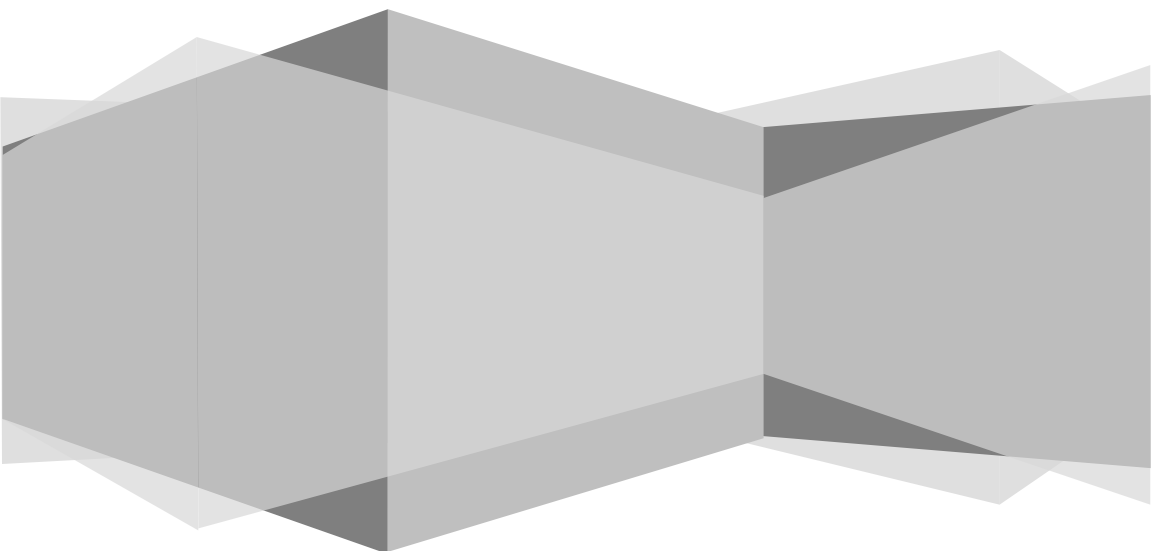


*For I through the law am dead to the law,  
that I might live unto God. I am crucified  
with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,  
but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I  
now live in the flesh I live by the faith of  
the Son of God, who loved me, and gave  
himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace  
of God: for if righteousness come by the  
law, then Christ is dead in vain.  
~ Galatians 2:19-21*

# “KNOWING”

## You Are Saved

Pastor Mike Callis



# The God Of All Glory

This book is dedicated to the only true and wise God who showed me great kindness and mercy through His Son Jesus Christ; and it is this same God who desires none to perish, but for all to come to the knowledge of truth; so that each one can have the blessed assurance of an eternal salvation.

*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*  
~ Isaiah 53:4

All scriptures used are from the King James Version

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*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*~ Isaiah 53:10*

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*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*  
~ Isaiah 53:5-6

## - Prelude -

Maybe you, or someone you know, has asked the question;  
*"How can I be saved, when I act the way I do?"*

There is no doubt that sin keeps us from God's best, and it keeps us from confidence in our salvation. When I read 1 Corinthians, I often find myself wondering how these people could be Christians; and yet there is the Apostle Paul calling them brethren. It can be easy to look at some of the antics of this first century church and wonder about their salvation; but then I look at my own life and realize that John said all unrighteousness is sin (v.5:17); and honestly, that does not bring a very warm and fuzzy feeling.

God has called each Christian to be a living sacrifice that brings honor and glory to His name through our righteous living in Christ; but sadly we can all fall short. The Apostle Paul knew our dilemma; for he had the same struggles. In Romans 7, Paul states that there was a war going on in his mind; and he knew that fully surrendering to the will of his Savior Jesus Christ was the only way to have victory; and I think it can be natural for us to question our salvation when we see sin in our life, or when we do not see the spiritual growth that we had hoped for.

I pray that as you read and study this book, your confidence and faith in the Lord will increase; and that each day you will walk in victory, knowing that you are redeemed, and that you are a child of the King of kings, and Lord of lords. God's abundant life doesn't simply begin in heaven; it begins at the very moment you confess Christ as Lord and Savior!

The first step in being on your way to victorious Christian living after salvation, is to have confidence in that salvation; and that confidence comes through the Word of the One who saved you. We must believe the truths of God's Bible over the lies of the devil.

If you find yourself constantly doubting your salvation, you will be operating with a divided mind; therefore making you unstable in all your ways (*James 1:6-8*). Many times, believers seek to judge their salvation experience based on emotion, or how they feel; and while the forgiveness of one's sin is a very emotional act, our emotion is not the guidepost by which we have assurance in our eternal destiny.

God is not the author of confusion (*1 Corinthians 14:33*), nor does He give us the spirit of fear (*2 Timothy 1:7*); but rather He desires us to have the kind of peace that causes a believer to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (*1 Peter 1:8*). This peace comes from the fact that Jesus Christ was, and is, the propitiation for our sin (*Romans 3:21-26*).

The work of Christ not only paid for our redemption on Calvary, but this sacrificial act set aside, or appeased, God's wrath from us. It's one thing to be forgiven, but the Christian is also "made right" in the eyes of a holy God. This act of grace through love, gives us a *peace with God*, and the *peace of God* (*Romans 5:1-11; Philippians 4:6-7*).

