

ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN

Study Guide

By

George Mains

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Study 1

(Chapter 1 of Book)

The B-I-B-L-E

In chapter one I shared how I had failed to read the Bible for almost ten years earlier in life. It affected the way I lived and my relationship with God. You cannot have a relationship with anyone if you don't spend time with them. Reading and studying God's word was never meant to be a religious routine. It is the way to know God and to grow in our relationship with Him.

1. On page 1 of the book, what is a huge hindrance in the spiritual development of the church?
2. Does reading and understanding the Bible require a college and seminary education? Were Peter and John educated men? (Acts 4:13)

Why did Peter and John know so much?

3. How did the people in Berea check what the apostle Paul taught? (Acts 17:11)

Why should you do the same?

4. How important was God's word to Job (23:12)?

5. Jesus put great emphasis on the word of God. How important did He say it was (Matthew 4:4)?

6. What was David's attitude toward God's word (Psalm 119:105)?

7. How did the writer of Hebrews describe the word of God (4:12)?

8. Why did God give us the Bible (His Word)? (II Timothy 3:16, 17)

9. God told Adam that if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would surely die (Genesis 2:17). How did the devil distort the word of God when tempting Eve? (Genesis 3:4)

10. How did God tell Joshua that he would have success leading the people of Israel after Moses died (Joshua 1:8)? How would that apply to you?

The world is filled with books. If God wrote a book, wouldn't you want to read it? If you want to know God to greater and greater depths, knowing God through His word is a necessary relational skill to develop.

Study 2

(Chapter 2 of Book)

The Influence of Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare involves three enemies. The first is the devil. He was a liar and murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). Secondly, he created the world system to distract us from our intended purpose (I John 2:16; 5:19). But thirdly our hearts (inner control center involving the mind, will, and emotions) is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9).

1. What is the devil attempting to do? (I Peter 5:8)

2. How much of the world is under his influence? (I John 5:19)

3. How is he described? (John 8:44)

4. The devil is often pictured as an ugly looking creature with horns on his head, a tail, and a pitchfork. But how does the Bible portray him (II Corinthians 11:14)?

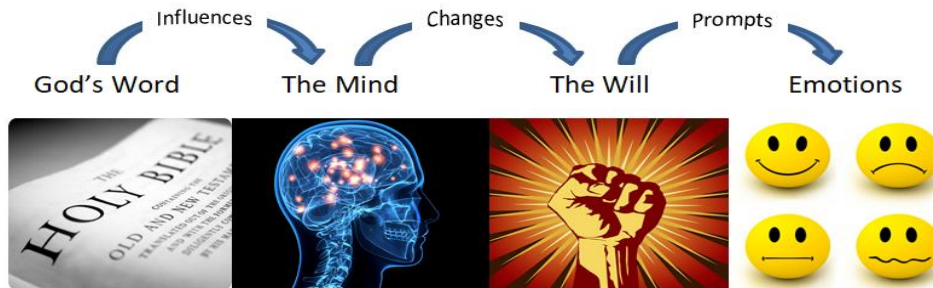
5. What kind of ministers does he have? (II Corinthians 11:13 -15)

6. What is the devil called in II Corinthians 4:4?

What is he attempting to do according to that verse?

7. How does he attempt to make the world system appeal to us (I John 2:16)?

8. What else does spiritual warfare involve? (Jeremiah 17:9)



9. According to the above chart, how does God attempt to influence our will?

The enemy tries to influence our will through emotions (lusts) and our mind will follow.

Check out the following example:

Eve _____ that the tree was for food, that it was _____
to the eyes, and a tree _____ to make one wise... (Genesis 3:6; I John 2:16)

Was she responding according to truth or emotion (lusts)?

What drives your decision making process?

What can you do to make it better?

Study 3

(Chapter 3 in the book)

The Gospel: What is it?

Many people think that they will go to heaven one day. When asked why God would let them in, often they respond, “Because I’m a good person”. Even many church people think that you must be good to go to heaven. But as we will see that is a lie from the devil.

1. What did Jesus command His disciples to do?

Matthew 28:19 –

Mark 16:15-

2. What is the gospel? (I Corinthians 15:3, 4)

3. Who saw Jesus after his resurrection? (I Corinthians 15:5-8)

4. What is required of every person to receive salvation? (John 1:12)

5. What’s the first thing a person must understand about themselves? (Romans 3:23)

*The Bible speaks of death in at least three ways. It always refers to separation. Adam and Eve immediately experienced death to their relationship with the Lord. They hid. Eventually they would experience physical death; separation of the soul from the body. The third death is eternal separation from the Lord.

6. What does a person receive when believing on Jesus? (John 6:47)

*The word 'believe' in the gospel of John means to put your confidence in, to trust.

7. How long is everlasting life? If you could do something for it to be taken away after you believed, would it be everlasting?

8. Is belief in Jesus a work? Write down Romans 4:5. How does it contrast works and faith (see page 14 of book)?

8. According to Ephesians 2:8 and 9, is salvation obtained by works or by faith?

9. Ephesians 2:9 says that salvation is the _____ of God.

10. How do you benefit from a gift offered to you (see page 15 of book)? How do you receive the gift of God? (Ephesians 2:8)

11. If salvation is a gift from God, do you have to work to get it or to keep it?

Have you believed (trusted) in Jesus to save you from the penalty of sin? If not, you can do it right now by understanding that you are a helpless sinner; separated from your Creator. Jesus is fully God and fully Man. His death on the cross paid our sin debt. We have no debt to pay. His resurrection proved that He has the power over sin and death. He restored the relationship between sinful man and a holy God. Do you believe these things to be true of you and of Jesus? Will you believe in Him to save you from eternal death? If you do, Jesus says you have everlasting life and a relationship with God that can never be lost.

Study 4

(Chapter 4 of book)

The Three Tenses of Salvation

Salvation is not only a past event; it's also a present ongoing experience and one day will be a complete and total deliverance from sin. The moment you believed you were saved from the penalty of sin – eternal separation from God. If you learn to surrender to the Lord in the circumstances of life, He will deliver you from the power of sin. And one day when we go to be with Him, we will be delivered from the presence of sin.

