

CAN YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE SAVED?

- A. This question comes up from time to time.
- B. It deserves an answer from the Bible.
- C. I believe this to be a fundamental question to the Christian.
- D. Notice first of all the following three scriptures:

1 Jn. 5:11-13 "And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 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.

Jn. 20:30-31 "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

Heb. 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

INTRODUCTION:

- A. You can know if you are saved.
- B. Faithfulness to God does not mean sinlessness.
- C. If you are a faithful Christian you are not under the guilt of sin.
- D. A child of God can FALLAWAY from God and Be LOST!

I. 1 Jn. 1:7-10 **7 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. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- A. Three things you must notice first.
 - 1. "if" - conditional.
 - 2. "walk" - daily living.

3. "in the light" - following God's word.
- B. Two blessings come to those who walk in the light.
1. "We have fellowship with one another."
 2. "Blood of Jesus cleanseth us from all sin."
 3. If the blood cleanses those who walk in the light it is plain to see that walking in the light does not mean you are perfect.
 - a. We do sin.
 - b. But we do not live or walk in sin.

(1). Rom. 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

(2). 1 Jn. 3:9 "does not practice sin." "Those who are children of God do not continue to sin, for God's very nature is in them; and because God is their Father, they cannot continue to sin." (TEV)

II. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING IN SIN AND OCCASIONALLY SINNING!

A. Psa. 19:12-13 talks of two types of sin. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. 13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

1. Presumption (secret or open). High handed, daring, shameless.
 - a. Pr. 28:13 "He who covers his sin will not prosper..."
 - b. Isa. 30:1 rebellious children.
 - c. Num. 15:30-36. But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the Lord, and he shall be cut off from among his people. 31 `Because he has despised the word of the Lord, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him.' " 32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. 33 And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. 34 They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. 35 Then the Lord said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp." 36 So, as the Lord commanded Moses, all the

congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.

d. 2 Pet. 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

e. 1 Cor. 10:1-12.

2. The second type of sin is a sin of ignorance.

a. Lev. 4:2-3. "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: `If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them, 3 `if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the Lord for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.

b. Acts 3:17 Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

c. 1 Tim. 1:12-13 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

d. Still guilty of sin under Moses Lev. 5:17 If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.

III. IF YOU ARE A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF JESUS YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE GUILT OF SIN.

A. Rom. 4:1-8 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

1. Sin not imputed to us.

2. If you try to work your way to heaven you are under sin.

B. 2 Cor. 5:21 we are the righteousness of God. "For He made Him who knew no sin

to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

C. We can't be counted righteous and lost sinners at the same time.

IV. ROMANS TELLS US WE ARE NOT UNDER CONDEMNATION IF WE ARE CHRISTIANS.

A. Rom. 8:1-11 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

B. "If the spirit of God dwells in us."

1. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. Acts 5:32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.

3. Gal. 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

C. "If you are in Christ"- baptized into Christ Gal. 3:26- 29 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

V. A FAITHFUL CHILD OF GOD IS SAVED ALL THE TIME!

A. There is no security in the "point of view" that we jump in and out of God's grace

like a frog moves in and out of water.

- B. If you have obeyed the gospel you have been purged from sin and you will remain purged as you walk in the light.

VI. A CHILD OF GOD CAN FALL AWAY AND BE LOST!

- A. 1 Cor. 10:12 "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- B. Gal. 5:4 "You have become estranged from Christ, whoever of you would be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."

C. Jn. 15:4-6 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

D. 1 Cor. 9:26-27 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

E. Rom. 11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

F. Heb. 3:12-15 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

G. Heb. 10:25-31 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- H. 2 Pet. 2:20-22 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through

the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

I. Heb. 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame

J. 1 Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 5:12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

K. 2 Tim. 2:16-18 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

L. Matt. 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

CONCLUSION:

A. We can know that we are saved.

B. We must not let Satan cause us to have doubts- James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

C. We must not let the security of the Soul lure us into a sense of feeling we can not fall away.