Since our Lord has promised not to forsake us; and since He provides us comfort through His Holy Spirit and His Bible, we can have the confidence that His promises are true in every area of our life. So as we begin to step out in faith, we will begin to better understand this abundant life that Christ desires for every believer; and we will better understand the truth contained in *Philippians 1:6*; but make no mistake, if we are failing to see spiritual growth as outlined in *1 John*, our confidence in salvation will not be as strong as it could be. This is why it is so important for each born-again believer to intentionally cultivate an ongoing deeper relationship with the One who saved their soul from hell.

Remember, a person who has been redeemed through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, ought to live, love, and serve with great confidence; for the One who saved them is eternal!

*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection*  
~ Romans 6:5

# CHAPTER 1

## 3 Reasons You Doubt Your Salvation

- **Reason #1: You are having trouble accepting the fact that “all” of your sin has been forgiven.**

This is a matter of faith and trust in God, that He is truthful. Throughout the Bible, God has forgiven liars, thieves, adulterers, murders, and all manner of sin. In fact, He has forgiven many people of the same sins you are struggling with right now. The willing sacrifice of God's only begotten Son is sufficient for all sin – including yours! Stop right now and read Hebrews 1:3 and Hebrews 7:25.

We must come by faith, believing that God is who He says He is; and that His Son is who He says He is (*Hebrews 11:6*). Jesus Christ was born in the flesh of a virgin; He lived for the purpose of dying for our sin; He physically rose from the tomb to show His power over death; He now sits on the right hand of the throne of our heavenly Father interceding on our behalf; and one

day soon, He will come again to receive all that are His, as He pronounces judgment over all creation (*Revelation 19-22*). Just as God spoke in Mark 9:7, we too must hear and believe in Jesus.

Our Lord Jesus would not have endured such pain and suffering only to leave your sin out. We are to believe in our heart, and confess with our mouth, that Jesus Christ is our Lord! (*Romans 10:9-13*)

When we doubt God's Word [the Bible], we will also doubt our salvation. The Bible tells us that the wisdom of this world is folly (*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*). It is an act of faith to believe God, even when it doesn't make sense to us. If you cannot accept the fact that Jesus died for your sin, how can you have assurance that you are saved?

- **Reason #2: You do not have a good understanding of God's word; therefore your emotions are dictating your "feeling" of being saved.**

This fallen world which we live in, is sensual (*James 3:15; 1 John 2:16*). Emotion is tied to everything; and often times the truth becomes blurred when there is no emotional response. Thankfully, our salvation is not tied to our feelings. Having a so-called "**bad day**" does not make you unsaved, no more than showing up at church with both hands raised makes you a Christian.

It is the truth of God's word that confirms, or denies, our salvation. John 3:15-21 tells us plainly, that if we believe on Jesus, we have eternal life; but if we do not, then we are already condemned.

The devil seeks to use discouragement, depression, tribulation, temptation, and all manner of hardship, to convince us that we are



unloved and wicked; and therefore unsaved. Unfortunately there are some churches and denominations who teach that unless you have some certain super-natural emotionally charged experience, or unless you are completely sinless, then you are not saved; this is devastating to many Christians. While it is true, that as Christians, we should be maturing in holiness, the fact remains that we are still weak in our flesh toward sin.

One reason many Christians doubt their salvation, is because of sin in their life; but this comes back to a lack of understanding of God's word. God tells us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and part of that growth is learning to trust Him during the trying of our faith (2 Peter 3:18; James 1:2-4; Romans 5:1-11).

Contrary to popular belief, God did not promise a rose garden on this earth to all those who become born-again; in fact, in John 16:33, Jesus said that in this life we will have trouble; but He also told us that we could have peace, and that we could be of good cheer, because He had already overcome the world. ***Our destination as believers is an eternal home in heaven with our Savior; but our goal is to be followers of Christ, so that we may be made into His likeness.*** Jesus had some pretty rough days here on earth, but He knew He was His Father's Son. Do not allow your feelings to override God's truth in your life (John 1:12).

- **Reason #3: You have doubt, because you are "really" unsaved.**

Doubt can be a good thing, if it causes us to evaluate our spiritual condition according to the truth of the Bible. God's Holy Spirit brings conviction for the purpose of helping lead us down a path of righteousness for God's own name sake.

The Bible tells us that He [Holy Spirit] does this in 3 main ways. In John 16:7-15 we see how Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a Helper, Comforter, or Advocate; for the purpose of guiding us into God's truth. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, **He would convict [convince, reprove] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.** In other words, the Holy Spirit **"causes us to see and understand"** right, wrong, and the consequences for both. He does this in an effort not only to bring us to an awareness that we need forgiveness, but also to help keep us on the straight and narrow after we receive salvation.

If we would only take a moment to listen, God's Spirit will open our hearts to the truth; and if we are sincere, we will receive answers to some tough questions. Ask yourself: "Do I really desire to turn from sin, and allow Jesus in my life?"; "Do I really want to surrender my ways and my will, to that of God's holy Word?"; "Do I really grasp the fact, that I have sinned, and unless I receive forgiveness from God, I will suffer an eternity of damnation in a devil's hell?".

