

Fundamentals of the Faith
Salvation and Assurance

III. Receiving wooden blocks or a shape ball to develop coordination or dexterity as a toddler; a dysfunctional football team often has to return to “the basics” to rebuild structure.

Our faith journey begins at the moment of salvation. Jesus is the cornerstone (Eph 2:20) and His Word is the foundation on which our faith is built (Matt 7:24-25).

- God wants us to be saved

*For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost. **Luke 19:10** (NLT)*

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **2 Pet 3:9** (NKJV)*

*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **1 Tim 2:3-4** (NIV)*

- God wants us to be sure we are saved

*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. **1 John 5:13** (NIV)*

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. **2 Pet 1:10** (NIV)*

*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **2 Cor 13:5** (NKJV)*

“Eternity is too long to be wrong.” -Adrian Rodgers

While we claim Christ there are times where doubt clouds our thoughts. Doubt (waiver) keeps us from worshiping freely, walking in fulness, and witnessing faithfully.

III. Peter (Matt 14:31); Thomas (John 20:24-29); John the Baptist all doubted (Matt 11:3)

“Doubt is to the spirit what pain is to the body (Adrian Rodgers).” It tells us something is not right with our faith. Doubt generally stems from one of three sources:

1. There is a continual struggle with sin – “If I was really saved, why do I still sin?”
2. There is a dependence on feelings – “I just don’t feel saved.”

III. A man once came to D. L. Moody and said he was worried because he didn’t feel saved. Moody asked, “Was Noah safe in the ark?” “Certainly he was,” the man replied. “Well, what made him safe, his feeling or the ark?” The inquirer got the point. “How foolish I’ve been!” he said. “It is not my feeling; it is Christ who saves!”

3. There is a trust in human reasoning – “I am having a hard time believing.”

*The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. **1 Cor 2:14** (NIV)*

There are three primary witnesses that build our faith and assure us of salvation

- A. The witness of the Word

*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. **John 5:24** (ESV)*

*That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **Rom 10:9** (NKJV)*

*I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. **2 Tim 1:12** (NIV)*

Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don’t believe this are actually

*calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. **1 John 5:10-11** (NLT)*

III. How would you prove in a court of law that you were married? You could point to your feelings or actions, but the real proof is the marriage license!

B. The witness of the Spirit

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **Rom 8:16** (NIV)*

The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Eph 1:14 (NLT)

C. The witness of a changed life

*Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **1 John 2:3** (NKJV)*

*If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. **1 John 3:14** (NLT)*

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! **2 Cor 5:17** (NLT)*

III. There is a beautiful story told of McLeod Campbell, the Scotch preacher and divine. One day a friend came to him in spiritual perplexity. "Tell me, how do you know that you have always got hold of God?" For a long minute the minister was silent, and then, with a great wistfulness in his eyes, he said: "How do I know that I have always got hold of God! I don't always know; but I do know He always has hold of me!" — *From the Christian Herald.*

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