

Study Guide: A Study of 1 John Lesson 66

Wednesday-June 17, 2026

This study guide examines the theological foundations of Christian assurance as presented in the teaching on 1 John. The lesson focuses on why believers may struggle with the certainty of their salvation and provides biblical evidence to anchor a believer's confidence in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Student Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2–3 complete sentences based on the information provided in the lesson.

1. According to the lesson, why might strong preaching lead some Christians to lack assurance of their salvation?
 2. Why is emotion considered an unreliable "storehouse" for a believer's assurance?
 3. How does the teacher define the doctrine of "justification" in the context of the Gospel?
 4. What does the lesson suggest is the primary reason some people choose to be baptized multiple times?
 5. How does the lesson describe God's "accounting" of a believer's sins?
 6. What is the significance of the "body of death" illustration mentioned in reference to the Apostle Paul?
 7. Why is the exact time or date of a person's salvation considered less important than their current reality?
 8. According to the teacher, why is it necessary to change a person's thinking before their behavior can truly change?
 9. How does the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 illustrate God's attitude toward receiving a repentant sinner?
 10. What role does a "strong prayer life" play in maintaining a believer's sense of security?
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Answer Key

1. Strong preaching emphasizes the high and holy standards of God. When Christians compare their own sins and disobedience to these demanding standards, they may begin to doubt whether they are truly saved.
2. Assurance cannot be based on emotional experiences because feelings are not a biblical foundation for salvation. A true understanding of the saving work of Jesus Christ is a rational reality based on scriptural facts, whereas emotions can overwhelm and mislead a person during crisis moments.
3. Justification is a legal term meaning that a person who was once guilty is now declared "not guilty" before God. It is the doctrine that Jesus Christ took away a person's sins, allowing God to credit the righteousness of His Son to the believer's account.
4. People often seek repeated baptisms because they lack assurance and are trying to use the ritual to reinforce their salvation. This practice is identified as a result of "bad theology" and a failure to comprehend the depth of God's grace and mercy.
5. Using accounting terms, the lesson explains that for a believer, the "debt of sin" column is marked "paid in full" in the blood of Jesus Christ. Scripture promises that God will remove sins as far as the east is from the west and bury them in the depths of the sea, never to remember them again.
6. The illustration refers to an ancient punishment where a murderer was strapped to the corpse of their victim until the decay penetrated the living body. This reflects the struggle of the Christian who feels the "flesh" or their old sinful nature still clinging to them while they wait for their body to be transformed by the Lord.
7. The lesson teaches that salvation is an "invisible miracle" and a "new disposition" that may not always be tied to a specific remembered moment. Instead of looking at a date in the past, a believer should look for the "fruit of the Spirit" and the reality of their pursuit of God today.
8. The teacher argues that people live out the way they think, not necessarily the way they are told to act. To produce lasting change, such as true humility, a believer must develop the "mind of Christ" by learning divine principles and sound doctrine.
9. The story shows that God does not receive sinners reluctantly or make them servants to earn their way back. Instead, the Father celebrates the return of the sinner with a robe, a ring, and a huge party, showing His desire to put His grace on display.
10. A strong prayer life acts as a "safety net" that helps a believer stay in constant conversation with God. This intimacy prevents the "tank" from running low and provides the spiritual strength to dismiss voices that try to make the believer feel unworthy.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Use the source material to develop detailed responses to the following prompts.

1. Compare and contrast the "emotional" basis for assurance with the "doctrinal" basis for assurance. Why does the teacher argue that one is superior to the other?
2. Explain the relationship between the crucifixion and the resurrection in providing assurance to the believer. How does the "empty tomb" validate the payment made on the cross?
3. Discuss the concept of "transformed affections." How does a change in what a person "relishes" or "loves" serve as evidence of their salvation, even when the struggle with sin remains?
4. Analyze the teacher's process for studying and applying Scripture (Lexicography, Syntax, Meaning, and Application). Why is this "laborious" effort considered necessary for spiritual growth?
5. Explore the idea that "God does not remember" the sins of a believer. How does this theological truth affect the way a Christian should handle guilt and their standing before a "just and righteous" God?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Assurance:** The internal confidence and certainty that a person is saved and possesses eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- **Doctrine:** A set of established beliefs or teachings held by the church; in this context, the specific biblical facts regarding salvation.
- **Flesh:** The sinful nature or "unglorified state" of a human being that continues to pull them toward disobedience even after salvation.
- **Justification:** The act of God whereby He declares a sinner righteous and not guilty based on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- **Legalist:** A person who strictly adheres to laws or rules, often incorrectly believing that God justifies people based on their "godly" behavior rather than His grace.
- **Memory Verse:** A specific scripture passage (in this lesson, Psalm 22:28) that a congregation commits to memory: "For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations" (NKJV).
- **Purify:** The process of making a person holy or clean; the lesson notes that God desires believers to be holier tomorrow than they are today.

- **Regenerated:** The miracle of being "born again" or receiving a new nature and a new disposition from God.
- **Sanctification:** The ongoing battle and process in a believer's life to seek holiness and grow closer to God.
- **Theology:** The study of the nature of God and religious belief; the lesson emphasizes that sound theology is necessary for a joyful and secure Christian life.

Greek Language Study

The following terms were used in the lesson to describe the study of the Bible's original New Testament language.

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Lexicography ¹	lek-suh-KOG-ruh-fee	The study of individual words and their specific meanings.
Syntax ²	SIN-taks	The study of the relationship between words and how they are structured together to form meaning.
Peitho ³	PAY-tho	A strong Greek word meaning "to be persuaded," "assured," or "convinced."

Footnotes

1. *Lexicography* is used by the teacher to explain how he researches the original meanings of the biblical text.
2. *Syntax* refers to the grammatical arrangement of the Greek language in the New Testament.
3. *Peitho* is the Greek root for the word "persuaded" used by the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:38 to express his total assurance.