You do not have to lie down in fear of God's wrath, if you allow the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ to be the payment for your sin. ***Everyone has sinned, and all who refuse Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will be condemned and perish eternally; but those who call upon the name of Jesus, shall be saved.***

One reason many cannot lay down at night with peace in their heart, is because they have no peace in their heart. Only salvation can make us "at peace" with God almighty; for God has already ordained that only through His Son Jesus, can we come to Him (*John 14:6*). As the old hymn says " There's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey". God has the plan, and we must humble ourselves to receive the salvation that He has planned for all those who believe by faith.

Neither good works, nor a good name, account for any righteousness. The only righteousness that is ever accounted unto us, is that of Jesus Christ Himself, when we confess Him as Lord and Savior. Do you really know Him? Jesus gave an ominous warning that there will be many who pass from this world without His saving grace (*Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23*). You do not have to fear; **YOU** can be saved today!

If you are ready to forsake sinful living, lay down your pride, and allow Jesus Christ to set you free from the bondage of sin, then contemplate these scriptures (*Romans 3:22-24, 5:8, 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 3:19-21; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18; John 1:12, 3:16; Mark 1:15; Acts 4:12*), and ask for God's grace to forgive you, to save you, and to keep you.

*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*  
~ Psalm 51:1-10

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

*~ 3 John 1:4*

## CHAPTER 2

### The Need For First John

The Apostle John wrote 1 John so that we who profess to be Christians, **“may know”** we are saved; and have confidence in our salvation; and in our Savior.

God is fully aware of our weaknesses and our doubts; and He wants to put markers along our path through His word to help build our confidence that we are growing spiritually; thereby causing us to believe that He is with us, and that He has saved us for His good purpose (*Ephesians 2:10*).

In 2 Peter 1:1-15, The Apostle Peter wants us to have the same confidence in our election [salvation] also; and he too wants us to see progress in our ongoing sanctification [spiritual growth]. Peter is fully aware of what it means to **“mess up”** in his walk with Christ. Peter has experienced God’s forgiveness and grace (*Mark 14:66-72; John 21:15-19*); and he wants us to remember those qualities that help build confidence in our relationship [salvation] with Christ as well.

Peter tells us that a Christian should start seeing certain qualities manifested in their life; because the Holy Spirit has already blessed every believer and provided them with all things needed for Godly living. Peter says that these qualities should be added one to the other; with the implication that they should all be present in our life at the same time as we mature.

*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

~ 2 Peter 1:5-9

Seeing that God is holy, and that He desires His children to be holy (1 Peter 1:16), it can be easy to see why we doubt our salvation when we do not experience this level of maturity in our life; but we must remember, **just as a baby cannot perform all the functions of an adult, neither can a new Christian match the maturity of one who has been faithfully devoted for years**; nor do we accept the fact that an adult should still continue to act as a child (1 Corinthians 13:11; Hebrews 5:11-6:3).

1 John 5:13 gives us the encouragement to read and understand this Book; for its purpose is to instill confidence in the believer. Just as Romans 8:16 and Colossians 1:26-27 fills our heart with joy and hope knowing that as believers, God is with us; and as Romans 10:17 promises that our faith will be increased as we hear and receive the Word; we must come to the conclusion that God desires His people to live with confidence and assurance.

*I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.  
~ 2 John 1:4*

## CHAPTER 3

### What Knowing Looks Like

The Apostle John seeks to give us insight into what a spiritually healthy growing Christian looks like. These truths not only serve as reminders of what we should desire to be, but they are also encouragers, proving to us that we are in the Family of God.

The following breakdown of the passages in 1 John is how I believe the Lord wanted me to share with those who may read this. I highlighted one verse in each section of scripture; then at the end of my commentary, the contextual passage is given. It is very important that you read each section of scripture, to fully understand the thoughts that the Lord's Word is trying to convey to us through the Apostle John; and I pray that you will find this book helpful, as you walk with confidence in your relationship with the Lord.

*For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.  
~ 2 Corinthians 13:4*

## A Life Of Joy

**1:4** – *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

Our joy is full when we have confidence in the power and majesty of our Savior. This Jesus that you have decided to put your faith in, is Eternal Life itself (*John 11:25-26*).

John gives us a personal proclamation of the One he describes as the Word of life; and this theme has also been carried over from the Apostle's writing in John 1:1-14. Many that stumble, have stumbled here. In fact, the Bible declares Jesus to be a stumbling block to some (*1 Corinthians 1:23; 1 Peter 2:8*).

We must understand some vital truths about the One in whom we have placed our faith:

- **Jesus is eternal** (*Micah 5:2; John 1:1-2; Revelation 1:8*);
- **Jesus was God manifested in the flesh** (*John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15, 2:9; Philippians 2:6-8*);
- **Jesus is the creator** (*John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2; Colossians 1:16-17*);
- **Jesus is God** (*Exodus 3:14; John 8:58; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22; Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 17:14; Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 2:8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; Isaiah 43:11; Acts 4:12; Isaiah 43:25; Mark 2:5-7; John 14:9*)

We do not place our faith in a fantasy, nor do we place it in someone without power and sovereignty; we know in whom we have believed, and His name is JESUS! (**v.1:1-4**)

*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

~ *John 8:58*

## Intentional Living

**1:7** – *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

**Constant sin in a Christian's life leaves them weak and unable to walk in victory;** but as we seek forgiveness from our transgressions, and seek to walk in the righteousness that God desires for us, it brings confidence that we are in fellowship with the Lord and His people.

