

Biblical Assurance Of Your Eternal Destiny

You are someone who says, "Jesus is my Lord", "I believe in God", "I love Jesus" or just someone who identifies with Christianity, believing that they will be welcomed into Heaven.

*But, how do you **know** you are saved from your sins?*

How can you be sure that you are going to Heaven?

Thankfully God, writing through Apostle John, has written an entire book for this express purpose. [1 John 5:13](#) states (emphasis mine),

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life.*

By following through 1 John's tests, you'll be able to fulfill the command to "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves" ([2 Cor 13:5](#)).

Benefits

If you do pass the tests, then you'll be a Christian who is more confident, more bold, and who has more trust in Jesus, because you'll know Biblically - not emotionally or through an ambiguous personal experience - that you're a Christian. Also, John states another purpose for his writing, which would be fulfilled if his hearers (including you) passed the tests, that "your joy may be full" ([1 John 1:4, NKJV](#)) If you don't pass the test, then you can be set free from your deception which others or yourself have placed upon you by submitting yourself to God for His adoption into His family and transforming work.

False Assurance (of being saved)

There are two schools of thought on this issue. One is, you "believe" in Jesus ([John 3:36](#)), and confess with your mouth that He's Lord ([Romans 10:9](#)). As soon as you "believe" (pray the sinner's prayer), you are instantly saved by God ([John 5:24](#)). This is deficient in several areas, and thousands are "assured" of their salvation, then go on to live like devils, never changing, never showing their new heart, new desires, new Holy Spirit, and new life.

Clearly if God has promised a new heart ([Eze 36:26](#)), to wash them clean ([Eph 5:26](#)), to break the power of sin over their lives ([Rom 8:2](#)), and to sanctify them ([Heb 13:12](#)) etc., and you cannot see this happening, then God could not have saved them.

To add insult to injury, they are then counseled to make sure they "really" "believed", as if it were up to their own faith to get saved, rather than losing trust and faith in themselves and embracing Jesus wholeheartedly (real belief is a full trust in Jesus, which necessitates a full denial of self: [Luke 9:23](#), [Matthew 16:24-25](#), [Mark 8:34-35](#)).

Biblical Assurance

The second major belief regarding assurance is that while it certainly takes believing in Jesus, belief is not just intellectual (repeat these lines after me), it's of the entire heart ([Luke 9:61-62](#), [Luke 18:39](#), [Luke 18:22](#), [Luke 18:28](#)). On conversion God promises to do certain things for every believer, such as breaking the power of sin over a person's life ([Romans 8:2](#)). If you can see these things happening (that only God can do), then you can know that a person's confession of faith is genuine. Apostle John spells them out for us "so that you may know that you have eternal life" "that your joy may be complete".

Take the Test

Please answer the following questions with a humble attitude.

Test of Your Affiliation

Test 1 of 9

1 [John 2:18-19](#) says,

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us."

If you aligned yourself with Christianity, but then fell away for some reason, John states here that you "did not really belong". These people are against Christ still - what John terms "antichrists" (not Anti-Christ, but simply a person against Christ). Christians belong with other Christians, as they are the only ones having been adopted into God's family. Jesus states it this way, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" ([Luke 9:62](#)). If you're longing for your old life, you don't belong

1 [John 2:22-23](#) says,

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist-he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

And what does it mean to deny that Jesus is the Christ? The Christ is the person whom the Old Testament kept talking about, prophesied to be the Savior of the world through taking God's wrath and punishment that we deserve on the Cross, such as in Isaiah 53. The Jews, for instance, deny that Jesus was the Christ and are still waiting for the Messiah. They then have no Savior whatsoever.

Questions:

(Be honest with yourself!)

Can you see that there is more distance between you and your non-Christian friends now, and less distance between you and your Christian friends?

Yes/No

Do you desire to go back to some or all of the life that you lived prior to being converted?

Yes/No

Do you acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ - the Savior ([Luke 2:11](#)), Messiah ([John 1:41](#)), King of kings ([1 Tim 6:15](#)), Lord and God over the whole universe including yourself, and the Atoning Sacrifice ([1 John 4:9-10](#)) for your sins?