1. The deliverance from the penalty, power and presence of sin parallels the Biblical Terminology of _____, _____, and _____. (See page 17 of Book)

*All believers have a sanctified position based on God's grace (I Corinthians 1:2). In positional sanctification God imputes Christ's perfect righteousness to all sinners who believe (II Corinthians 5:21). Practical Sanctification is living a life separated from worldly things to the things of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. When does the gift of everlasting life begin (see page 17 in Book)?

3. The word 'save/salvation' can mean the following:

a. Deliverance from danger.

b. Eternal salvation granted immediately to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
Penalty of sin

c. Present experience of God to deliver from the Power of sin.

d. Future deliverance at the return of Christ. Presence of sin

Circle the letter after the following verses that correspond to the meanings above:

A. "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). a b c d.

B. "And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" (Matthew 8:24, 25). a b c d

C. “And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we *first* believed” (Romans 13:11). a b c d

D. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). a b c d

4. Many in the book of James were doubled minded; failed to be doers of the word; showed partiality; fought among themselves; and prayed for the wrong things.

a. According to James 1:18, were they saved from the penalty of sin?

b. What does he call them in James 1:2, 19; 2:1, 14; 3:1; 4:11; 5:7?

5. Can a believer be barren and unfruitful in his walk? (II Peter 1:8, 9)

Can anything good come out of living such a way?

6. There are consequences for sin. “Do not be deceived God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he shall also _____.” (Galatians 6:7) Failure to be delivered from the power of sin can lead to devastating results.

7. What was John the Baptist’s attitude toward Jesus?

John 3:30 –

What should our attitude be?

8. Jesus taught that He is the Vine and His Father is the Vinedresser. (John 15:1-5) What are some observations about these verses? (See page 23 in book)

a. Who was he speaking to?

b. How is it possible to bear fruit?

c. Can branches bear fruit apart from the vine?

* Answers to question number 3: b, a, d, c

9. What does the word abide mean? (See page 24 in book)

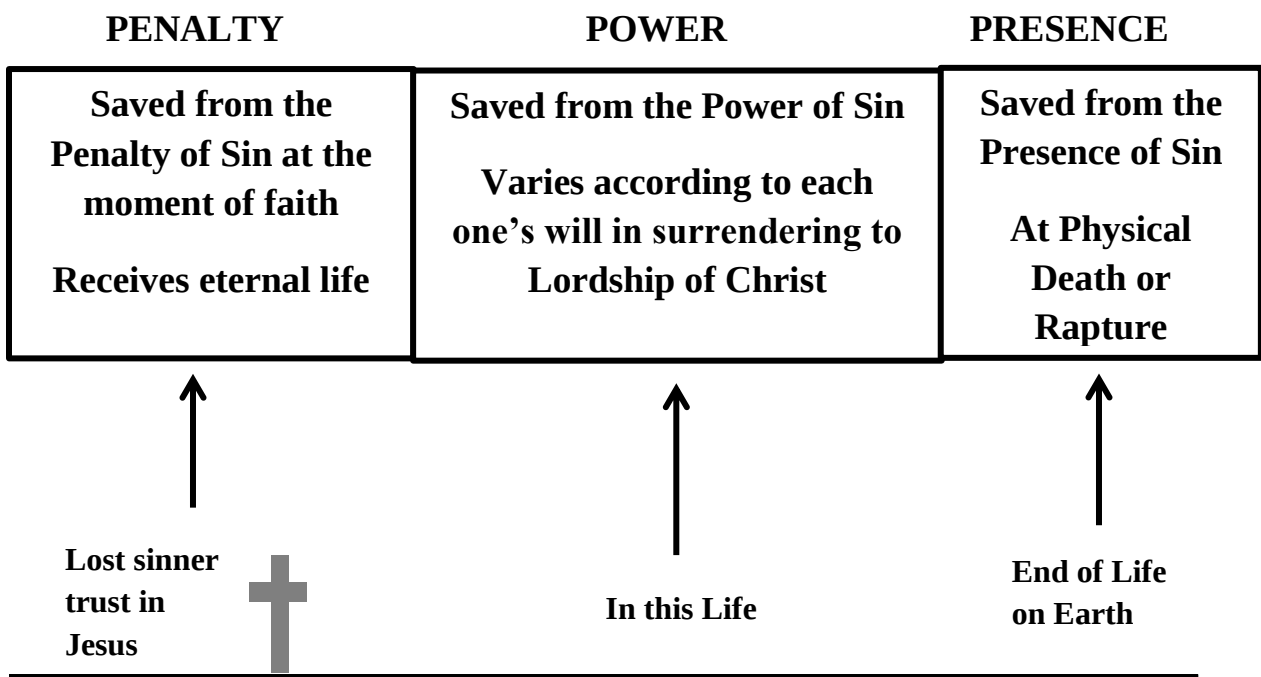
10. Since these verses were written to His disciples and they were branches (in Him), is this speaking about how to get to heaven, or is it speaking about how to be a fruitful disciple?

11. Some believe that the “branches being burned” is a reference to hell. Is fire always a reference to hell?

a. What does fire refer to in I Corinthians 3:15?

b. What does it refer to in Acts 2:3?

12. Since Jesus was speaking to His disciples, the branches being burned refer to the uselessness of disciples who fail to abide in Him. Does every believer abide in Christ 100% of the time? Are you abiding in Him?



Study 5

(Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of book)

A Confusing Gospel – The Frontloaded Gospel – The Back-loaded Gospel

The gospel is the central message of the Christian faith. It's the message that brings a lost sinner into an eternal relationship with the Lord. But often it is communicated incorrectly. Sometimes there is a belief in another gospel. Often it is not accurately communicated. So in this study we will look at some of the ways that the gospel is misrepresented.

1. Does the message of the gospel promise to deliver you from all your problems?

John 16:33 –

James 1:2 –

I Peter 4:12 –

2. Did the apostle Paul have many trials and tribulations? What were some of his experiences? (II Corinthians 11:23-26)

3. Do you have to ask Jesus into your heart for salvation? Do you have to give Him your heart? Do you ask Jesus into your heart or do you give him your heart. They are two opposite actions. What do those things mean? What does the Bible say?