While John encourages us to face the reality of living in a filthy fallen world, knowing that at times a believer can pick up some of that dirt (John 13:4-10), he does not condone a sinful lifestyle. The Apostle Paul also defines a separation between the believer and the unbeliever in Galatians 5:16-26.

Sin that is not dealt with, leads the believer into very dangerous territory. Sin causes our heart to become cold toward the Lord; and our faith begins to shrink. This places the believer very vulnerable to even greater deception (*Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:26-27; Romans 1:18-32*).

John tells us that we should confess our sins, since God desires to cleanse us and restore us to a right relationship with Him (*Romans 6:23*). The Christian who is concerned and honest about his walk, will see confession as a vital part of the spiritual maturing process. **(v. 1:5-2:2)**

*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*  
~ 2 Corinthians 13:5



## A Life Of Obedience

**2:5** – *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

It would be easy to doubt your own salvation when you seem to never have enough faith to carry out the commands of the Lord; and rightfully so, since Jesus shared this very truth.

*If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
~ John 14:15*

Having faith in Jesus Christ means that we trust Him; not only with our eternal soul, but with our daily life. There can only be one Lord of your life and any given time. The Apostle Paul said it would either be Jesus or self.

*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?  
~ Romans 6:16*

Jesus died so that we may live; and the best life for us, is the one He describes in the Bible. **The commands of God are not grievous;** in fact, Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:28-30 that His yoke is easy, and that His burden is light. As we obediently follow Him, we will find peace and rest for our soul.

It becomes easier to have confidence in your faith, when you see a pattern of obedience to God's word developing in your life. James 2:14-26 teaches us that faith is not a passive emotion; it's a pro-active sincere belief, because we have surrendered our will to that of God's. **(v.2:3-6)**

## True Biblical Love

**2:9** – *He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.*

As Christians see their heart become more loving and open to those around them, it brings a sense of confidence that they are truly maturing in the faith; and therefore they have confidence that they are truly saved.

The ability to love as God intended, cannot be achieved without the willingness to forgive; and without that willingness, we do not really have pure motives or the desire to see others succeed. In Hebrews 12:1 we are told to cast off anything that hinders our spiritual growth. ***If we hang on to bitterness, hatred, and pride, how can we develop compassion, mercy, and grace?***

We must release bitterness and unforgiveness; for as the Lord extended mercy and grace to us, we must learn to do the same; even with those who have hurt us. This "**new nature**", is a result of being born-again.

Hebrews 12:2-4 tells us to look at the example set forth by Jesus; though He was despised, He willingly died so that we may live. That, my friend, is pure love!

True salvation, will develop true biblical love in the life of every believer; and because we now have an eternal view of those around us, we choose to love even when we are mistreated. **(v.2:7-11)**

*For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?*  
~ Matthew 5:46

## Priorities Reveal Sincerity

**2:15** – *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

The priorities of our life are easily seen through our actions. The devotion of our time, talent, and treasure prove the loyalties of our heart.

*And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.  
~ Mark 7:20*

Loving the world can blind us; which makes it easy for us to forget that all we see and touch will fade away with God's coming judgment (2 Peter 3:8-14); but sadly we spend most of our time, energy, and thought life, focused on those things that will not exist in eternity. We can even do seemingly good and right activities; but in reality they are distractions to our devotion.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells us that God's will for our life must come first. It must come before our family, our career, and anything that may compete for God's glory.

*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.  
~ Luke 14:26-27*

Christ is not saying we must eliminate everything out of our life including our family; but He is trying to illustrate the sincerity of our heart when it comes to His Kingdom. Coming to the place in our life where we understand that this world is evil, sinful, and fallen, is not always pleasant. In our minds we can see many things that seem

good, or at least not too bad for us (*Jeremiah 17:9*); but Jesus said that there was only one thing that was good (*Mark 10:18*), and that was God alone.

In fact, the Bible reveals some very harsh truths in Romans 3:9-20. ***We are told none are righteous, none understand, none seek God, all are unprofitable, none are good, and that all are deceitful, full of cursing and bitterness, swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their ways, and they have not known peace, nor is there any fear of God.*** This is not easy hear; because we like to see ourselves as being better than others.

Seeing the total depravity of mankind can be disturbing; but coming to the realization that you are included in that group is devastating. Many will say that this does not describe them; yet God says our pride proves His point (*Romans 3:4*).

The Bible teaches that we can know whether or not we are truly a born-again child of God; and if the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is supposed to bring a new nature, then we should see that new nature developing in our lives, if we are to have some measure of confidence in our salvation (*2 Corinthians 5:17*).

Realizing our standard and God's standard are not the same, can be difficult; but a sincere heart will desire the truth (*Matthew 19:16-22*).

