**BIBLE DISCOURSE**

**01/10/2023 & 29/10/2023**

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**Topic: CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION TEACHINGS (3): ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

**Text**: **1Cor. 1:18; 15:1-3 1Jn. 1:1-4**

So far in our Christian Foundation Teachings, we have considered “Salvation”, explaining it as “the state of one’s sins being forgiven, and one justified and freed from the power of sin” (e.g. Lk.7:48, 50; 1Cor.1:18). We have also considered “New life in Christ”, explaining it as “having an entirely different, new and virtuous life, made possible by the Spirit of Christ which one receives when one is saved” (cons. Rom 8:3-4).

In the topic, “New Life in Christ”, we saw that if one must be credited with having new life in Christ, one must have had the following:- (i) transformation of character, (ii) new thoughts; (iii) new ambition/interest and (iv) new friendship and fellowship.

With the above, we now come to the next experience in the series of foundation experiences that a genuine Christian must have; “Assurance of Salvation”.

**1. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION DEFINED**

“Assurance of salvation” simply means, “being sure that one is a child of God, or that one’s name is written in the book of life” (Rom 8:16; e.g. Lk 10:20). It is that personal conviction of salvation distinct from that which the preacher, a Christian follow-up worker or other Christian told one.

The following Scriptures (and many others) testify to assurance of salvation: - Jn. 6:68-69; Rms. 8:16; 1Tim 1:12-16; 2Pt 1:16-21; Gal 2:16-21.

**2. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION, HOW?**

The way into an assurance of salvation can be illustrated this way: - If a person listened to their teacher, understood everything that was taught, and answered the questions that were asked in the examination correctly, the person will naturally have assurance the person has passed the examination (1Cor 15:1-11).

In the same vein, there will be assurance of salvation naturally in the heart where “new life” comprises transformed character, new thoughts, new ambition/interest, and new friendship and fellowship (1 Tim 1:12-16). This means that if one’s mind is always dwelling on things impure, untrue, immoral, dishonest, bad, and ungodly, one cannot have assurance of salvation (comp. Phil 4:8; Isa 32:17). Furthermore, neglecting to do restitutions that the Lord is urging one to do through, His Spirit can also cause lack of assurance of salvation.

The primary means of assurance of salvation is the witness of the indwelling Spirit of God in the heart. Once the Spirit of God is in one, the heart of the person will be made to have assurance of salvation (Rom 8:16; Gal 4:6). This is done by some level of awareness or strong impression created in the heart through the indwelling Spirit of God.

Apart from the above, another means of having or retaining assurance of salvation is by believing the word of God on the remission of **accidental** faults (1Jn 1:7; 2:1-2 comp. Lk 17:3-4). If doubt is not allowed, about the cleansing of these **occasional** faults such as bad temper, bad comments, or the like, as can be found in the unsanctified, assurance of salvation will always be retained in the heart. However, to avoid the ugly effect of besetting sins, one must strive to give them up and strive for sanctification (Heb. 12:2).

Having confidence in God and believing His word implicitly enhances the assurance of salvation. Also believing all doctrines of the Bible, including Giving and Receiving, and giving one-self to doing them, establishes the heart in the Lord and promotes assurance of salvation.