Acts 16:31 –

John 3:18 –

John 7:37, 38 –

4. The word “power” in Romans 1:16 is the same Greek word used in I Corinthians 14:11 for “meaning” of the language. Words are defined by the context. They have power for understanding. The power of the gospel is in the understanding of the gospel.

Does asking Jesus into your heart or giving Him your heart equivalent to believing in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ? (See pages 28 and 29 in book)

b. What is the gospel (I Corinthians 15:3, 4)?

a. How does a seeking soul understand the gospel?

Frontloading the Gospel (See pages 31-42 in book)

5. There are two words in the New Testament for repent. The one used most often is ‘*metanoia*’. It means a change of mind. When John the Baptist said, “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”; what did he mean? See Acts 19:4 for his message.

6. The English definition for repent is: to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin. Was John telling people to feel sorry for what they did, or was he telling them to change their minds and believe in Jesus Christ?

7. Is ‘repenting of sins’ (being sorry) the same as admitting I am a helpless sinner? (See page 37 in book)

8. To stop sinning is works of righteousness. Can works of righteousness save anyone? See Titus 3:5

9. Do you receive forgiveness of sins, if you’re sorry and quit sinning (repenting)? Or do you receive forgiveness when you stop believing in your personal goodness and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to save you (Biblical repentance-a genuine change of mind)?

10. What did the Jewish people ask of Jesus (John 6:28)?

11. What did the Philippian jailer ask (Acts 16:30)?

12. What did Jesus tell the Jewish followers (John 6:29)?

13. What did Paul and Silas tell the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:31)?

14. If you add anything to the gospel, what does it make it (Galatians 1:6)?

15. What does Paul say about someone who preaches another gospel (Galatians 1:8)?

Back-loading the gospel (See pages 43-50 in book)

16. “By their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:16). This verse is used frequently to determine a ‘professing’ believer from a ‘true’ believer. But what is the context? Who is the verse speaking about?

Matthew 7:14, 15 –

17. How do you determine a false prophet or teacher – by bad behavior or by what they say (teach)?

Luke 6:45 –

18. A lost person is justified (declared righteous in the court room of God) by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21 – 26). If you understood and believed the gospel, are you saved from the penalty of sin? (I John 5:13)

19. A typical back-loader implies that justification (saved from sin’s penalty) guarantees sanctification (holy living). Does justification guarantee sanctification?

a. What does II Timothy 3:16 say about the purpose of the Scriptures?

b. Why would it be necessary to reprove, correct, and train believers in righteous living if sanctification was automatic?

20. Does God want us to do good works and live righteously? (Romans 6:1, 2)–

21. If God’s grace is teaching us, how should we live?

a. Titus 2:11, 12 –

b. Do we learn to live this way immediately or does it take time?

c. Are there unbelievers whose appear righteous (See page 45 in book)?

23. Can you tell the difference between an unbeliever and a believer by their outward behavior?

a. Do you think the people in Matthew 7:22 looked saved (outwardly to others) because of all the things they did in the name of Jesus?

b. Were they saved? (Matthew 7:23)

c. Did they need more works or did they need a Savior from their sins?

24. What did the religious leaders look like to others? What did Jesus say they were? (Matthew 23:27, 28)

25. How do you know you have everlasting life; by faith or by doing things for God?

Read I John 5:11-13 –

Frontloading and back-loading the gospel emphasizes the need for the believer to change his behavior to gain God’s approval. It makes you focus on what you do, rather than on what Christ can do in you. It pressures you to perform rather than to walk by faith. It will give you a misplaced assurance or create doubt. When you take your eyes off of Christ and put them on yourself, you have no power to live a fruitful and functional life. When you believed on the Lord Jesus to save you, you were immediately and forever accepted in the Beloved and forgiven! (Ephesians 1:6, 7)

Study 6

(Chapter 8 of book)

Two or Three Chair Theology



Many folks see the Christian faith as if you are in or you are out. You are either saved or you're not. This distorts their understanding of the Scriptures. The New Testament letters were written to churches – to those who had believed. This doesn't mean that all people in churches then and now are saved. But the epistles were written for the purpose of correcting believers in their walk so their life would glorify God.

God permits believers to sit in the middle chair. He doesn't condone it, but it does exist as we will see from the Bible. Christians can and do act carnally. We often sit in the middle chair. Some may sit there most of their life.

1. In the last study we saw that we cannot know the heart of a person simply by observing outward behaviors. If you looked at the Corinthian church, it would have been difficult to distinguish them from the unbelieving. How did the apostle Paul refer to them?

a. He said they were still _____ (I Cor. 3:3).

b. He said they were still _____ in Christ (I Cor. 3:1).

2. What's the difference between how humans see others and how God sees them?

I Samuel 16:7 –

3. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. What are we supposed to do?

4. What causes great conflict in the life of a believer (Galatians 5:17)?

5. Can believers do the same sins as unbelievers?

a. How does God describe David? (Acts 13:22)

b. What great sin did he do (II Samuel 11:1-17)?

6. What are some of the results when a believer is controlled by the old nature (Galatians 5:19-21)?

7. How is the new man described in Ephesians 4:24?

8. Is the new man capable of sinning? (I John 3:9)

*According to Strong's Concordance, the word for 'does' in this verse is '*poieo*' in the Greek. It refers to a single act. In other words, when a believer is living out of the new nature in the power of the Spirit, he or she is incapable of committing a single act of sin.