No one seeks a savior unless they realize they need to be saved. We are all sin sick (*Romans 3:23*), and the only cure is faith in Jesus Christ (*John 3:16-18*). The manifestation of that faith will be seen as we humbly repent of sin, and seek holiness (*John 15:5*). If our salvation truly resides within Jesus, why would we then seek to hold on to the things of this world? (***v.2:12-17***)

## Rooted In Truth

**2:24** – *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*

Being confident of God's truth, keeps us confident in His love; and it also keeps us from being deceived. **Being ignorant of God's holy Bible, not only makes one weak, but it also makes one vulnerable to the wiles of the devil.** Having a greater understanding and working knowledge of God's word, will bring less danger of us being deceived (*Hebrews 5:13-14*).

There is a concerted effort on Satan's part to deceive, confuse, and distract the elect using false teaching (*2 Corinthians 11:12-15*); and unless we are personally meditating on the Word (*2 Timothy 2:14-16*), we will fall victim to this evil. The Body of Christ gains discernment, or the ability to rightly judge, through the leading of the Holy Spirit (*John 16:13*) and the study of God's holy Bible; therefore, we must be all the more diligent knowing we will face many temptations (*1 Peter 5:6-10*).

**Yes, you are in a spiritual battle for the control of your heart and mind** (*Ephesians 6:10-18*); and it takes a consistent immersion in the Word of God for us to have confidence in divine truth. Jude starts off his epistle in v.3 by saying he had intended to write us a letter dealing with the salvation that we shared; but then he was compelled to write a letter of exhortation and warning. Jude understood the devastation that false teachers and false doctrines created. He tells us to **"keep yourselves in the love of God"**, for there is a real and eminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Staying in the true Word of God, keeps us confident that we are rooted in the truth, and abiding in Christ. (**v. 2:18-27**)

## Living With A New Nature

**2:28** – *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

The Lord's return should fill the believer's heart with joy. If the thought of God's return taking place this very moment troubles us as a Christian, then there is a hindrance in our relationship with Him; and when there is a hindrance, there is a lack of confidence.

The Apostle wants the reader to understand that the one whose life is marked by the practice of sin, **resembles the devil more than he does God** (*John 8:31-47*). John tells us that a holy seed [Holy Spirit] is planted within us at the moment of our salvation, and it desires righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that the Christian takes on a new nature at salvation; and if you are unable to see any change within yourself, then you need to honestly and sincerely seek the Lord (*Romans 6:1-14*).

Ephesians 2:1-10 gives us a good look at conversion. The Bible teaches us that though we were dead in sin, we were made alive by grace through faith; and it is this super-natural transformation that allows us to perform works of righteousness that God has already ordained. Good works follow salvation; they do not precede it; thereby bringing confidence that Jesus is truly alive within us! Please read Titus 3:3-8 for more confirmation of this truth.

Each day, week, month, and year, should bring confidence to the believer that God's Holy Spirit is at work in their life; because they, and those around them, can see spiritual maturity taking place. For many Christians, they fail to cultivate their relationship with Jesus; and their devotion does not grow deeper; which only opens the door of doubt, if they are really saved or not. (**v. 2:28-3:10**)

## A Precious New Family

**3:14** – *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

Knowing that you have been truly converted [born-again, saved, redeemed] is such a peaceful thought; and the Apostle John once again wants to show us another confidence building benchmark. John says that agape love, or **love born out of pure Godly motives**, is a quality that can only be found in the believer; since the love of an unbeliever is impure and leads to sin. The Apostle tells us that this kind of pure love will manifest itself in the life of the believer; not only in our thought life, but in our motives and deeds.

God has given mankind a great blessing called a conscience. Just as our physical body reveals problems through pain, our spirit man becomes aware, or convinced, of problems through God's Spirit. Though we may refer to it as guilt, you can be assured that conviction of the Holy Spirit is specific, seeking to bring the believer back to the straight and narrow (*Hebrews 4:12*); **while guilt from Satan is very general in nature, simply wanting you to feel worthless, unloved, and unsaved** (*Revelation 12:10*).

As the Holy Spirit awakens us to righteous thinking (*John 16:7-15*), He allows us to evaluate our manner of life and motives in light of God's Word; thereby giving us the opportunity to make adjustments [repentance]. When our conscience is clear before God, we have greater confidence in our prayers, and in our salvation; and as we see ourselves making sacrifices for those in our precious new family [Body of Christ], it becomes an encourager in our spiritual maturing process; because true sacrifice is only made on behalf of that which we truly care for. *Hebrews 12:2* is a great example of the agape love Christ has for us, as He joyfully went to Calvary. (**v. 3:11-24**)

## Ears That Hear

**4:6** – *We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

Jesus said in John 10:27 that His sheep [followers, believers] hear His voice. The Apostle said that those who know God [believers, Christians] are able to hear truth; and Jesus prayed in John 17:17 that God would make His believer's holy [sanctified, set apart for God's good purpose] through the Word. So not only can we see the importance of the Bible and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, **but we also see that a characteristic of a born-again individual** is one who is able to hear; and is one capable of discerning between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Why would Jesus tell us that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth, and why would the Apostle Paul tell Timothy to study the Bible, and to avoid useless talk? The answer is that ungodliness will increase unless a standard of truth is consistently applied.

