**THE UNCERTAINTY POSITION**

***I John 5:13***

Sunday School Lesson 3

*Answers to Questions & Misconceptions About Salvation*

08/04/2019

**Introduction:** As a believer presents the Gospel message to the unsaved, there is a very common response that they may receive. That response is one of uncertainty. People will make statements like the following one: “I’m just not sure that anyone can really know that they are going to Heaven.” This mentality provides a sad state of life. There is no hope for those who are living by the uncertainty principle. Often, these people believe in God, and they may even have a general understanding of the Gospel message. Simply, the problem is their lack of faith. They do not see faith as something that is able to give them certainty. As a result of this, they will not commit to one set path for Heaven. Instead, they tend to want to leave their options open and try a variety of avenues with the hope that one of them will be enough to get them into Heaven. There are also some who hold to the uncertainty position because they have never been presented with a clear presentation of the Gospel from the Word of God. They have heard varying opinions on the matter, so they figure that no one really knows the correct path. These are the easiest to witness to because the soul winner just needs to make a clear Biblical presentation to them. During this lesson, we will observe some Biblical responses to help those with the uncertainty position.

1. THE UNCERTAIN PERSON NEEDS TO SEE THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION THAT THE BIBLE OFFERS TO EVERYONE.
2. **We can show them that Jesus Christ and the Word of God give us a promise that we can know that we are saved (1 John 5:12-13; John 5:24, 10:9; Romans 10:9).** The most frequent verses used to show the assurance of salvation are found in 1 John 5. The Bible tells us that we may know that we have eternal life. That does not leave any room for uncertainty. In John 5 and John 10, Jesus Himself gave assurance of salvation. He told His followers that they “shall be saved” and that they “hath eternal life.” Again, both of these show the certainty that we ought to have in our salvation. Notice that Jesus did not say that we will have eternal life. He said that believers already have eternal life now. We don’t even have to wait for it. While we are daily moving toward that earthly appointment of death, we understand that death is just the vehicle used to get us to the Promised Land. Death does not have the same meaning for us that it has for the unsaved people of the world. They can enjoy eternal life, as well, if they are just willing to put their faith in God’s promise of salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. **We can show them the confidence that we can have in the promises of the Lord (Hebrews 10:23; Ephesians 4:30; 2 Peter 3:9; John 14:2; Romans 8:35-39).** Now that we have shown them that the Lord says we can know that we are saved, we must also show them that the Lord always follows through on His promises. This is what allows us to have surety in our salvation. A promise is only as good as the person who made the promise. We cannot always have the same confidence in the word of others because they will sometimes let us down. God, on the other hand, has a perfect track record. If He says that He will do it, we know that it will happen. Hebrews 10 tells us that we can hold fast to our faith without wavering because the Lord is faithful. Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for us. Romans 8 tells us how impossible it is to separate the believer from the love of God that has drawn us to salvation through Jesus Christ. Given the Lord’s perfect credibility, there is no reason for us to doubt when it comes to salvation.
4. **We can remind them that God is not One who wants us to live in doubt, confusion, or uncertainty (Luke 12:29; Hebrews 11:6; Genesis 3:1; 1 Corinthians 14:33; James 1:5; 1 John 4:1).** Some unbelievers ponder to themselves why God made it so difficult for man to know how to be saved. They see all these different ideas about salvation, and they are very confused on what to believe. As we show them the certainty of God’s way of salvation, we can help them understand that it is not God who wants them to be full of doubt and confused. Satan is the one who seeks to confuse and deflect from all of the Truth that we have in God’s Word. Jesus repeatedly admonished His disciples because of their uncertainty. He wanted them to be confident in the work that they were doing. The Lord gave us His Word as a means for us to know the answer of salvation. He says that if you lack wisdom, you need only to go to Him and ask for it. The Lord is not withholding our confidence because He wants us to live in fear and doubt. If we are lacking in confidence, it’s because we haven’t trusted in Him.