9. Describe the new nature. What happens when you are controlled by the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23)

10. How are believers to grow in their relationship with God (II Peter 3:18)?

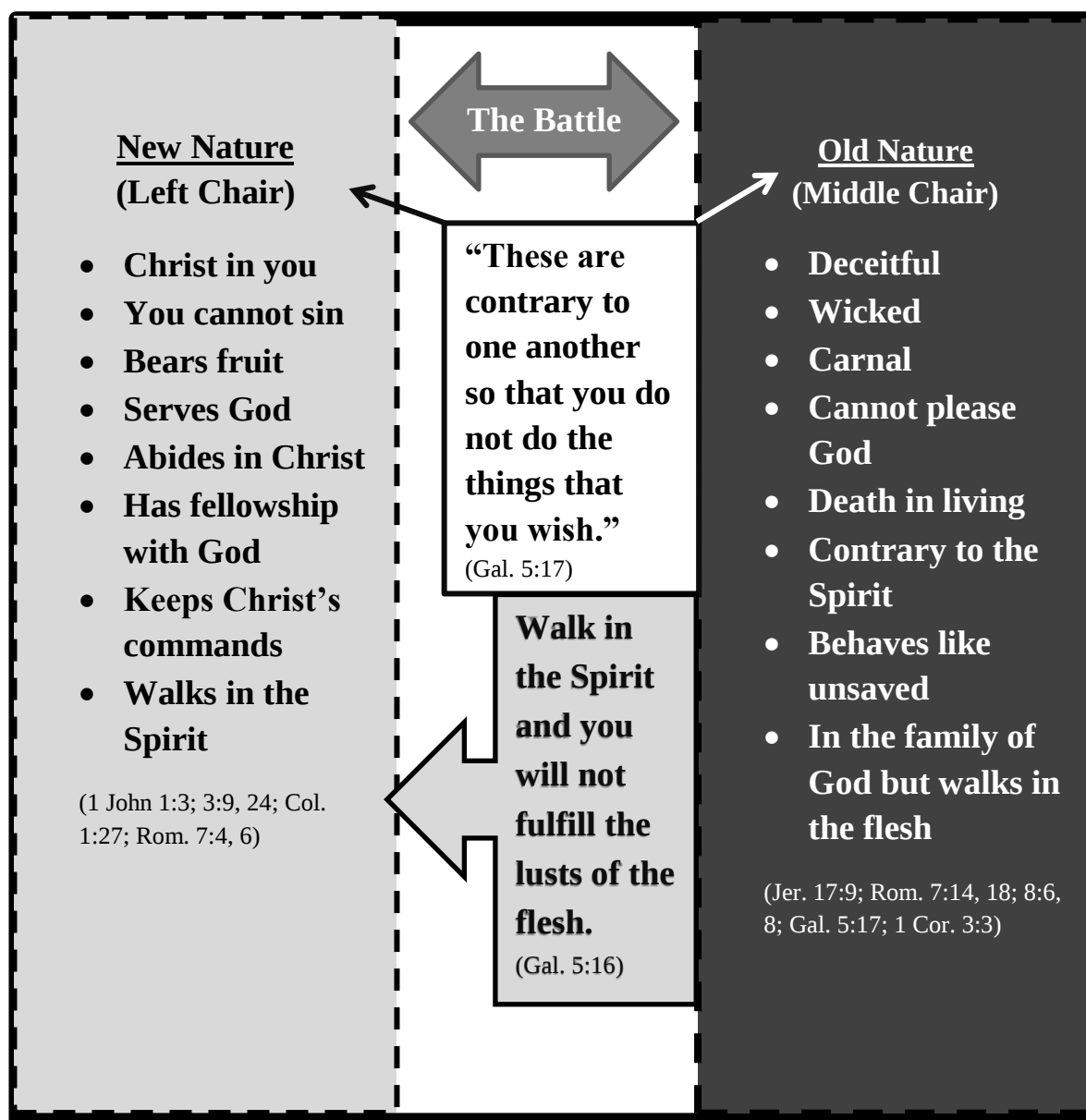
11. When you learn to grow, what will result? (Romans 6:12)

a. What does the word 'reign' mean?

b. Does this mean you will become sinless (I John 1:8)?

Believer's Two Natures

The Holy Spirit seals the believer until the day of redemption. (Eph. 4:30)



Study 7

(Chapter 9 of book)

Fellowship with God



When a lost sinner receives the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, he leaves the unsaved chair never to return. But as believers we can fall back into that middle chair of carnality. When we do we lose fellowship with the Lord. It's similar to losing fellowship with a disobedient child. They never cease to be your child. They can never lose the relationship, but there is discord in fellowship.

The Bible says one must be born again to enter the kingdom of Heaven (John 3:3). Like a natural birth, a sinner is spiritually born once when they trust Christ as Savior. They become a child of God.

1. What terminology does God use to describe believers?

John 1:12 –

I John 2:1 –

II Corinthians 6:18 –

2. How do these words describe your relationship with the Lord?

3. What did Jesus pray for in John 17:3?

4. The word 'know' in John 17:3 is a relational word. What does it suggest?

5. Fellowship with God is to have close personal intimacy. What's the result of having fellowship with God (I John 1:4)?

6. If we say we have fellowship with God and walk (lifestyle) in darkness, we _____ and the _____ is not in us (I John 1:6)

7. Most people think walking in darkness is doing things like lying, cheating, taking drugs, etc. Certainly those things are darkness. But walking in darkness is living in a way that is not being guided by the Spirit of God through the word of God. What does one need to walk in the Light?

Psalm 119:105 –

John 16:13 –

8. When a believer lives in a way that is not being influenced by the Spirit of God through the word of God, then he or she is not in fellowship with God. Fellowship with God is referred to as:

I John 2:10 –

I John 2:28 –

I John 3:24 –

9. Some teach that 'true' believers can't walk in darkness. But why would the Ephesians be instructed to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, if believers can't walk in darkness (Ephesians 5:11)?

10. God doesn't endorse sinful living (Romans 13:14). But He allows believers to make poor choices. Those ongoing poor decisions cause us to fall out of fellowship with God. But God is faithful, gracious, and merciful. He provides a way to restore our fellowship with Him.

I John 1:7, 9 –

James 4:7, 8 –

Study 8

(Chapter 10 of book)

Everlasting Life; Gift or Reward

A gift and reward are two distinct things. Reward is generally earned by performance. A gift is free. It cost the recipient nothing. Often these two things are taken as interchangeable in the Bible when they are not.