Believers who are not intentional with God's Word will be unstable in all their ways, and easily deceived; therefore we must study God's Word to gain greater confidence of what we believe. Several times we find Jesus pointing out the fact, that hearing truth was a characteristic of those focused on God (*Revelation 13:9*).

John said our confession of the truth has a lot to say about us and our faith; and until you can receive God's Word by faith, you will be weak, vulnerable to attack, and lack confidence in your relationship with the Lord. If you are not sure about what you believe, how will you share the hope of Christ with another person (*1 Peter 3:15*)? That instability plays right into Satan's plan as he accuses you of not being saved. **(v. 4:1-6)**



## Living With A New Nature

**4:13** – *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

Having confidence that the Spirit of God dwells in us is very comforting; but when we fully understand this union between us and our Savior, we begin to experience the relationship He has intended. In John 15, Jesus tells us that we abide in Him and that He abides in us; and because of this union, we are able to bear much fruit [manifest righteousness].

Jesus goes on to tell us that the attribute of abiding faith, is that we would keep His commandments; one of which being that we love one another. In I John, the Apostle said that he was giving us no new commandment (2:3, 3:11), **but rather showing us an attribute of Christian character**; and that was for us to express love. Mercy, grace, and compassion are expressions of love; and since God “*is*” love, we that abide in Him as He is in us, should show forth love. John said that not only does this characteristic [love] prove that we are the children [saved] of God; it also removes fear of judgment, since Jesus is the propitiation for our sin.

In 4:20, John tells us that if we say we love God, but hate others, then we are liars in saying that we love God; and according to Romans 3:4 and Proverbs 3:5-6, we are much better off trusting God than ourselves (Luke 18:9-14).

God desires that every Christian's relationship with their Savior would cause them to be changed. A close walk will develop into biblical transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:5). As you see genuine love and care for others develop in your life, it builds confidence that you are truly saved; since you are personally living with a new nature. **(v. 4:7-21)**

## It's A Package Deal

**5:1** – *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

Unfortunately, many want God without Jesus; yet the Bible says this is impossible. In fact, John tells us plainly here in v.11-12 that Jesus is our eternal life. In John 14:6, Jesus said that He was the way, the truth, and the life; and that no one could go to the Father, unless they came through [abided in] Him. In Colossians 3:1-4, the Apostle Paul tells us that Christ “**is**” our life, and we are hid within Him; and since we are *risen* [born-again] with Him, we can be assured that we will appear with Him in glory. Paul goes on to tell us in 1 Corinthians 6:20 and 7:23, that we have been bought with a price [the shed blood of Jesus], and that we now belong to God. John tells us that to deny Jesus, is to reject God; therefore we must be confident in who this Jesus is.

John teaches conditional salvation - "only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God can overcome the world"; and this kind of victory only comes by having faith that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. This confidence makes you a witness for Christ; and ***being a witness for Christ should motivate us to willingly share with others the assurance and hope we have in our salvation.*** John said that those who believe on the Son of God, has the witness in themselves; and this corresponds to the Apostle Paul's message in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. It would be a shame for someone to have the knowledge of eternal salvation, and not share it.

The indwelling Holy Spirit knows full well who the Son of God is. The question you must ask yourself is: “Do I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God, and that He is my Lord and Savior?” Our eternity depends on how we answer. (**v. 5:1-12**)

## Revealing The Need

**5:13** – *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.*

Here we are at John's purpose for his epistle [letter] - "**that ye may know**". John wants to reaffirm some things in his closing, and to encourage us once again in our walk with the Lord.

In v.14-15, John tells us that having assurance of our salvation, brings us confidence in our prayer life; and he knows that effectual prayer is very powerful for the believer (*James 5:16*). He goes on to give us one reason for our prayer time, and that is for the struggling believers around us (v.16). John appears to be encouraging us to spend more time praying for the one who is struggling with sin, but yet desires to be holy, than the one who is simply in unrepented rebellion. Nevertheless, he does not outright forbid us to pray for the backslidden believer.

I Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-3; and James 5:16-20, may be a help as you personally deal with fellow believers caught in a sin struggle.

Through I John, you have seen an emphasis placed on sin, and how that sinful living should not be a consistent characteristic found in a Christian's life; since a Christian is supposed to have been converted from their old self to a new person in Christ. In the closing of this epistle, The Apostle once again wants to show us that a sin filled life is contrary to the new nature that has been given to the believer. He says that anything which strays from God's will, and truth, is unrighteous, sinful, and false; much in the same way idolatry is.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Paul speaks of those who have a form of godliness, but deny the power of God; and he says that we should turn away from such people, in much the same way John tells us to keep away from idols (v.21). Paul continues in 2 Timothy 3:10-13 to encourage young Timothy to pay close attention to the manner in which he [Paul] has lived. Once again proving that a manifestation of the hope that lies within us, should be seen by those around us.

It is hard to deny that a super-naturally transformed life is to look different; that's why we call it a conversion. And as we faithfully devote our self to the One which makes our calling and election sure, we can be confident that these Godly characteristics outlined in First John will become evident in our own life; and that my friend brings great confidence in your salvation.

