

**4.0 Further Study**

- 1. How has my life changed morally since I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord?

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- 2. How have my relations with other people changed since I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord?

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- 3. How has my understanding of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) changed since I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord?

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- 4. To see an example of how the people in one church were changed, read 1 Thessalonians 1.

- 5. For instructions in moral changes, read Colossians 3.

- 6. For an illustration of pride contrasted to humble confession, read Luke 18:9-14.

- 7. To see an example of humble love and its result, read John 13:1-17 and 13:34-35.



**Living the Christian Life Bible Study**

**Lesson 2 (NIV)**

**Gaining Assurance of Salvation**

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unit** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction To Assurance of Salvation

One of the first questions a growing Christian commonly asks is, “How can I know for sure that I have been saved? The answer he or she usually receives is “Do you remember the time when and the place where you repented of your sins and accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?” That is not a bad answer, as many people can pinpoint a specific time when they know they did this, and can look back at that as a milestone in their life.

But for many others, the exact moment of salvation was not as memorable. In fact, the moment of the Spirit’s regeneration was simply a point along the way of being drawn to God; yet they are completely sure they are in the family of God. For others, the point is not memorable because they raised their hand, walked an aisle, and said the sinner’s prayer on several occasions, and they aren’t sure that it ever was real.

In the third chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus compared spiritual birth to physical birth, saying “*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*” If we carry the illustration a little further and say “How do I know that I was born physically?”, we could answer by saying “I have a birth certificate,” or, “My mother told me so,” but much more likely we would say “I am here aren’t I?” So it is with spiritual birth. The best evidence that a new birth has taken place is the existence of a new life, because **new birth brings new life, every time.**

How does the Bible answer the question “How can I know for sure that I have been born again?” One book of the Bible, 1 John, was written primarily to answer that question, and we will be looking at that book tonight.

### 1.2 Introduction To the Book of I John

The Apostle John wrote five books of our New Testament: The Gospel of John, three epistles (or letters), 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John, and the book of Revelation. In each of his books, John gives a very clear purpose statement. In the Gospel of John, for example, he says in 20:31 “*these [miraculous signs] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*” His purpose in writing this book was so that people would believe in Jesus Christ and so have eternal life.

In 1 John, he defines his purpose in 5:13, *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.* Here he is clearly writing to believers to give them assurance that they do have eternal life. How does John give us this assurance? Not by turning to a birth record, but by turning to the evidences of a new life, because **new birth brings new life, every time.**

## 3.0 Warnings

### 3.1 For Self, not Others

The purpose of this study is for each of us to know about our own salvation, not to test other people in their faith. Paul says “*let a man examine himself.*”

### 3.2 Change is a process

These changes do not occur automatically the moment we are saved. Change is a process, one that continues for as long as we live. Sometimes God will take away the desire for certain sinful actions very quickly; other things we may struggle with for a lifetime. God continues to work in us to bring about change, so we should expect to see continual progress, not overnight miracles. We never become sinless, but we do sin less.

It may seem as we grow in Christ that we see ourselves as being more sinful than before and so get discouraged; but that is only an increasing awareness of sin as shown by the contrast as we walk in the light with Christ.

### 3.3 The Results not the Means of Salvation

In none of this do we confuse changed actions or beliefs with how we are saved - we are saved by repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. John does not change how we are saved, he is only recognizing that when genuine salvation occurs, the results are life changing, because **new birth brings new life, every time.**

## 2.0 The Assurance of Salvation (cont'd)

### 2.3 Change in Relationships

1. (3:14) How do my relationships with other believers demonstrate my salvation? *We know that we have passed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, because we \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_.*
2. (3:16-18) What does it mean to love my brothers? *This is how we know what \_\_\_\_\_ is: Jesus Christ laid down his \_\_\_\_\_ for us. And we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*17. If anyone has \_\_\_\_\_ and sees his \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ but has no \_\_\_\_\_ on him, how can the \_\_\_\_\_ be in him? 18. Dear children, let us not love with \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ but with \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_.*
3. (2:10-11) How does John describe a person who hates his brother?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. (4:7-8) What is the source of true love?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. (4:9-10) How did God show His love?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. (4:11-12) If we love each other, what will people see in us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John defines for us three evidences of salvation:

1. Theological evidence - believing God's truth - change in beliefs
2. Moral evidence - living in Godly obedience - change in conduct
3. Social evidence - living in Godly love - change in relationships

John's writing style is quite different from Paul's. Paul writes by building one logical argument upon another to lead us to the desired conclusion. John tends to cycle through his major points more than one time, bringing a slightly different perspective each time he returns to a point. So our study tonight will follow the three evidences mentioned above, rather than follow the sequence of the book.

### 2.0 The Assurance of Salvation

1. (1:5-6) What is John's guiding principle in giving assurance of Salvation?  
*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is \_\_\_\_\_; in him there is no \_\_\_\_\_ at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, we lie and do not live by the truth.*
2. (2:6) More simply stated, the principle is *Whoever claims to \_\_\_\_\_ in him must \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ did.*

John now proceeds to define in detail what it means to *walk as Jesus did*.

### 2.1 Change in Belief

1. (5:1) What new belief should I have? *Everyone who believes that \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ is born of God,*

<p><b>Christ</b> literally means "The Anointed One" and is the Greek language equivalent of the Hebrew language "Messiah." To be the Christ implies fulfilling all the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.</p>
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## 2.0 The Assurance of Salvation (cont'd)

### 2.1 Change in Belief (cont'd)

(4:15) *If anyone acknowledges that \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_, God lives in him and he in God.*

**Son of God** means to have the same essential nature as God. The Greek word for son used here is *huios*, which indicates similar character. By contrast, the Greek word *teknon* indicates parental relationship. It is usually translated child, and is never used of Jesus Christ in the phrase Son of God.

2. (5:11-12) Is there anyone else who can give me eternal life?

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in \_\_\_\_\_. 12He who has the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_; he who does not have the \_\_\_\_\_ does not have life.*

3. (2:22-23) Is there hope for a person who denies that Jesus is the Christ? *Who is the liar? It is the man who*

*\_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the \_\_\_\_\_ - he denies the*

**Antichrist** can mean either "against Christ" or "instead of Christ," or perhaps, combining the two, "one who, assuming the guise of Christ, opposes Christ".

*\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ has the Father; whoever \_\_\_\_\_ the Son has the \_\_\_\_\_ also.*

4. Is anything necessary for salvation other than repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2.0 The Assurance of Salvation (cont'd)

### 2.2 Change in Conduct

1. (2:3-5) How do my actions give evidence of salvation? *We know that we have come to \_\_\_\_\_ him if we \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_. 4The man who says, "I know him," but does \_\_\_\_\_ what he \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_, and the truth is not in him. 5But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.*
2. (3:6-8) What does it mean if I continue in a sinful lifestyle and do not change? *No one who lives in him keeps on \_\_\_\_\_. No one who \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ has either seen him or known him. 7Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is \_\_\_\_\_, just as he (Jesus) is righteous. 8He who does what is sinful is of \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_ has been sinning from the \_\_\_\_\_. Also read verses 9 and 10.*
3. (1:8) Does this mean that I must become perfect (sinless)? *If we claim to be \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us.*
4. (1:9) What should I do when I sin? *If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and will \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*