5. **We can show them that there is an official record kept (Revelation 13:8; Revelation 21:27).** If there is still any doubt regarding the surety of Heaven, the witness can also show the unbeliever that a record is being kept in Heaven. The book of Revelation tells us that all believers will have their names recorded in the Lamb’s book of life. There should be an added confidence when one considers that there is a physical, written record of those who will be allowed into Heaven. This tells us that there is a specific point in which our names are written in the book, based upon when we trusted the Lord as our personal Saviour.
6. THE UNCERTAIN PERSON MAY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT ASSURANCE DOES NOT COME THROUGH SOME FORM OF EMOTIONAL VALIDATION.
7. **We can show them that joy is the only universal reaction to salvation (1 Peter 1:8; Matthew 13:20; Acts 16:34; Jeremiah 17:9).** In today’s society of new age evangelicalism, some struggle with the idea of assurance because of their feelings. They will say, “I just don’t feel like I am or can be saved.” This is because they see others who have a very emotional response to salvation, and that leads them to believe that the emotional person has a sense of assurance that others do not experience. Perhaps, others hear stories from people who talk about how different they felt after being saved. Certainly, there is a change in our “feelings” after we have received salvation; however, we must be careful not to overemphasize this change in a way that would make salvation something other than a decision of faith. In looking at the Word of God, the only consistent response we see among converts is that they were all joyful after receiving salvation. This is an inward reaction that may manifest itself in different ways outwardly. Sometimes, we cry tears of joy. Other times, we are filled with much joyful laughter.
8. **We can warn them that there may be times where our joy is not as full as it should be (Hebrews 12:11; 1 John 1:4).** Knowing that joy is the response to salvation, some believers are led to doubt because they do not have joy in their current state. They had joy when they first trusted in Christ, but that joy seems to have evaporated now. They should understand that they are not the only Christians to ever struggle with joy. Certainly, the disciples had their fair share of struggles. Do you think that Peter was filled with joy when he was on the boat and ignoring the work of God? It wasn’t until Peter reconciled with the Lord that his joy was again full. This is the point: backslidden Christians will often doubt their salvation because they have stopped experiencing the joy of the Lord. Hebrews 11 reminds us that no one is filled with joy while they are in midst of being chastened. The apostle John wrote his first letter for the very purpose of helping the doubting believers find their joy in order to strengthen their assurance of salvation. There are things that we know here on earth that we may sometimes doubt in a moment of weakness. This may happen in our salvation as well, but it does not take away from the certainty that we can and should have in Christ.
9. THE UNCERTAIN PERSON NEEDS TO SEE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE LORD OFFERS INWARDLY AND OUTWARDLY FOR EVERY BELIEVER.
10. **We can show them the comforting assurance given by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 13:5-6; John 16:13).** The Lord knows how weak our faith is. Consequently, He gave us the Holy Spirit to give us confidence and comfort concerning salvation. The Bible tells us that the Spirit speaks to our spirit and testifies that we are saved. While the Spirit does not speak to us in an audible tone, the believer’s spirit recognizes the inner workings of the Holy Spirit. We see it in conviction. We see it in times of compelling to action. Further, we also know that we have Christ dwelling within us as well. Paul told the church at Corinth to examine themselves to see if they had Christ. Why would he say this if it were not possible to do so?
11. **We can show them the assurance we have through our outward activity (Galatians 5:22-23; 1 John 2:3-6).** For this final observation, we must be very careful in understanding that there is a danger here in basing salvation solely upon our outward activity. The Pharisees lived in such a way where they felt like their deeds validated that they were going to Heaven. However, the Lord told them that they were of their father the Devil. The Bible does give us some very specific traits, though, that we should see in a believer’s life. These are the fruits of the Spirit. These are also overall obedience to the commandments of the Lord. If we can neglect the fruits and obedience without any conviction, we should examine ourselves and determine why that is the case. It either points to a lack of salvation or a terrible quenching of the Holy Spirit of God.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, we see that the Lord has given us ample evidence to prove our salvation. Let’s be sure to tell others that they can know that they are on their way to Heaven. It is important that the witnessing believer is walking with that assurance in their own heart. How can we expect an unsaved person to trust in Christ if we don’t proclaim with confidence the message of the Gospel?