

The Wednesday Word, July 24, 2019: Ten Short Questions

The following questions are for believers who doubt their beliefs and believe their doubts. They worry about whether or not they are saved. But here's the truth, we all, at times, doubt our salvation. I identify with one old-time preacher who said "When I look at myself, I think it impossible that I may be saved. But when I look at Jesus, I know it's impossible that I could be lost."

It's one thing to doubt our salvation, but quite another to doubt our Saviour.

As we grow in grace and the knowledge of God (2 Peter 3:18), at times the Holy Spirit demolishes our pride and self-righteousness by withdrawing His sensible presence from us. In these seasons, we get an opportunity to see how hard our hearts remain against God. We get shocked to see how much of the rebel still loiters within us. The good news is, however, the ensuing feelings of self-doubt and despair combine to cause us to realise that the ultimate foundation of our safety and security is the Lord Jesus Himself.

Here are a few questions concerning assurance and safety.

1. Can you give your hearty and enthusiastic ascent to the following declaration? "There is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved, but that of Jesus only."
You can?
Then that's a proof of salvation.
2. Do you believe in the fullness and freeness of His salvation?
You do!
That's proof of salvation.
3. For redemption, does anything need to either be added to or subtracted from Christ's Finished Work?
You reply, "No indeed."
That's proof of salvation.
4. Have you been persuaded that you will try no other remedy, nor look to any other source for salvation than Christ crucified?
You reply that yes, you have been persuaded?
Then, that's proof of salvation.
5. Can you listen with indifference and unconcern if you hear derogatory things spoken against the Person and work of Jesus?
You can't?
That's proof of salvation.
6. When you hear Christ Jesus being blasphemed, does something stir within you that causes you to feel a measure of disgust? You are ready to declare "I neither can nor will hear the name of Jesus disparaged. It offends me to hear His lovely saving name being dragged through the mud like this."
Are you ready to stand up for Jesus?
You are?
That's proof of salvation.

7. Would anything give you more delight and satisfaction as Jesus walking into the room, smiling at you and saying, "I am your salvation"?
You reply that there's nothing would delight you more!
That's proof of salvation.
8. Are there ever at least some moments when listening to a sermon, or some testimony, or the singing of a hymn, or some Scripture being read and applied that there comes the thought ... Yes, Lord Jesus, you are precious?
You reply that this has in fact happened.
That's a proof of salvation.
9. Do you enjoy the company and fellowship of those who love the Lord Jesus, or do you despise and look down on those who gather in His lovely name?
You reply that, yes indeed, you love and appreciate the company of the Lord's people.
That's a proof of salvation.
10. Do you hesitate to use the word "wretch", to define yourself, or can you adopt it as the word that best describes you?
You reply, "Amazing grace that saved a wretch like me."
That's a proof of salvation.

These ten short questions give assurance of salvation. They point to things that accompany salvation. However, splendid and vital as they are, these proofs of salvation do not provide ultimate safety for the believer. Our shelter goes beyond these questions. Our resting place is Christ alone. It is in Him we are totally safe. If we, by faith, see and embrace the sufficiency of salvation in the Lord Jesus, we may be sure our election is of God (2 Peter 1:10).

Feelings are subjective; they neither save nor damn anyone. The truth is, no one can live before God with any measure of security based on emotions. But the Holy Spirit comes to us in the gospel and enables us to see Christ's person and experience for us as the foundation and fulness of all our hope and safety.

And that's the Gospel Truth!