

**Back to BASICS (1 Jn 5:13 so that you may know) Study 10 - 1 John 3:19-24**

*v19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence v20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. v21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God v22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. v23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. v24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

**1 John 3:19-24**

In 1 John 2:3-6 I preached that “**YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS**”. In the sermon I made the following points

**YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS**

- I BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW THAT YOU KNOW**
- II WHEN YOU SEEK TO OBEY WHAT JESUS TAUGHT!**
- III WHEN YOUR TRUST HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.**
- IV WHEN YOU WANT TO BE MORE LIKE HIM**

In today’s text I will share:

**MORE REASONS YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS**

Remember the background to this passage. A man called Cerinthus was sowing seeds of doubt among the early believers. John is writing to counteract this false teaching and reminding the believers of the “Basics” of Christianity.

**YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS**

- I BECAUSE YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON YOU**

*v20 .... For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

I am sure we have all felt unsure about our own salvation at some point in our lives. There are many reasons why we may feel like this:

1. Perhaps we failed morally. In a moment of weakness you did something that you know is against the teaching of the Bible.
2. Perhaps your faith has grown a little cold. Maybe the pressure of life has caused you to drift away from Christian activities and you have lost the habit of “meeting together with other believers”.
3. Perhaps you have faced a traumatic event, like the loss of a loved one, and God feels far away, and you wonder whether God is truly there.
4. Perhaps you have listened to some clever Scientist or Philosopher who has challenged your belief system.
5. Perhaps Satan has caused you to doubt through his lies.

WHATEVER THE REASON YOU HAVE TO DOUBT WHETHER YOU BELONG TO GOD OR NOT.

**THAT REASON IS FALSE  
BECAUSE YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION DOES NOT  
DEPEND ON YOU**

LET ME SHOW YOU WHY YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON YOU

THERE IS ONE REASON WHY YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON YOU AND IT IS THIS QUESTION.

**DOES YOUR SALVATION DEPEND ON YOU?**

Can you save yourself?

Did you do anything to contribute toward your salvation.

The Bible is very clear

***Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- v9 not by works, so that no one can boast.***

**SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE**

**SO, IF SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE  
SO IS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

***v20 .... For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.***

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOU RELY FULLY ON GOD.**

**YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS  
II WHEN YOU HAVE PEACE IN YOU HEART**

*v21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.*

Have you ever noticed, when you are driving around, what happens when people either know there is a police car nearby or they see a police car parked along the side of the road.

THE DRIVERS IMMEDIATELY START SLOWING DOWN OR DRIVE 20KM SLOWER THAN THE SPEED LIMIT.

When you are driving along the highway and the cars coming toward you start flashing their lights to warn you of a speed-trap ahead, everybody is suddenly the model citizens, and they drive as if they are an old granny on a Sunday Afternoon pleasure ride.

THE SAME THING HAPPENS WHEN THE PREACHER STARTS PREACHING ABOUT SINS THAT DON'T NORMALLY AFFECT YOU.

When the preacher talks about DRINKING all the Baptists point fingers at the Lutherans

When he talks about THE LOVE OF MONEY, we point fingers at the Charismatics

BUT when he talks about GOSSIP or being JUDGEMENT, the we are “JOEP STILL”.

People, the verse says

***v21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.***

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOU RELY FULLY ON GOD.**

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOUR HEART IS AT PEACE.**

**YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS**

**III WHEN ALL YOUR NEEDS ARE MET IN CHRIST.**

*v21 Dear friends... we have confidence before God v22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.:*

There is a great promise in this passage.

***we receive from him anything we ask***

**BUT**

**WE MUST NOT TAKE THE VERSE OUT OF CONTEXT.**

The RECEIVING flows out of two conditions.

**1 we obey his commands**

**2 do what pleases him**

**We receive when we are in fellowship with HIM. The natural outcome of being in fellowship with Jesus is answered prayer.**

A great example of this is Jesus at the raising of Lazarus in John 11

John 11:42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

Another verse that reminds us of the CONTEXT is

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that **if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.** v15 And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOU RELY FULLY ON GOD.**

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOUR HEART IS AT PEACE.**

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY SEE WE ARE FULFILLED.**

**YOU CAN KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS**  
**IV WHEN THE SPIRIT IN YOU DESIRES WHAT JESUS WANT**

*v24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: **We know it by the Spirit he gave us.***

A few years ago it was very fashionable to wear a bracelet with the letters “WWJD” printed on the bracelet. It stood for WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

The true believer never needs to wear a bracelet, or carry a crucifix, or have prayer beads, or say “Hail Mary’s” or “Our Father’s”.

A true believer has the HOLY SPIRIT living in them, constantly prompting them to do what Jesus Wants.

**THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOU RELY FULLY ON GOD.  
THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN YOU HEART IS AT PEACE.  
THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY SEE WE ARE FULFILLED.  
THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHEN WE CONSTANTLY SENSE  
GOD’S PROMPTING**

**CONCLUSION**

**SO!!!**

**DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS?**