

#2: You Can Be Absolutely Certain!

I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. - 1 John 5:13, NLT

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. - 1 John 5:11–13, NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. - Romans 8:15–17, NLT

Seven Reasons for Certainty

1. GOD'S GRACE IS UNDESERVING.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. - Ephesians 2:8–9, NLT

2. THE INSEPARABLE LOVE OF GOD.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved

us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:35–39, NLT

3. THE PREVAILING FORGIVENESS OF CHRIST.

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. - 2 Corinthians 5:21, NLT

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. - Romans 8:33–34, NLT

4. THE IRREVERSIBLE NATURE OF OUR SALVATION.

- When we believed, we were "born again."
Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." - John 3:3, NLT
- When we believed, we were given a new nature.
This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! - 2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT
- When we believed, we were adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.
But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own

children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. - Galatians 4:4–7, NLT

"In the ancient world, the child who was adopted actually had more rights than a child born into a family. A father could give up his natural-born child to adoption, but a child once adopted could never be given up again. It was illegal to do so. A natural-born child could be expelled from the family, disowned, or denied. An adopted child, however, could not be dissociated from the father who had adopted him. Paul was well aware of the legal rights and ramifications of adoption when he wrote that believers in Christ are full partakers of the "adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the services of God, and the promises" once thought to be available only to the Jews (Rom. 9:4). Believers in Christ Jesus are not just second-class members of the family of God but full sons and daughters of the Almighty! The authors of the New Testament left us with detailed explanations of how one becomes a child of God; if that process could be reversed, doesn't it make sense that at least one of them would have gone into detail explaining that as well?"¹

5. THE CONTINUING AND EFFECTIVE PRAYERS OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF.

Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. - Hebrews 7:25, NLT

"Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am." - John 17:24, NLT

6. THE LASTING NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUARANTEE IN OUR LIVES.

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. 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. - Ephesians 1:13–14, NLT

¹ Stanley, Charles, *Understanding Eternal Security*, (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1998, pg. 47

7. OUR CERTAINTY IS CONNECTED TO THE ENDURING FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. - Hebrews 6:16–18, NLT

“It was common in the New Testament times for a person to make an oath on something or someone greater than himself. A Jewish man would swear by the altar of the temple, the high priest, or even God Himself. Once such an oath was made, the argument was over. It was assumed that if someone was willing to make such a serious oath, he was fully determined to keep it. God, of course, doesn’t need to make such an oath, His word is every bit as good without an oath—as ours ought to be (cf. Matt. 5:33-37). But to accommodate the weak faith of mere men and women, God made an oath of His promise to provide His children with a future hope. Since there is nothing or no one greater than God, He swore by Himself . That pledge did not make God’s promise any more secure; the bare Word of God is guarantee enough, but God gave an oath out of His kind consideration of us to affirm that He meant what He said. His intent was to provide us with “strong encouragement (or, great confidence)” . The Greek phrase so translated refers to a great source of consolation and confidence.”²

Your Response this Week:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you that you are going to heaven?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. What will you do if you encounter doubts in your mind about your salvation?
3. Share this lesson with someone who needs to hear it.

² MacArthur, John Jr. *Saved without a Doubt*, (Colorado Springs, Co.: Chariot Victor Publishing) 1992, pg. 17