

THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION

Determining the Hallmarks of Real Faith

John's Test of Righteousness

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

II Corinthians 13: 5 (NASB)

I. The Leadership of the Holy Spirit in Righteousness: Proof of His Presence

“ . . . Those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.” Rom 8:14

The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is an internal Guide, both

- A. Informing of righteousness and godly behavior, and
- B. Empowering the right choice so as to resist temptation

³ We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

⁴ The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:

⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. I John 2:3-6 NIV

II. Continued Indifference to Sin: A Solemn Warning

Sin may be defined in two ways:

- A. Willful transgression against the known law of God (verb)
- B. Any deviation from or failure to conform to the infinite moral perfection of God's holiness (noun)

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

⁸ He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

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.

¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. I John 3:4-10 NIV