Yes/No

Test of Your Service

Test 2 of 9

1 [John 2:3-6](#) says,

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 [John 5:3](#) says,

This is love for God: to obey his commands.

[Colossians 3:17](#)

And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

There is no middle ground, all of those who confess to be Christians and yet do not obey God are liars, "and the truth is not in (them)". The basic commands are to pray ([1 Timothy 2:8](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#); [Luke 11:2](#)- "when you pray", not "if"); do what Jesus wants you to do and not what you want to do ([Matthew 16:24](#); [Matthew 8:22](#)); praise and worship God ([Matthew 22:37](#); [John 4:24](#)); witness/evangelize/tell others about Jesus and their need for Him ([Matthew 28:19](#); [Mark 16:15](#)); and fellowship with other believers ([Hebrews 10:25](#)); and as discussed in the first test, the Test of Your Affiliation).

Is this legalistic? Well if it were, then John was a legalist! But the legalist will obey God out of a sense of duty, whereas a true convert will obey God out of love for Him.

The legalist will feel that the things he is commanded to do is like work - he has no real desire to do it, but he'll do it because he'll be rewarded with Heaven afterwards.

But the true convert will obey because he wants to give God glory, desires to please God, wants to be around God, and wants to be like God.

Questions:

Do you pray to God regularly, and do you desire to pray more and/or just love praying?

Yes/No

Do you pray for only your needs, or do you also pray for the needs of others?

What is the significance of desiring prayer?

Do you praise God outside of organized meetings, alone, on a regular basis?

Yes/No

Why "alone"? Why is that important?

God wants to know you one on one in the secret place. He wants for you to learn to recognize His voice.

John 10:3-5

To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Can you see more and more of your life being affected by what God wants you to do (because you ask and obey Him more and more), rather than what you want to do?

Yes/No

Matthew 6:6

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Do you witness/evangelize, with words - not just your 'lifestyle' - on a regular basis?

Yes/No

Why is witnessing with your lifestyle only, not obeying God's commands?

I support Christian missionaries/evangelists - does that count?

Test of Your Spiritual Witness

Test **3** of 9

1 [John 3:24](#) says,

And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

1 [John 4:13](#) says,

We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

1 John 5:10 says,
Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart.

There is this inward spiritual witness, which is a confirmation of your conversion. It's not a feeling or an emotion. It's a knowing like you know you're at your computer and not outside, or knowing that you exist, except it's the Holy Spirit telling your spirit that you've been adopted into God's family.

It is hard to find words to explain...what the children of God experience. But perhaps one might say (desiring any who are taught of God to correct, to soften or strengthen the expression) the testimony of the Holy Spirit is an inward impression on the (human spirit) soul, whereby the Spirit of God directly witnesses to my spirit that I am a child of God; that Jesus Christ hath loved me, and given Himself for me, and that all my sins are blotted out, and I, even I, am reconciled to God.

*As no one knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man that is in him; so that manner of the things of God knows no one, save the Spirit of God. We know that the Spirit of God does give a believer such a testimony of his adoption. While that testimony is present in the soul, **the believer can no more doubt the reality of his son-ship than he can doubt the shining of the sun**, while it stands in the full blaze of its beams. Is not this something **immediate and direct**, not the result of reflection or argumentation? Does not **this Spirit cry, 'Abba Father' in our hearts** the moment He is given, before any reflection or reasoning*

whatever? And is not this the plain natural sense of the words, which strikes anyone as soon as he hears them? All these texts then, in their now obvious meaning, describe a direct testimony of the Spirit.

The Spirit Himself bore witness to my spirit, that I was a child of God, and gave me evidence hereof, and I immediately cried, Abba Father! And this I did before I reflected on, or was conscious of any fruit of the Spirit. It was from this testimony received (directly as the witness of the Spirit to my heart) that love, joy, peace and the whole fruit of the Spirit flowed...for I heard: "Thy sins are forgiven! Accepted thou art!" I listened, and heaven sprung up in my heart.