1. According to Romans 6:23, what is the gift of God?

2. Who stands before the judgment seat of Christ?

Romans 14:10 –

II Corinthians 5:10 –

3. What's the purpose for this judgment? (I Corinthians 3:14)

4. How is the judgment made? (I Corinthians 3:10, 11)

5. Is this judgment on a believer's sin? (See page 67 in Book)

6. According to I Corinthians 3:15, is it possible for a believer not to receive a reward yet be saved?

7. The gift of everlasting life is received the moment a person believes the gospel. You are immediately saved from the penalty of sin and have a future home in heaven. Biblical examples of people who were saved immediately:

Acts 2:41 - _____ souls were added...

Acts 4:4 – Many of those heard the word and believed; and the number of the men came to be about _____.

Acts 11:18 – Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius and his family. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Jewish Christians reasoned, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to _____.”

8. Did Jesus teach that salvation is by works when He said, “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matthew 16:25)?

a. Who was Jesus speaking to? Then Jesus said to His _____,
(Matthew 16:24)

b. Jesus said He will _____ each (disciple) according to his work
(Matthew 16:27).

*Jesus will reward faithful disciples. Matthew 16:24-27 is often interpreted to mean you must yield to Christ in every area of life to be saved. If that were the case, Peter wasn't saved for he opposed God's plan immediately before this (16:22, 23).

9. Contrary to receiving reward for works, what did Jesus teach about the way to receive everlasting life?

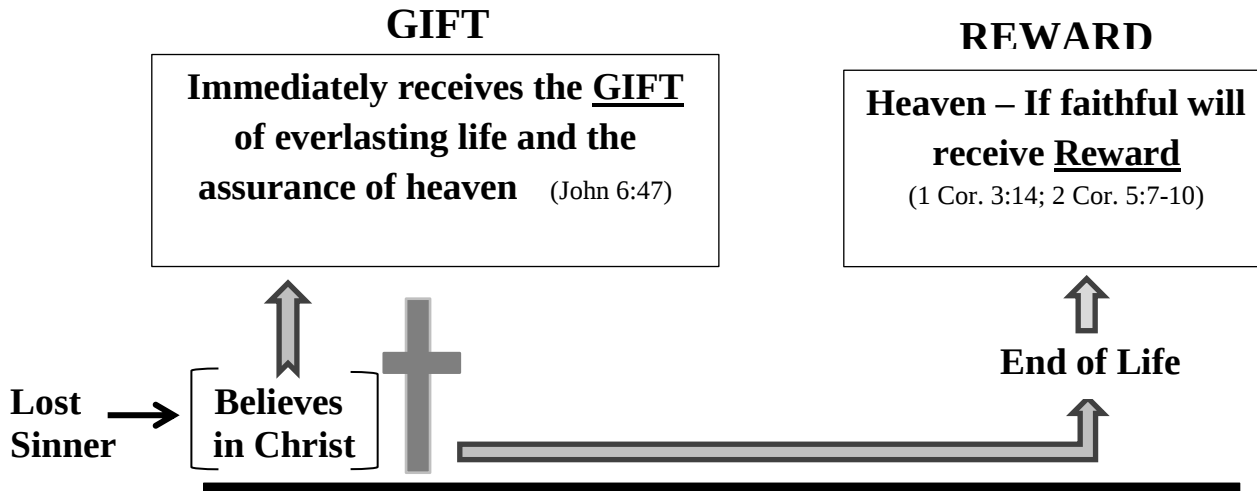
a. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever _____ in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)

b. He who _____ in Him is not condemned (John 3:18).

10. What did God tell Abraham? (Genesis 15:1)

11. What did Abraham conclude about God in bringing judgment on Sodom? (Genesis 18:25)
What can we conclude about God's judgment?

The Distinction between Gift and Reward



The Bible demonstrates over and over that reward and everlasting life is not the same thing. Everlasting life (salvation) is received immediately by receiving the gift by faith. Reward is received at the end of life and is evaluated on building on the only foundation, Jesus Christ.

Study 9

(Chapter 11 of book)

Predestination

Predestination is a Biblical doctrine. However, assurance of one's eternal destination doesn't come from knowing you are predestined. Assurance comes from having believed the gospel and taking God at His word. Predestination is used of spiritual blessings that God has promised to those who have believed the gospel.

1. The word 'predestined' is used four times in the New Testament. The first place is in Romans 8:29. "For who He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son".

a. What did God predestine believers to in this verse?

b. Being conformed to the image of Christ has to do with glorification, when believers are delivered from the presence of sin.

c. Those who are justified are predestined to glorification (Romans 8:30).

d. Sinners are justified by faith. That delivers one from the penalty of sin, eternal death. This has nothing to do with God preselecting certain people for salvation.

The word for 'know' in Matthew 7:23 and Galatians 4:9 is the same Greek word (*Ginosko*). According to *Vine's Expository Dictionary* it implies an active relation between the one who knows and the person or thing known. When the Galatians believed in the Lord, they entered into a relationship with Him. Now they were known by Him. Those in Matthew 7:23 Jesus never knew.

The believers in Rome were known by God the same way. God foreknew them from the day they believed in Him. Prior to their faith in Him, He obviously had knowledge of them, but He had no relationship with them. (See page 76 in book)

2. According to Romans 8:29, who does God foreknow?

3. Foreknow means to 'know before' (Greek: *Proginosko*). (Acts 26:5 uses the same word)

4. Read Galatians 4:9. Who is known by God?

5. Read Matthew 7:23. Who does God not know?

6. Does God know everyone?

7. Does He know everyone relationally? In other words does everyone have a relationship with the Lord?

8. Ephesians 1:5 says that believers (those "in Him" v. 3) are predestined to _____.

- a. Adoption is not an appointment by God for eternal life.
- b. Adoption as a son is the benefit all believers receive being placed "in Christ" (v.3).
- c. Why did God choose to spiritually adopt us? (Ephesians 1:5b)

9. The fourth use of predestined is in Ephesian 1:11. There we are predestined to receive an _____.

- a. Inheritance is a future blessing in the Kingdom of God.
- b. It doesn't say that God selected certain people to save.

10. "In Him you also _____, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having _____, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13).

- a. The Ephesians became believers when they trusted in Christ.
- b. They believed after they heard the truth.
- c. After believing they were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise.

