUTHER
President, EvanTell

Misinformation can be costly. Wrong directions can cost you time and effort. Bad financial advice can deplete your bank account. An incorrect diagnosis at the doctor can compound your health problems.

The same holds true for your salvation, except the stakes are much higher. For those who are truly saved, assurance of your salvation is a cornerstone to spiritual health and growth. Misconceptions about it can rob you of the joy of your salvation and keep you from growing. On the other hand, if you have not trusted Christ alone, misinformation about salvation can prevent you from being saved in the first place.

Here are 3 common misconceptions:

1 DID I DO OR SAY THE RIGHT THING?

This can be a misleading question. One who asks it may be assuming that a relationship with God is based upon some work we do or prayer we say. If we are trusting in the fact that at one point we walked forward in a church service, signed a card, raised our hand, prayed a prayer, joined a church, or were baptized, then we have every reason to doubt our salvation.

"But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:5).

The only requirement for salvation is faith alone in Christ alone. It is not about our work, but our faith in His person and work when He died for our sins and rose from the dead.

2 HAVE I DONE ENOUGH?

This question reveals a lot. The simple answer is we can NEVER do enough. Our salvation is a free gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ alone. If it were not free, we could not afford it. That's why it has to be by grace, and we can never boast "I did it." The apostle Paul declares:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Eph. 2:8–9).

Grace is "God's unmerited favor," a gift we don't deserve. Grace cannot be earned because then it would no longer be grace. Our works simply say "thank you" to God for His grace.

3 I DON'T FEEL SAVED.

Feelings can be deceptive. Emotions that arise concerning our salvation should be carefully examined in light of facts based on the Word of God:

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

The word *believe* means "to trust, to rely or depend on." A key question is: "What am I depending on to get me to heaven?" The only answer that God will accept is "Christ alone."

Assurance: A Surprising Benefit of EvanTell's Training

We have a number of people who attend EvanTell's training who are unsure of their own salvation. They desire to tell others about Christ, but deep down wonder if they truly know Him themselves.

Melissa Rowe, Children's Ministry Director at Grace Pointe Church, was one of those people:



I grew up being taught all about Jesus, but I really wondered if I were saved. But I knew, even though I had doubts about my eternal destiny, that I wanted to serve Christ. I decided to attend a class from EvanTell. During that class, they laid out just a very clear method through Scripture of telling people how you become a Christian. I also was able to understand that my eternal security was found in Him, that my salvation truly was found in Christ, and that I didn't have to wonder anymore.

I now have a passion for helping new believers understand this fact. I want them to have the security in Christ that enables them to grow and serve under grace rather than works.

Melissa's story is not uncommon. Here is a testimony from one of our partners in Southeast Asia who trains hundreds of students each year:

Our students come from a variety of denominations. While many affirm that salvation comes by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, most believe that assurance comes through doing good works and the fact that you have stopped smoking, drinking, etc. In other words, they believe you must rely on good works to keep your salvation. One strength of EvanTell's training is its emphasis on grace before AND AFTER salvation, that the only One that saves you and keeps you saved is Christ alone. Salvation is a gift that God does not revoke.



Preparing the Upcoming Generations in SE Asia.

Please continue to pray for EvanTell as we declare the gospel and activate believers by giving them the tools to share Christ with others, as well as the assurance in Christ that provides the basis and boldness for their outreach.

VERSES FOR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

John 1:12

John 3:16

John 3:18

John 5:24

John 6:40

John 6:47

John 10:28–29

John 11:25–26

John 20:31

Acts 10:43

Romans 3:26

Romans 3:28

Romans 4:5

Romans 5:1

Romans 8:38–39

Romans 11:29

2 Corinthians 5:21

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 3:26

Ephesians 1:13

Ephesians 2:8–9

Philippians 3:9

1 John 5:11–13