

Lesson 2: Salvation And Assurance

INTRODUCTION

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision you could ever make. However, it is very unlikely that you understand the true significance of what has happened in your life. The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly what took place and how your decision has affected your basic relationship to God.

OUTLINE

I. There are only two spiritual families in the world

A. The Devil's family

1. *John 8:44* *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

John 8:38 *I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*

2. You enter the family by birth through your physical father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. *Genesis 5:3* shows that descendants of Adam are born in Adam's image and likeness, which is that of a fallen sinner. *Genesis 5:3*
3. You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam. *Romans 5:12*
4. *Romans 5:12* also states that as a result of your sin you were sentenced to die. *Romans 6:23; I Corinthians 15:22*

B. God's family

1. *John 1:12-13* *But as many as received him (that is your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior), to them gave he power to become the sons of God (your entrance into God's family), even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man (it is not a physical birth), but of God. (it is a spiritual birth).*
2. You also enter God's family by birth: but it is a spiritual birth by your Heavenly Father. *John 3:3*

Man is made up of three parts, body, soul & spirit. Before I was saved I was spiritually dead. The direct result of Sin is the blocked communication or fellowship with God.
3. This new birth puts you into God's family in exactly the same way your physical birth puts you into your father's family. You are now a son of God by birth.
4. As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God's divine nature, and you now have eternal life. Your spiritual link is restored to God. *John 6:47; John 3:36; I John 5:12*

II. Being in God's family separates you from the devil's family

- A. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you. *I Cor. 6:19*

We are to take care of our bodies because they are temple of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament it was punishable by death to desecrate the temple. Aren't we doing the same by drinking, smoking, watching or listening to trash? If we for the briefest of moments realized the Holiness of God and the extreme of our blaspheming by desecrating His temple we would repent and beg God not to punish us. Living separated lives is not optional!

- B. II Corinthians 6:14-18 commands the believer to maintain a difference between himself and the unsaved.
- C. The new life is perfectly summarized for you in *II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*
 - 1. At the moment of your salvation, your old nature died and was buried with Christ. What arose out of the grave was something completely different from what went into the grave. You became a new creature with a new nature! *Colossians 2:12; Colossians 3:3*
 - 2. Upon you salvation, however, you did not receive a new body or a new mind. That will be our future glory. *Colossians 3:4*
 - 3. Because our bodies (flesh) and our minds remember what we used to do, and how we used to think, they constantly seek to pull us toward sin.
 - 4. That is why Paul tells us that we must "mortify" or kill the deeds of our body and "put off" the sins of the mind. *Colossians 3:5; Colossians 3:8-9*

III. What is my relationship with God now?

- A. He is your Heavenly Father, and you are His Child. *I John 2:1*
- B. Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner, He deals with you as a son.
- C. That relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and a son.
 - 1. A good father loves and cares for his son. *I Peter 5:7*
 - 2. A good father protects his son. *Matthew 18:6*
 - 3. A good father provides for his son. *Philippians 4:19*
 - 4. A good father guides and teaches his son. *John 14:26*
 - 5. A good father helps his son. *Psalms 46:1*
 - 6. A good father encourages his son. *Philippians 4:13*
 - 7. A good father disciplines his son. *Hebrews 12:5*
 - 8. A good father feeds his son. *Matthew 4:4, Romans 8:28*

- D. A good father will NEVER do anything to purposely hurt his son. He will only do those things that will help him grow and mature into the young man he wants him to be. Your Heavenly Father operates in the same way, only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes err, God never makes a mistake in His dealings with His sons.

Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

- A. Will I sin after I am saved?

YES, you still have a body of flesh. *Romans 7:18*

- B. How does my sin affect my relationship with my father?

God does not kick you out of His family. When you sin, He disciplines you as a son. *Hebrews 12:5*

- C. What should I do when I sin?

Confess it and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you. *1 John 1:6; Proverbs 28:13.*

IV. Now that I am saved, can I ever lose my salvation?

- A. Study the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself on this subject

Jesus Christ promises that "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." *John 6:37*
God will not cast you out of his family under any circumstances. *John 10:27-29*

This makes it clear that no man can cause you to lose your salvation, because God your Father is greater than all men. Therefore, no man is able to pluck you out of His hand.

- B. What about myself? Can I do something to lose my salvation?

1. Salvation is by grace through faith, and not by works. It is a gift from God. No man can lose his salvation on his own, because no man earned his salvation. *Eph 2:8-9*
2. *Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

These verses tell us if we had to do anything to earn or keep salvation, we would lose it easily. Yet II Timothy 1:12 assures us it is Jesus Christ who keeps us, not we ourselves.

3. Galatians 2:21 states clearly that if we could become righteous by anything we do, then Jesus Christ's death was a waste.

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

C. Is there anything else that can cause me to lose my salvation? *NO! Romans 8:38*

1. "Death" you can't lose it when you die.
2. "Life" you can't lose it while you are alive
3. "Angles" can't take it from you
4. "Principalities" the government can't take it from you
5. "Powers" the Devil can't cause you to lose it
6. "Things present" nothing happening right now can take it away.
7. "Things to come" nothing in the future can make you lose it.
8. "Height" nothing above you
9. "Depth" nothing below you
10. "Nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Nothing can cause us to lose our salvation! So why do we walk around like we're beat. We've won.

D. Why is this?

1. Because your relationship with God is now a father/son relationship by birth. *John 1:12-13*
2. When you were born physically, there was a record made of your birth called a birth certificate. When you were born again, a record was made. *I John 5:11-13*
3. Your birth certificate was marked with a seal. Your spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. *Ephesians 1:13; 4:30*
4. You will be your earthly father's son all your life because you were born of his seed. Your relationship to your earthly father is not based on what you do or do not do, it is a relationship you received by physical birth. You can die, but you can never be unborn. In the same manner, your relationship to God is entered into by spiritual birth, and is not earned or lost by human accomplishments.

E. Basic Questions

1. How can I know for sure I am saved?

The epistle of I John is written for this purpose. *I John 5:13* says, "*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.* As a new Christian, I John should be a primary focal point to help you grow and to settle this issue.

2. What if I don't feel saved?
 - a. Your salvation is not based on feelings. It is based upon the objective factual truth of the Word of God. *I John 3:20; Titus 1:2*
 - b. JUST BELIEVE WHAT GOD HAS SAID! *I John 2:25*