*God doesn't choose people to believe. He chooses people who believe to be conformed to the image of His Son, to adoption, and to an inheritance. Nowhere does the Bible say that God predestines some people for heaven and others for hell.

11. Can fallen humans choose to believe in the Lord for salvation?

a. Israel was God's chosen people. He wanted to gather them together, but Jesus said they were not _____ (Matthew 23:37).

b. Another time Jesus said to the leaders, "But you are not _____ to come to Me that you may have life". (John 5:40)

12. All unbelievers are dead (spiritually) in their trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). What does 'dead' mean?

a. What did God say would happen if Adam and Eve disobeyed Him (Genesis 2:17)?

b. Did they immediately die physically?

c. How did they immediately die? (Genesis 3:7, 8)

d. What did God have to do to restore the relationship? He clothed them with _____. It would be the first sacrifice for sin (Genesis 3:21).

*The sacrificial system was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:29).

e. Can all people recognize the truth of God's existence (Romans 1:19-20)?

f. What do people often do with this truth (Romans 1:18)? Does God do this to them or do they choose to make this choice?

13. Who does Jesus draw? (John 12:32)

14. Who does Jesus give light to? (John 1:9)

15. Who did Jesus die for? (John 3:16; Hebrews 2:9)

16. Does He want all people to be saved? (I Timothy 2:4)

17 Why did God send His Son into the world? (John 3:17)

17. Why doesn't everyone get saved? (John 3:18; Romans 1:18)

Study 10

(Chapters 12 book)

Perseverance

Many teach that 'genuine' believers will persevere to the end of life and that they will not fall away from the faith. If that were true, no one could ever be sure they would end up in heaven until death. The Bible gives one assurance the moment he or she understands and believes the gospel. What the Bible does teach is that believers should persevere to glorify God and to receive a great reward.

See *Understanding Philippians 1:6* on page 84 and 85 in the book for Questions 1 & 2.

1. What was the good work that the entire Philippian church did that would not be complete until the day of Christ? Was the good work their salvation; or was it their involvement in providing for Paul's necessities so he could continue to preach the gospel? See Philippians 4:16; 1:27; II Corinthians 11:7-12
2. Does Philippians 1:6 teach that all believers will persevere?
3. Does I John 2:19 teach that people who leave the church were not true believers? (See pages 85 and 86 in book) What did he call them in 2:18?
4. Read Numbers 21:7-9; John 3:14-15; and John 12:32-33. Jesus compared salvation to looking to the serpent on the pole made by Moses. How did Jesus use the illustration with Nicodemus? (John 3:15, 15 and Numbers 21:5-9)
 - a. How many times did the people have to look to the pole for healing?
 - b. How many times do you have to look to Jesus for salvation (from the penalty of sin)?

5. Read the parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:3-23 and Luke 8:5-15. (See pages 88-89 in book)

a. Does the first soil represent a believer or unbeliever? (Luke 8:12)

b. The second soil represents someone who believes _____
_____ (Luke 8:13).

c. The third soil represents someone who brings no fruit to _____ (Luke 8:14).

d. The fourth soil represents someone who bears _____ (Luke 8:15).

*Many teach that soils one through three represent unsaved individuals. But the first soil is the only one that doesn't believe. The other three soils express faith initially. Soil two believes and according to Matthew 13:21; "he endures only for a while". Soil three brings no fruit to maturity. He had immature fruit which could only be possible if he was saved.

Unsaved people have no potential to endure spiritually. They also have no potential to produce any fruit. Therefore one must conclude that soils two and three represent saved persons who fell away from fellowship for various reasons.

6. Read Hebrews 10:32-36

a. Were these believers? What did they possess according to verse 34?

b. What did they have need of according to verse 36?

c. If they do not cast away their confidence, what will they receive according to verse 35?

d. If they had an enduring possession in heaven (v. 34), then the issue wasn't about salvation. It was about doing the _____ of God (v.36) and the potential of a great reward (v. 35).

7. Some will tell you to examine yourself to see if you are in the faith (II Corinthians 13:5).

a. What were the Corinthians questioning about the apostle Paul? They were seeking a _____ of Christ speaking in Him (13:3).

b. Ironically he told them to examine themselves to see if they were in the faith. He knew they were.

I Corinthians 1:2 – “To those who are _____ in Christ Jesus”.

II Corinthians 13:11 – “Finally _____”

II Corinthians 13:14 – “The _____ of the Holy Spirit be with you all”...

c. If they responded they were in the faith; then their salvation was proof of Christ speaking in Him. Was he asking them to judge their salvation based upon their works?

8. “But he who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13)

a. What’s the context of this passage?

Matthew 24:3 – What will be the sign of Your coming and the _____ of the age.

Matthew 24:8– Referring to verse 6 and 7; “All these things are the _____ of sorrows”.

b. Matthew 24 speaks about the end of the age. “Unless those days were shortened, no _____ would be saved, but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (See Matthew 24:22).

*The elect refers to Israel. If the future tribulation lasted longer, all Israel (the elect) would be annihilated. No one would physically survive.

9. Did the apostle Paul teach that all ‘true’ believers will persevere to the end in faith and good works? (See pages 98 and 99 in book)

a. What was his concern about the Galatians? (Galatians 4:9-11)