Questions:

Have you had the witness of God to your inner person, your spirit, that you have been converted?

Yes/No

Test of Your Unworldliness

Test 4 of 9

1 John 2:15-17 says,

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world.

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

The 'world' in question is the world system. A sinful man craves worldly things, that is, fame, fortune, "just" this new [insert latest gadget here], holidaying, an easy life, full health, security and the like. Yet a Christian desires God's fame much more than their own ([Matthew 4:8-10](#)); they are content with what they have been given ([1 Timothy 6:6-8](#)); they are not lazy or irresponsible but rather industrious and diligent ([Proverbs 13:4; 21:5; 18:9](#)); and they know that hard times give good character and should not be despised ([James 1:2-3](#)).

A worldly person lusts or strongly desires things that he/she does not have, or dressed-down women/men, and is generally not content with life, wanting more. Yet we are commanded to be content ([1 Timothy 6:6-8](#)), and even lust in your thoughts is wrong ([Matthew 5:27-30](#)).

A worldly person boasts of all that he has achieved, rather than humbling themselves and attributing their gain to Christ.

Questions:

Are you beginning to dislike previously liked celebrities and what they stand for, and starting to (more and more) love godly men and woman?

Yes/No

Can you see in your life that you need less - are you finding that you don't need that better job, that bigger car or house, that better education, that new gadget, a better significant other? Write down these areas or others where you can see that you've become more content before answering the question.

Yes/No

Do you believe that God will look on you more favorably

because of the things you've done?
Yes/No

Test of Your Righteousness

Test 5 of 9

[1 John 3:4-10](#) says,

*Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might **take away our sins**. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. **No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.** Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. **No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.** This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.*

Some people believe that they can be both Christian and also continue to live in unrighteousness. After all, what about the Corinthians - one of them "had his father's wife" ([1 Cor 5:1](#)); or Paul's confession that "the good that I will to do, I do not do" (Romans 7) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing." ([Romans 7:19](#)). But John emphatically declares this is not possible. The tense in the Greek is present continuous such that the sin he's referring to is habitual sin, ongoing sin, continuous, uncontrollable sin. If you're in that kind of sin, you've neither

"seen him or known him".

John declares here that Jesus "appeared so that he might take away our sins", and Paul adds, "how can we who died to sin still live in it" ([Romans 6:2](#)). So if sin has mastery over you such that your life is dominated by sinful behaviours, attitudes and choices - if that power of sin has not been broken over your life: "anyone who does not do (on a habitual basis) what is right is not a child of God". Paul states it this way in [Romans 8:2](#)) "through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death".

Every believer is always free from the law of sin - it does not control them, although they may unwillingly or accidentally fall into it. And if it were accidental, they are disgusted, and pretty quickly get out of it, humbling themselves again before God and pledging for His help to get rid of it.

Questions:

(Be honest with yourself! Data is stored temporarily for your eyes only. This also means you can go back and change your answers.)

For any sin that you have been involved in, can you say that your heart has been changed about it - that you now hate the sin?

YesNo

Have you experienced freedom from at least some sin in your life - are you able to control that which once had control over you?

YesNo

Test of Your Agape Love

Test 6 of 9

[1 John 2:9-11](#) says,

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the

light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1 John 3:14-15 says,

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

1 John 4:20 says,

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Hate: 1. Dislike intensely. 2. The emotion of intense dislike. 3. A feeling of dislike so strong that it demands action. (WordNet, Princeton University, June 2010)

1 John 3:16-20 says,

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Questions:

Do you strongly dislike another Christian (be honest)?

Yes/No

For those Christians who you disagree with, do you do to them as you would have them do to yourself (love them)? Write down examples of what you've done recently before answering the question.

Yes/No

Have you acted out the love that you say you have in giving to another's needs, whether food, clothing, shelter or other need (not want/desire), wherever you've seen this need?

Yes/No

Test of Your Nature

Test 7 of 9

1 [John 1:5-7](#) says,

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Like 'The Test of Your Righteousness' (5.), this test covers your ongoing walk. Yes, a Christian can sin (see 8. Confession); a Christian can also fall pretty heavily; but a Christian absolutely cannot walk - which is continual, deliberate action as opposed to an accident - in sin. "If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie".

