

Am I Saved?

And, if I am, How Secure is My Salvation?

Questions about salvation are fundamental for anyone who has an honest desire to know God.

The most natural first concern is to have an understanding about the meaning of salvation. A very basic description of salvation is the privilege of spending eternity with God in Heaven. After gaining salvation (being 'saved'), a person is released from the heavenly punishment of all their sins, which otherwise would result in condemnation from God, leading to a never-ending separation from Him in a terrible place called hell.

Next, the genuine seeker would want to know how to obtain this life without end in Heaven. Simply put, eternal life is realized through three steps, which can be remembered by the acronym **KAT** (having attended Texas A&M, I like to call this my Aggie spelling of 'CAT'). The person must have the Knowledge that Jesus Christ was and is God, that He came to earth in human form to live a perfect life, that He died a horrible death to pay everyone's sin debt and that He was raised from the dead, leading the way for His followers to also be resurrected. Next, they must Accept these as true, believing in them with all their mind and heart ^{John 3:16}. Finally, they must Trust in these facts by asking Jesus to be the LORD and Savior ^{2 Peter 3:18} of their life, revealed by a dedication to Him and His work ^{Ephesians 2:10}.

Following these steps of faith, uncertainties can occasionally surface in the mind of a Christian; however, God wants the genuine believer to be confident in their relationship with Him, and has provided guidelines for His assurances in the first of the letters by the apostle John. Each time doubt occurs, consider the following six questions and be comforted by God's Word.

1. Do I confess Jesus Christ as my Savior? ^{1 John 4:15}
1 John 5:1a Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.
2. Do I love and abide by the Word of God? ^{1 John 2:5-6}
1 John 2:5 But if anyone obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in Him.
3. Do I accept Jesus Christ as my LORD and obey His commands? ^{1 John 3:21-24a, 5:3}
1 John 2:3-4 We know we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
4. Do I become distressed when I sin? ^{1 John 3:6, 5:18a}
1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in Him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.
5. Do I enjoy fellowship with other Christians? ^{1 John 2:9-11, 5:1b}
1 John 3:14a We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.
6. Do I love like God loves? ^{1 John 3:10b-20, 4:7-12}
1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

The 1 John verses make it clear God is good and wants His people to know when they are His. John summarized the principles presented with a statement of confirmation that when these convictions are embraced, a Christian can be confident in their relationship with Jesus:

1 John 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.*

Once there is a clear confirmation that salvation has been obtained, another question arises about whether salvation can be lost or not. Or, to put it another way: Am I eternally secure? The following promises are clear statements in the Bible that speak to this issue with authority:

1. A person does not earn salvation through works – it is the result of God’s grace.
Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*
2. Salvation comes through spiritual birth, which is a moment in time and irreversible.
John 3:5-7 *“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”*
3. Eternal life is a fact from the moment of salvation (no spiritual death after birth).
John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*
4. God **guarantees** a Christian’s salvation (inheritance) by placing a seal on/in them.
Ephesians 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.*
5. Once a person is saved, **no one** can take them away from Jesus or the Father.
John 10:27-28 *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”*

So, if you have a sincere desire to know and relate to the God of the Bible, it is essential that you study and decide how you will respond to the information in this guide about salvation. The “Good News” is that God has provided all the answers through His Word. He loves you and desires your salvation, followed by a life of security and peace ^{John 16:33}, because He promised:

ONCE YOU ARE SAVED, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE SAVED!

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