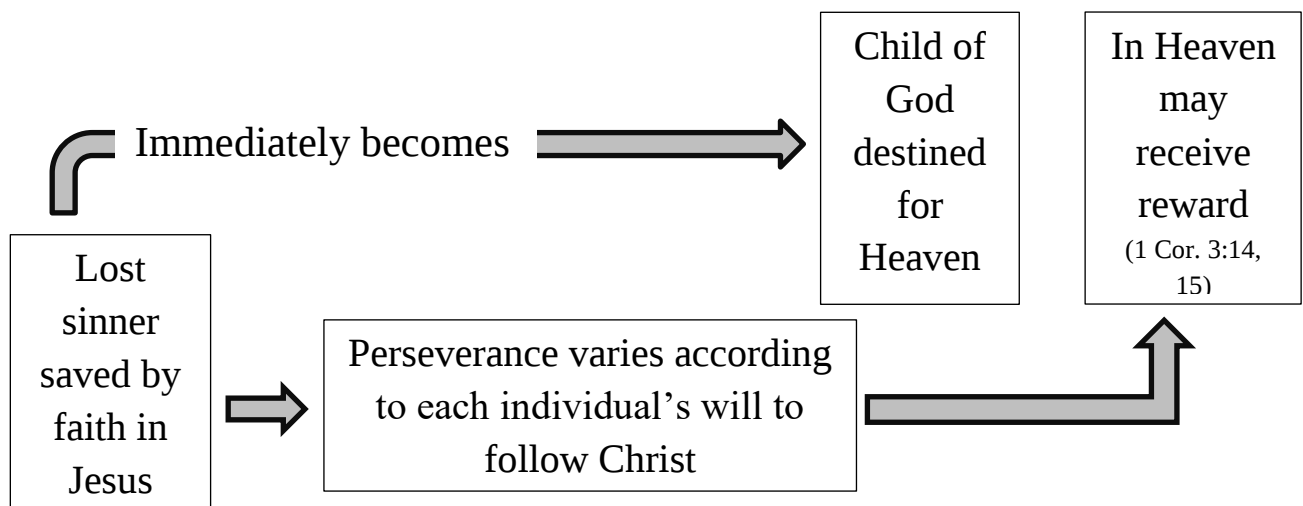
b. What was his concern about the Colossian church? (Colossians 2:4-8)

c. What was his concern about Timothy? (I Timothy 6:8-11)

10. What was Jesus' message to the churches? (Revelation 2:10; 3:8, 10)

God wants us to persevere in trials by faith to help us to grow to spiritual maturity. But failing to persevere will not keep you from going to heaven. It may bring significant consequences in this life and affect your reward in heaven. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:7). That should be our desire, if we are being faithful.

Believer and Perseverance



Study 11

(Chapter 13 of book)

Falling Away

Falling away is similar to not persevering to the end. Some proponents of this view teach that if you fall away or you fail to persevere you were never really saved. But this assumes that humans can see into the heart of another individual. It requires making judgments that we are unable to make. Being justified by faith happens in a moment of time and does not guarantee that a believer will grow spiritually. That doesn't negate his or her justification. Jesus even rebuked His disciples for having little or no faith.

1. On page 101 of the book, what are some of the unbiblical terms used to describe someone who has fallen away?
2. Hebrews 6:4-6 is a difficult passage. Some use this passage to say that a believer can lose their salvation. If that is the case, could they ever get it back according to verse 6?
3. How did the writer describe this group of believers? They had become _____ of hearing (5:11).
4. The writer said that they should have been _____ but they needed to be _____ again the first principles of the oracles of God (5:12).
5. He says they needed milk, meaning they are spiritual _____ (5:13). They had retrogressed in their faith.
6. This group of believers retrogressed in their faith and were on the brink of falling away by returning to Judaism. In chapters 2 and 3 the writer had also warned them about falling away.

a. He addresses them as _____ (3:12), a reference to their spiritual relationship.

b. He refers to them as _____ in (3:1); a reference to their sanctification (2:11).

c. They were also _____ of the heavenly calling (3:1).

7. They were being warned not to harden their hearts like those in the wilderness. They had come out of Egypt and passed through the Red Sea by faith (Hebrews 11:29), but they failed to enter into the Promised Land because of _____ (3:19).

*In chapter 6 it would be impossible to renew a believer to repentance (salvation) because he is already saved. But if they go back to Judaism they put Christ to open shame by their actions. It would be saying that His sacrifice was not enough.

8. King Solomon fell away. “When Solomon was old, his wives turned his _____ after other gods (I Kings 11:4).

9. Hymenaeus and Alexander shipwrecked their _____ (I Timothy 1:18-20). You can’t be in a shipwreck unless you are on the ship.

10. Demas _____ Paul, “having loved this present world (II Timothy 4:10).

11. The parable of the Sower

a. The first soil represents an _____ (Luke 8:12).

b. The second soil represents one who believes for a _____ and in time of temptation falls away (v. 13).

c. The third soil represents one who is distracted by pleasures and brings no _____ to maturity (v. 14).

d. The fourth soil is one who bears _____ with endurance (v. 15).

12. Read Hebrews 10:26-31 (See pages 106 to 111 in book)

a. In verse 26, the writer includes himself with the potential of willfully sinning – “For if _____ sin willfully...”

b. Hebrews 13:13 says to these Jewish believers, “Therefore let’s go forth to Him, _____ the camp.

*The camp is a reference to Judaism in Jerusalem (v. 14), the place of the temple and the worship of God. The willful sin infers that these Jewish believers were being influenced to return to Judaism.