As we understand the importance of filling our life with truth, and rejecting sin, we will see our confidence in Christ and His salvation soar. Consistent victory can only be gained by the one who is consistently confident in their salvation. **(v. 5:13-21)**

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*~ Philippians 2:8-11*

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

*~ John 20:27-28*

*For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*  
~ Hebrews 10:36

## CHAPTER 4

### Encouragement To Persevere

As you evaluate your life according to God's Word, you will see areas that bring confidence, and areas that still need improvement; but when you understand that the life of the mature Christian (which God desires all believers to be) takes time to develop, you will know that your failures and your immaturity are **“not”** signs of being out of the love of God, or even unsaved; but rather they are the marks of our old nature passing away, as our new person in Christ is being developed.

Nothing makes the old devil happier, then to see doubting, defeated, and discouraged Christians. Satan patrols the earth like a roaring lion looking for the weak and the stragglers; for they are the easiest prey to devour (*1 Peter 5:6-11*). His mission is to kill, steal, and destroy; which is opposite of your Savior (*John 10:10*). Satan seeks to kill our motivation; to steal our joy; and to destroy our faith; and the easiest way to accomplish this, is to convince us that our salvation is not real. He will point to our sin, our failures, and our past, as benchmarks of an unsaved individual; but if you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, ***you must quit listening to the lies of the devil, and start believing in the promises of God!***

As you read, re-read, and study the Book of I John, and the rest of the Bible, your faith will be increased; and you will find the confidence and assurance that each believer should have concerning their salvation. May God bless you richly as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

~ Titus 3:3-8

*Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.*

~ Hebrews 10:35-36

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

~ Romans 10:17

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

~ 2 Peter 3:18

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ~ Matthew 16:15-18*

# CHAPTER 5

## Knowing Your God

### Old Testament Names Of God

**ELOHIM**.....Genesis 1:1, Psalm 19:1  
meaning "God", a reference to God's power and might.

**ADONAI**.....Malachi 1:6  
meaning "Lord", a reference to the Lordship of God.

**JEHOVAH--YAHWEH**.....Genesis 2:4  
a reference to God's divine salvation.

**JEHOVAH-MACCADDESH**.....Exodus 31:13  
meaning "The Lord thy sanctifier"

**JEHOVAH-ROHI**.....Psalm 23:1  
meaning "The Lord my shepherd"

**JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH.....**Ezekiel 48:35  
meaning "The Lord who is present"

**JEHOVAH-RAPHA.....**Exodus 15:26  
meaning "The Lord our healer"

**JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU.....**Jeremiah 23:6  
meaning "The Lord our righteousness"

**JEHOVAH-JIREH.....**Genesis 22:13-14  
meaning "The Lord will provide"

**JEHOVAH-NISSI.....**Exodus 17:15  
meaning "The Lord our banner"

**JEHOVAH-SHALOM.....**Judges 6:24  
meaning "The Lord is peace"

**JEHOVAH-SABBAOTH.....**Isaiah 6:1-3  
meaning "The Lord of Hosts"

**JEHOVAH-GMOLAH.....**Jeremiah 51:6  
meaning "The God of Recompense"

**EL-ELYON.....**Genesis 14:17-20, Isaiah 14:13-14  
meaning "The most high God"

**EL-ROI.....**Genesis 16:13  
meaning "The strong one who sees"

**EL-SHADDAI.....**Genesis 17:1, Psalm 91:1  
meaning "The God of the mountains or God Almighty"

**EL-OLAM.....**Isaiah 40:28-31  
meaning "The everlasting God"



## **Names of Jesus**

**Advocate** (1 John 2:1)  
**Almighty** (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18)  
**Alpha and Omega** (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)  
**Amen** (Rev. 3:14)  
**Apostle of our Profession** (Heb. 3:1)  
**Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins** (1 John 2:2)  
**Author of Life** (Acts 3:15)  
**Author and Perfecter of our Faith** (Heb. 12:2)  
**Author of Salvation** (Heb. 2:10)  
**Beginning and End** (Rev. 22:13)  
**Blessed and only Ruler** (1 Tim. 6:15)  
**Bread of God** (John 6:33)  
**Bread of Life** (John 6:35; 6:48)  
**Bridegroom** (Mt. 9:15)  
**Capstone** (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)  
**Chief Cornerstone** (Eph. 2:20)  
**Chief Shepherd** (1 Pet. 5:4)  
**Christ** (1 John 2:22)  
**Creator** (John 1:3)  
**Deliverer** (Rom. 11:26)  
**Eternal Life** (1 John 1:2; 5:20)  
**Gate** (John 10:9)  
**Faithful and True** (Rev. 19:11)  
**Faithful Witness** (Rev. 1:5)  
**Faith and True Witness** (Rev. 3:14)  
**First and Last** (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)  
**Firstborn From the Dead** (Rev. 1:5)  
**Firstborn over all creation** (Col. 1:15)  
**Gate** (John 10:9)  
**God** (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5)  
**Good Shepherd** (John 10:11,14)  
**Great Shepherd** (Heb. 13:20)