A person who walks in darkness thinks a swim in sewerage is like a swim in the local, fresh, clean swimming pool. A person who walks in the light might somehow fall into sewerage, but then out of disgust immediately tries to get

out, and then cleans himself. The Christian hates sin, just like the rest of the family (such as God) he's been brought into. The person who believes him or herself to be a Christian and yet justifies walking in sin is a "(liar) and (does) not live by the truth".

Questions:

When you sin, do you immediately hate that action and feel the need to confess your sin to Jesus and seek forgiveness?

Yes/No

When you sin, if the situation is not rectified immediately, do you feel a continuous need to rectify the situation through forgiveness/confession or whatever is necessary?

Yes/No

Do you work against sin in your life, seeking to get rid of it? Write down some examples before answering the question.

Yes/No

Test of Your Confession

Test 8 of 9

1 John 1:8-10 says,

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

This is absolute, it's not optional. All Christians acknowledge their sinful ways. Confession is not something we do once, then

get converted and never do again. We go on sinning too: John says here both if we claim to have not sinned - in the past - and also if we claim to (now) be without sin - in the present tense.

Questions:

(Be honest with yourself! Data is stored temporarily for your eyes only. This also means you can go back and change your answers.)

Has there ever been a time in your life when you would have considered yourself to be a bad person and/or in need of a true and real hope?

Yes/No

Do you confess to the Lord (not the priest, because he did not take your punishment and nor was any kind of sacrifice for your sins) your sins on a regular basis?

Yes/No

Do you see your life getting purified from these sins that you are confessing / have confessed? Yes/No

Test of Your Eulogy

Test 9 of 9

1 John 4:15 says,

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

1 John 5:5 says,

Who is it that overcomes the world?

Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Romans 10:9 says,

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A eulogy is a formal expression of praise, particularly for someone who has died recently. Now Jesus did die, but He of course also then rose from the dead.

Bad Interpretation

Acknowledgement that Jesus is the Son of God and Lord, and that He died and rose again. This is the usual test that most are familiar with - yet as you can now see there are many more tests that if you fail at, it is unlikely that you have actually been 'born again' or converted. Imagine if you only had to acknowledge a few things about God - Satan himself would pass, because he certainly acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, and certainly acknowledges the Truth of the Bible. But he doesn't obey it or bow down to it. There is great need to be familiar with the historical context of this confession of Jesus Christ. Muslims today would get it, but because we are in a free country where you're not killed for your faith, we don't get it.

True Interpretation

The Romans were the rulers in this day and age, having conquered most of the known world. Due to many different nations and different religions being under their sway, it was difficult to unify them. In order to overcome this, various Caesars instituted a Caesar-worship. All the people under them would be required to say (confess) that Caesar was Lord, which meant, God of gods, or King of kings. The people after saying this were then free to worship whoever or whatever they worshipped. Of course for a Christian, to put Caesar above their God was absolutely out of the question. So the True Christian would not confess that Caesar was Lord, but rather that Jesus was Lord. In this case, they would immediately be put to death

or put in jail for the Gladiator ring (certain death). I said that the Muslims would get it - because if they said to their family that they were Christians their very own family would disown them and hunt them down to the death if they did not recant. This fear occurs even in Western countries. Now read your verse again, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord'". Do you also see how this fits so much better with the other commands that Jesus says to non-believers to, "take up your cross and follow me" ([Matthew 16:24](#)), deny yourself "daily" ([Luke 9:23](#)), "except you repent you will likewise perish" ([Luke 13:1-3](#)), rather than some mere confession which would then contradict these commands?

Questions:

Are you trusting in the fact that at least one point in your life (but perhaps two or more) you prayed a prayer, confessing Jesus is Lord and 'accepting' Him into your heart?

Yes/No

Are you trusting in your complete, continuous **surrender** (not a decision) to Him, acknowledging that He is in control (His Lordship) over everything that you do every day?

Yes/No