

## ETERNAL SECURITY (9)

(Reason #1) - Some lack assurance of salvation because they are not carefully studying the Bible. **I John 5:13**

Scriptures are written so we may know we have eternal life; and if we are not studying the Scriptures, we will lack a sense of knowledge that we have it. One who does not carefully study the Bible in a way classified as “rightly divided” will never really know what to believe.

(Reason #2) - Some lack assurance of salvation because they refuse to obey the Bible.  
**I John 2:3**

We actually come to know that we have salvation as we have a desire to obey God’s Word. Any believer who is typically involved in something that is wrong and does not want to obey God will struggle with assurance.

(Reason #3) - Some lack assurance of salvation because they doubt the reality of their decision to trust Christ.

This is often due to an inability to pinpoint a time when one really did trust Christ. In such a case, a person could confess their doubt to God and specifically call upon the Lord for salvation once and for all.

(Reason #4) - Some lack assurance of salvation because they question the correctness of the procedure.

Some wonder did I pray the proper prayer? Did I say the right words? Keep this in mind; when one cries out to God for salvation, it cannot simply be a group of set words or that could be considered a human work. Salvation is a point in time when one acknowledges to God that he is a sinner and is totally relying upon Jesus Christ to be his Savior. When the Holy Spirit is truly producing Biblical salvation, the moment will contain conviction of sin, conviction of righteousness, and a conviction of judgment (**John 16:8**).

(Reason #5) - Some lack assurance of salvation because they do not believe in the doctrine of eternal security.

Naturally, one who has never been taught this doctrine, or who does not believe this doctrine, will be one who lacks assurance many, many times. One moment this kind of person will view himself as saved and the next he won’t.

(Reason #6) - Some lack assurance of salvation when sin enters the life.

Sin does not forfeit the fact of salvation. There are times when even the best of believers sin. In fact, James said, “For we all stumble in many ways” (**James 3:2**). John said, if we say we have no sin we are a liar (**I John 1:8**). The doctrine of eternal security does not mean Christians are kept from falling into sin.

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We have a flesh, we have a sin-nature, and we live in a sinful world and there are times we fail. However, if we are facing it properly through confession, we will not lose our sense of security (**I John 1:9**).

**Clarification #2** - The doctrine of eternal life is not to be equated with the promotion of the doctrine of a sinful life.

It is an heretical tragedy when the precious doctrine of eternal security is twisted by certain men and lowered into meaning that once a person is saved, he or she can go out and do whatever he wants and involve himself in any sin, vice, or evil practice. Those who equate the doctrine of eternal life with a doctrine of a sinful life are either totally ignorant of the Bible or they are twisting what is in the Bible for their own purposes. In either case, the actual truth is not being proclaimed. God's Word is very, very clear that once a person possesses eternal life, he is indwelt by God's Spirit and becomes very accountable for his spiritual life. The believer will be specifically judged by Jesus Christ to determine the gain or the loss of eternal rewards. Those rewards, or loss thereof, are contingent upon one's own spiritual development and bearing of fruit. Those who equate the doctrine of eternal security with living a life of sin overlook at least seven Biblical facts:

(Fact #1) - Not all who say or think they have eternal life really do. **Matthew 7:22-23;**  
**I John 2:19**

Just because a person says or thinks he has eternal life does not really mean he has it. Most cults acknowledge Jesus Christ and most believe they are heading to eternal life when in all reality they are heading to eternal condemnation. Dr. John Mac Arthur, in writing on **Matthew 7:21-23** says: "Many who think they are saved but live unholy lives will be shocked to discover in the judgment that heaven is not their destiny. ... These people even say, "Lord, Lord" revealing their basic orthodoxy" (Mac Arthur, pp. 188-189).

(Fact #2) - One who persists in continual disobedience does not possess eternal life.  
**I John 2:4**

Donald Burdick, in his commentary on I John observes: "The use of the present tense pictures a continued claim to know Jesus Christ. ... By his choice of the present tense ... John shows that he has in mind the habit of not keeping the commandments" (Burdick, pp. 135-136). The point of this is simple; one who continually says he knows Jesus Christ as Savior, but continually lives contrary to the Word of God, "is a liar and the truth is not in him." The individual who confidently boasts of a relationship with Christ and habitually lives life contrary to the Word and will of God is one with a false assurance and one who does not truly possess eternal life.

It is this teacher's general observation that when one is truly saved and is not living in accordance with God's Word, there are continual doubts about one's relationship with God, not a continual confidence. Those who really need to question salvation are those who are confident they are saved and yet persist in a life that does not conform to God's Word and doctrines.

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(Fact #3) - One who possesses eternal life and continues in sin will lose eternal rewards.

**I Corinthians 3:10-15; 9:24, 26**

There is much on the line for the believer who refuses to live a spiritually disciplined life that pursues godliness. It is possible to have eternal life and lose eternal rewards. This would include a loss of governmental, management level responsibilities in eternity (i.e. **Luke 12:42-44**).

(Fact #4) - One who possesses eternal life and continues in sin risks weakness, sickness, and death. **I Corinthians 11:30; I John 5:16**

It is a very serious matter for one who has eternal life to live in continual sin. One not only risks losing rewards, but also his very health and life.

(Fact #5) - One who possesses eternal life and continues in sin risks church excommunication. **Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17-18; I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:14-15; I Timothy 5:20; Titus 3:10-11; Revelation 2:20**

The Church, both universal and local, is extremely important to God in this Age. To be excommunicated from a church, and to have leaders called by God to give an account of the individual, carries weighty eternal ramifications which would certainly include a loss of eternal rewards (i.e. **Hebrews 13:17**).

(Fact #6) - One who possesses eternal life, possess it in part so he may produce good works. **John 15:8; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:8**

The believer is not saved “by” good works, but he is saved “for” and “unto” good works. Naturally, if a believer is living a carnal, sinful life, he is not fulfilling the purpose for which we have been saved. We have not been saved simply to go to heaven.

(Fact #7) - The understanding of the doctrine of eternal life does not lead to a sinful lifestyle.

It is very clear from a text like **I John 5:13** that God has written much of His Word so people may “know” they have eternal life. Sound doctrine always strengthens a person and never weakens them. It is knowledge that produces spiritual growth (**I Peter 3:18**). It has often been observed that it is poor doctrine that corrupts morals, not sound doctrine (**I Corinthians 15:33**).

Those who reject and struggle with the doctrine of eternal security, which is a God-revealed true doctrine of the Bible, often struggle and yield to the same sin over and over again and never seem to gain victory or stability. It may also be observed from Church History that some of the most stable believers in the history of the church were staunch defenders of eternal security.