

THE BIBLE VIEW

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How Can You Know You Are Saved?

Bill Brinkworth

A person can know if he is saved. If he has done what the scriptures say to receive salvation through trusting in Christ's death for his sins, he will see changes in his life. Here is an examination of some of the new improvements he will see:

A NEW belief. He will believe differently about how to go to heaven, than before he was saved. He will believe and trust in God's way, not his or man's way.

*"He that believeth on the Son of God **hath the witness in himself**: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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."* 1 John 5:10-13

A NEW Interest in God's People.

*"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because **we love the brethren**. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." 1 John 3:14* The "brethern" are other "saved" people.

A NEW Master. A child of God listens and obeys his heavenly Father.

*"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:** 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:26-28*

A NEW Life

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ , **he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**" II Corinthians 5:17* The new life will include things that you never would have thought you would have done; such as praying, attending church, Bible reading, giving, and obeying God. You will also find you no longer have a desire to do many of the wrong things you used to do. You may even have a conviction about not doing them.

A NEW Trust

*"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: **for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**" II Timothy 1:12*

NEW Fruit — NEW interests. Just as a healthy apple tree “proves” it is an apple tree by producing apples, a Christian “proves” he is a Christian by producing Christian traits.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:22-25

When the Spirit of God indwells us, there are some things He wants done in our lives and around us. These changes that we allow Him to do in us and with us are proofs of our salvation. Each one, reach one!

The Helpful Rattlesnake

Author Unknown

Once there was a man who had three sons: Jim, John, and Sam. None of the family was interested in spiritual things. The preacher and church elders tried different means to get them interested in the things of God.

One day John was bitten by a rattlesnake. After the doctor had done all he could, he stated that the only thing left for them to do was pray. They called for the church elders and asked the preacher to pray.

The preacher prayed somewhat as follows, “Oh, wise and righteous Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast in Thy wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John, in order to bring him to his senses. We trust that this will prove a valuable lesson to him and lead him to genuine repentance. And now, O Father, wilt Thou send another rattlesnake to bite Jim, and another to bite Sam, and another real big one to bite the old man? It seems that what all our efforts would not do, this rattlesnake has done. We conclude that the only thing that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes.”

I certainly do not know if this is a true account. It is true, however, that the hard times, trials, and tribulations do get our attention and help us realize that we do need God’s help. Those times may not always be from God, but they can often be just the right tool to help us realize that we are frail and do need to trust God for His guidance.

“Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things.” — *Beecher*

What Makes The Difference?

M. R. DeHaan

The difference between the sinner and the saint is that the saint hates his sin and pleads the blood of Christ, whereas the sinner loves his sin and goes back into it. The saint is like a sheep. It may fall into a mud hole, but it is not comfortable there and will bleat until the shepherd lifts it out. Thereafter it will avoid that mud hole by a long distance.

The sinner is like a pig. It goes about looking for slime pits. When it finds one, it slides in with a grunt of glee and will squeal vehement objections if you try to pull it out. No sooner is it out, than it will return to the slime pit again.

“He that falls into sin is a man; that grieves at it, is a saint; that boasteth of it, is of the devil.” — Fuller

Ten Little Christians

Author Unknown

Ten little Christians, standing in a line,
One disliked the preacher, then there were nine.
Nine little Christians stayed up very late,
One slept on Sunday morning, then there were eight.
Eight little Christians on the road to heaven,
One took the lower road, then there were seven.
Seven little Christians got into a fix,
One disliked the music, then there were six.
Six little Christians very much alive,
But one lost her interest, then there were five.
Five little Christians wishing there were more,
But they quarreled, then there were four.
Four little Christians as cheerful as could be,
One lost his temper, then there were three.
Three little Christians knew not what to do,
One joined the worldly crowd, then there were two.
Two little Christians — our rhyme is nearly done—
Differed with each other, then there was one.
One lone Christian won his neighbor true,
Brought him to church, then there were two.

Two earnest Christians, each won one more,
That doubled their number, then there were four.
Four sincere Christians worked very late,
But each won another, then there were eight.
Eight splendid Christians, but nothing rhymes with 16 ...

In six more rhymes there would be 1,042, which would be quite a church full. If everyone would do their part, our church's attendance would be increased; but too many think, "Let George (*or someone else*) do it." George is worked to death. Please do your share in getting more people into church.