**Great High Priest** (Heb. 4:14)  
**Head of the Church** (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)  
**Heir of all things** (Heb. 1:2)  
**High Priest** (Heb. 2:17)  
**Holy and True** (Rev. 3:7)  
**Holy One** (Acts 3:14)  
**Hope** (1 Tim. 1:1)  
**Hope of Glory** (Col. 1:27)  
**Horn of Salvation** (Luke 1:69)  
**I Am** (John 8:58)  
**Image of God** (2 Cor. 4:4)  
**Immanuel** (Mt. 1:23)  
**Judge of the living and the dead** (Acts 10:42)  
**King Eternal** (1 Tim. 1:17)  
**King of Israel** (John 1:49)  
**King of the Jews** (Mt. 27:11)  
**King of kings** (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16)  
**King of the Ages** (Rev. 15:3)  
**Lamb** (Rev. 13:8)  
**Lamb of God** (John 1:29)  
**Lamb Without Blemish** (1 Pet. 1:19)  
**Last Adam** (1 Cor. 15:45)  
**Life** (John 14:6; Col. 3:4)  
**Light of the World** (John 8:12)  
**Lion of the Tribe of Judah** (Rev. 5:5)  
**Living One** (Rev. 1:18)  
**Living Stone** (1 Pet. 2:4)  
**Lord** (2 Pet. 2:20)  
**Lord of All** (Acts 10:36)  
**Lord of Glory** (1 Cor. 2:8)  
**Lord of lords** (Rev. 19:16)  
**Man from Heaven** (1 Cor. 15:48)  
**Mediator of the New Covenant** (Heb. 9:15)  
**Mighty God** (Isa. 9:6)  
**Morning Star** (Rev. 22:16)  
**Offspring of David** (Rev. 22:16)

**Only Begotten Son of God** (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)  
**Our Great God and Savior** (Titus 2:13)  
**Our Holiness** (1 Cor. 1:30)  
**Our Husband** (2 Cor. 11:2)  
**Our Protection** (2 Thess. 3:3)  
**Our Redemption** (1 Cor. 1:30)  
**Our Righteousness** (1 Cor. 1:30)  
**Our Sacrificed Passover Lamb** (1 Cor. 5:7)  
**Power of God** (1 Cor. 1:24)  
**Precious Cornerstone** (1 Pet. 2:6)  
**Prophet** (Acts 3:22)  
**Rabbi** (Mt. 26:25)  
**Resurrection and Life** (John 11:25)  
**Righteous Branch** (Jer. 23:5)  
**Righteous One** (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)  
**Rock** (1 Cor. 10:4)  
**Root of David** (Rev. 5:5; 22:16)  
**Ruler of God's Creation** (Rev. 3:14)  
**Ruler of the Kings of the Earth** (Rev. 1:5)  
**Savior** (Eph. 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:20)  
**Son of David** (Lk. 18:39)  
**Son of God** (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14)  
**Son of Man** (Mt. 8:20)  
**Son of the Most High God** (Lk. 1:32)  
**Source of Eternal Salvation for believers** (Heb. 5:9)  
**The One Mediator** (1 Tim. 2:5)  
**The Stone the builders rejected** (Acts 4:11)  
**True Bread** (John 6:32)  
**True Light** (John 1:9)  
**True Vine** (John 15:1)  
**Truth** (John 1:14; 14:6)  
**Way** (John 14:6)  
**Wisdom of God** (1 Cor. 1:24)  
**Word** (John 1:1)  
**Word of God** (Rev. 19:13)

## **Prayers of the Bible**

- **Christ's Prayer** - *John 17*
- **The Lord's Example of Prayer** - *Matthew 6:9-15*
- **The Tax Collector's Prayer** - *Luke 18:13*
- **Habakkuk's Prayer** - *Habakkuk 3:2-19*
- **The Prayer of Ezra** - *Ezra 9:5-15*
- **Daniel's Prayer for the Captive Jews** - *Daniel 9:4-19*
- **Hezekiah's Prayer when Sick** - *Isaiah 38:2-8*
- **The Prayer of Jabez** - *1 Chronicles 4:10*
- **Elijah's Prayer at Mount Carmel** - *1 Kings 18:36-39*
- **Solomon's Prayer of Dedication** - *1 Kings 8:22-30*
- **David's Prayer of Thanks** - *2 Samuel 7:18-29*
- **Abraham's Prayer for Sodom** - *Genesis 18:23-25*
- **Stephen's Prayer at His Stoning** - *Acts 7:59-60*
- **Prayer for Spiritual Growth** - *Ephesians 3:14-21*
- **Prayer for Knowing God's Will** - *Colossians 1:9-12*
- **Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom** - *Ephesians 1:15-23*
- **Prayer for Partners in Ministry** - *Philippians 1:3-11*

*Everything we do in life is always easier when we have confidence; and living the Christian life is no different.*

*Knowing your purpose, and having instructions for that purpose, is vital; but many believers struggle with whether or not their purpose is real.*

*They have made a confession of faith in Jesus; and yet their life is not reflecting the truths they see and hear in God's Word. This only brings discouragement and defeat; which leaves the promised abundant life unfulfilled; and it leaves them feeling unsaved.*

*The Book of 1 John was written so that Christians may have confidence in their salvation; and by the very grace of God, you too can have assurance.*

*May God greatly bless you, as you search His inerrant Word for truth, comfort, and wisdom; and remember, YOU can know that YOU are saved!*

*~ Pastor Mike Callis*