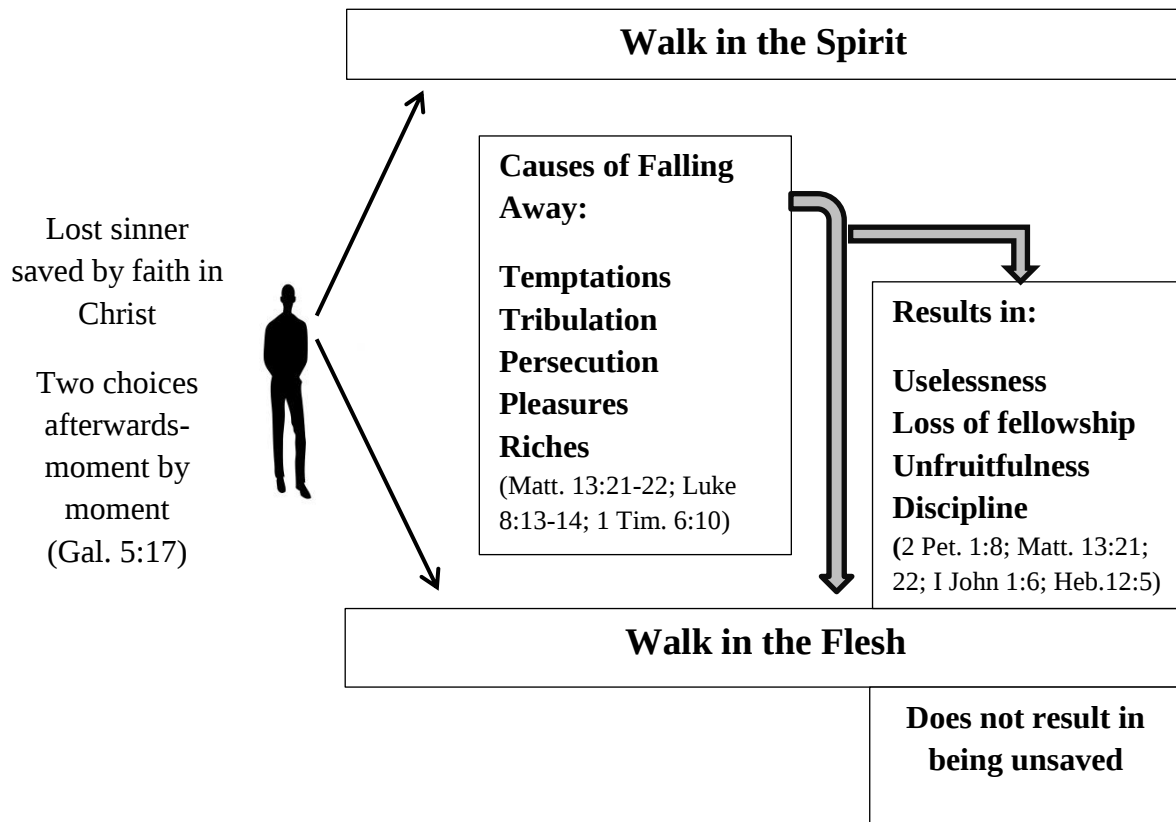
13. If they did this it would trample the Son of God underfoot, count the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and insult the Spirit of Grace (v. 29).

Is being sanctified a reference to an unbeliever or believer? (See Hebrews 10:14)

14. Wouldn't it be an insult to the Spirit of grace for a child of God to go back to following the law?

15. What did they need to do? (Hebrews 10:35, 36)

Only Believers can Fall Away**



**Only believers can fall away. Unbelievers have no relationship with God. They cannot fall away from something they never had. For example, a person cannot divorce (fall away from) a spouse if they were never married. The church as a unit is the bride of Christ. However, the bride is not always faithful. Sometimes believers in the church (the bride) fall away from the groom (Christ) as we have seen in this chapter. This doesn't make them unsaved. It simply makes them unfaithful, resulting in them being useless and unfruitful (II Peter 1:8, 9).

Study 12

(Chapters 14 and 15 of book)

Faith without Works – Saved by Grace

“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead” (James 2:17). When it comes to this verse, I researched 32 commentaries. Twenty-seven of them taught that works are proof of salvation; that if there are no works, there is no salvation. Two of them were convoluted and only three taught this was speaking to believers. It’s the great controversy of the ages. (Pages 115-123 in book)

1. How does someone judge another’s works? Can a human see the heart of another person?

2. How many works are necessary to prove one is saved? Who sets the standard?

3. How is one delivered from the penalty of death? (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

4. Do works have anything to do with being delivered (justification) from the penalty of sin?

5. What’s the purpose of good works?

Titus 3:8 –

Titus 3:14 –

Matthew 5:16 –

6. Is it possible for a believer not to be rewarded for his works? (I Corinthians 3:15)

7. Is it possible for a believer to be barren and unfruitful even to the point that he has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins? (II Peter 1:8, 9)

8. Can faith save a person who does not have works? (James 2:14) Save him from what? (Remember the three tenses of salvation and that James is written to believers) (See pages 119 in book)

9. What were the people failing to do? (James 1:22)

10. Failing to be doers of the word caused them to mistreat their brothers and sisters in the faith. How were they mistreating one another? (See 2:1, 15, 16; 4:2, 11)

11. James called this faith _____ (2:17).

12. He compared it to a dead _____ (2:26).

13. A dead body is still a body. It fails to function as a body. Likewise faith without _____ is dead. It exists but it is not functioning properly. It is useless.

14. James gave two examples of faith that worked properly. Who were they? (2:21, 25)

15. Their faith justified them before men. Others could see that they were not hearers only but doers (1:22). "You see then that a man is justified by works and not by faith only?" (2:24)

a. Can you see faith that saves one from the penalty of sin?

b. Can you see faith in action?

Saved by Grace (Pages 125-135 in book)

16. According to Ephesians 2:8, how did God initiate salvation: by _____ are you saved through faith.

17. Jesus is full of _____ and truth (John 1:14).

18. What are we to rest our hope fully upon? (I Peter 1:13)

19. How does the grace of God teach us to live the Christian life? (Titus 2:11, 12)
20. Does the Bible teach us that it's ok to sin more so grace may abound? (Romans 6:1, 2)
21. How are we supposed to grow in our relationship with God? (II Peter 3:18)
22. How were the Old Testament saints saved?
- a. Who was the first prophet? Luke 11:49-51
 - b. What did Peter preach about Christ from all the prophets? (Acts 3:18)
 - c. What did the apostle Paul preach that Moses and the prophets said would come? (Acts 26:23)
23. Were Old Testament saints saved by following the law or by grace through faith in the future Messiah?
24. According to Ephesians 1:3, what do we have in our position in Christ?
24. What are some of those blessings?
- I John 5:13 –
 - Colossians 2:13 –
 - Ephesians 1:13 –
 - II Corinthians 5:21 –
 - Romans 5:1 –
 - Philippians 3:20 –
 - Ephesians 2:13 –
 - I Peter 1:4 –
 - Colossians 2:10 –

II Corinthians 5:20 –

II Peter 1:3 –

Thank you for using this study guide. My desire is that after going through this study, you will have 100% assurance of your eternal destination in the kingdom of God. God wants us to know for sure. If we look to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, we will have total assurance. If we look to our performance, we will never have assurance.

Having assurance will change the way we live. Understanding our position in Christ should affect our condition. Knowing that you are accepted by God through Christ's sacrifice should compel us to live for Him. Living according to grace promotes godliness. It results in a life lived out of gratitude. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (II Corinthians 9:15)