

## **Study Guide: 1 John-Assurance in Salvation**

**Wednesday-June 10, 2026**

This study guide explores the teachings found in 1 John Lesson 65. The primary focus is on the "assurance of salvation," which is the confidence a believer has in knowing they belong to God. The lesson covers why this assurance is necessary for a joyful Christian life, the eternal nature of salvation, and why some people struggle with feelings of doubt.

### **Review Quiz: Testing Your Understanding**

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in two to three sentences each. Do not look at the answer key until you have finished.

1. According to 1 John 5:13, what is the primary "thesis statement" or main goal of the book of 1 John?
  2. What is the relationship between having "full joy" and having assurance of salvation?
  3. The lesson mentions two types of "Truth" that start with a capital T. What are they?
  4. How does the lesson describe the "eternality" of salvation regarding the work of Jesus Christ?
  5. What does it mean when the Holy Spirit is described as an "engagement ring" or a "guarantee"?
  6. Why might "strong preaching" about God's holy standards cause a believer to temporarily lack assurance?
  7. In the story about the barn door and the nails, what did the holes in the door represent for the man who was struggling?
  8. How does the function of the human conscience change or stay the same after a person becomes a Christian?
  9. Contrast the "Law of God" with the "Gospel" in terms of how they treat human sin and mistakes.
  10. What does 2 Corinthians 13:5 instruct believers to do regularly regarding their faith?
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## Answer Key

1. The main goal is for those who believe in the name of the Son of God to know that they possess eternal life. By providing this certainty, the scripture helps believers continue in their faith without constant doubt.
  2. John writes that joy cannot be complete or "to the max" if a person is constantly worrying about their standing with God. True fellowship with the Father and Jesus Christ produces joy, but that joy is only full when the believer is confident in their salvation.
  3. The first Truth is the person of Jesus Christ, who is the "incarnate" or bodily form of Truth. The second Truth is the written Word of God, which serves as the physical record of His promises and standards.
  4. Salvation is considered eternal because it is based on the perfect and finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. If a person could lose their salvation, it would suggest that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was deficient or not enough to keep them.
  5. The Holy Spirit acts as a seal or a "first fruit" that holds a believer until the day they see the Lord. This presence serves as a divine deposit, proving that God intends to complete the redemptive work He started in the individual.
  6. Strong preaching upholds a high, holy standard and calls for genuine repentance, which forces people to examine their own lives deeply. This can lead to "anxious hearts" as believers realize how far they fall short of God's perfect holiness.
  7. The holes represented the lingering guilt and the "scars" of past sins that remained in the man's mind even after he was forgiven. It illustrates how some people struggle to accept God's mercy because they can still see the evidence of their previous failures.
  8. The conscience is designed to accuse and berate a person for their sins to keep them on the right path. Even after it is purified by God, it continues to awaken the believer to their sin rather than offering them a way to excuse it.
  9. The Law of God is black and white, offering only the choice to obey perfectly or face death, with no room for mercy or grace. In contrast, the Gospel provides forgiveness through the mercy of Jesus Christ for those who the Law has already condemned.
  10. This scripture tells believers to "examine yourselves" and "test yourselves" to see if they are truly in the faith. It suggests that a healthy Christian life involves regular self-reflection to ensure one's relationship with God is genuine.
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## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Use the information from the lesson to write a detailed response to the following prompts.

1. **The Architecture of Salvation:** Explain the "perfect plan of God" described in the lesson, starting from before the foundation of the world to the future glory of the saints. How does "predestination" fit into this timeline?
2. **The Battle for the Mind:** The lesson warns that lacking assurance is like "conversing with Satan." Describe how a lack of confidence in God's love can lead a person down a dangerous path of worsening conclusions about their future.
3. **The Role of the Pulpit:** Some churches use a "minimalist gospel" to make people feel comfortable. Argue why the lesson suggests that a preacher's duty is actually to create "anxious hearts" through strong teaching.
4. **Law vs. Grace:** Imagine you are explaining the difference between the Law and the Gospel to a friend who feels "worthless" due to their sins. Using the concepts from the lesson, describe why the Law cannot save and why only Jesus Christ can provide the mercy they need.
5. **The Importance of Fruit:** The lesson discusses "Lordship Salvation" and the idea of "bearing fruit." Explain why a simple "profession of faith" or a "psychological formula" is not considered enough evidence of true salvation.

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## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Assurance:** The internal confidence and certainty that a believer belongs to God and possesses eternal life.
- **Doxology:** An expression of praise to God; specifically mentioned regarding Paul's confidence in 2 Timothy 4:18.
- **Efficacy:** The power or capacity to produce a desired effect; used to describe the completeness of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- **Elect/Elective Purpose:** Those whom God has chosen from before the foundation of the world for salvation.
- **Epistle:** A book of the Bible that was originally written as a letter; in this context, the book of 1 John.
- **Fellowship:** A close relationship or partnership; the lesson emphasizes fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **Incarnate:** Embodied in flesh; used to describe Jesus Christ as the "Truth" in human form.

- **Iniquity:** Immoral or unfair behavior; another word for sin.
- **Justifies:** The act of God declaring a sinner righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Lordship Salvation:** The teaching that true salvation involves submitting to Jesus Christ as Lord, resulting in a changed life and obedience.
- **Minimalist Gospel:** A simplified version of the Christian message that often ignores the need for repentance and a high holy standard.
- **Puritans:** A group of historical Christian thinkers known for their logical and deep writings on faith and discipline.
- **Redemptive Work:** The entire process by which God saves humanity from sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Repentance:** A sincere turning away from sin and turning toward God.

#### Greek Word Study

<b>Greek Word</b>	<b>Phonetic Pronunciation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Ginosco</b> <sup>1</sup>	gih-NOH-skoh	To know, to find out, or to realize through experience.

<sup>1</sup> In 1 John, this word is used to express the way a believer can "know" they are of the truth. It implies a certainty that can be discovered or confirmed.