

Women & the Bible



A Biblical Guide of Christian Living for Ladies

SEPT/OCT 2020 | VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

The following scripture references are from the New King James unless otherwise noted.

SCRIPTURES OF FOCUS:

2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8

1 John 1:7; 5:13

1 Peter 2:2-3

*You got
questions?*

*We got Bible
answers.*

FROM "I HOPE" TO "I KNOW"



Dear Shannon,

I have heard numerous times of people asking about the assurance of their salvation. How can a person be sure that heaven is her home when she dies?

~ A sister in Christ

Thank you for your question. There are some things in this life that are too important to be unsure about and this is one in particular. How awful it truly is for some when singing the hymns *Blessed Assurance* or *It Is Well With My Soul* when deep down they get this nagging doubt in their mind concerning their salvation. If someone were to come up to you and ask if you are saved, how would you answer? My prayer for all of us is that our answer would not show doubt such as, "Well, I sure hope so." God never desired for His children to walk around in fear, frustration, or in a state of constant anxiety regarding the preservation of their soul. Instead, He wants them to have confidence just like the inspired Paul displayed in **2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8**.

There was a moment in my life where I struggled with this same doubt. The more I reflected on my baptism at age 11, I began to question my salvation. *Shannon, did you know enough? Were you really ready to be a Christian at that age? Did you fully repent beforehand?* Those questions haunted me for days. Finally, I decided to let go of my burden and give it to God in prayer. After constant prayer, studying God's Word, and talking with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I realized that doubt does not come from God, but from Satan himself. According to **Romans 3:23**, we all fall short of who we should be. The more I studied, the more I realized this Scripture is not just meant for the unsaved. It is also a reminder to the saved that we cannot live a life of righteousness without Christ (**v.24-25**). This is the blessed assurance that stands as the bedrock of a strong, confident faith. Even though I know this now, there was a time in my life where (thanks to the mercy and grace of the Heavenly Father) God's Word found in the Scriptures showed me the following blessed assurances regarding the development of a stronger faith in my salvation.

It takes time to grow.

Although one should act upon as much information and teaching as possible, there's no way to grasp all that is involved in obedience to the gospel. Waiting to be baptized until a full knowledge is present would keep us all waiting and waiting to the point of never going down into the water. Saul was told by Ananias, "Why do you wait?..." (**Acts 22:16**).

Admittedly, Saul's conversion had some special elements attached to it, but knowing enough to become a babe in Christ is all that is required (**1 Peter 2:2-3**). One can be saved without knowing everything in the Bible, for there is much for her to learn after she becomes a Christian.

Never go by feeling.

Which statement makes the most sense, *I feel good because I know I'm saved* or *I know I'm saved because I feel good*? Our assurance of salvation comes from what is written, not by what we feel. We cannot trust our feelings because it can change at anytime. If you are struggling with doubt, I encourage you to read **1 John** once a week. This inspired book was written to Christians so they can have confidence and assurance. For instance, **1 John 5:13** says, "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, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." Are you saved? The answer to that question is not based on feelings or what anyone tells you. The answer is based on whether you have obeyed the Word of God. The only way to know is by what is written.

Keep walking in the light.

Jesus says in **Mark 16:16**, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Our assurance comes from being in Christ. We get into Christ through obedience to the gospel (**Galatians 3:27**). Once we become Christians, there are times where we will make mistakes. Just because we make mistakes along the way, that does not mean we have to be baptized again or every time we fall short. The apostle John explains this in **1 John 1:7-9**. "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." John Dale, a brother in Christ, dear friend and preacher in Western Kentucky once said, "Folks, let's have the faith in the blood that saved us from the beginning."

Sister, if you are in Jesus and you are trying your best to please Him, confessing your sins to God and improving every day of your life with a humble spirit, then an abundant entrance into heaven will be yours (**2 Peter 1:10-11**).

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**Feel free to send any of your questions, comments,
or article ideas to crawfordrs12@gmail.com**