**SoulFire Ministries Discipleship Course: Lesson 2**

**Ten Assurances of Salvation:**

In last week's lesson, we discussed the very core of the Gospel through a series of 6 points. In this week's lesson, we will dive into the Ten Assurance of Salvation. In essence, I am going to explain how we know we are a follower of Christ.

The first thing that I would like address in the lesson today is the fact that it is perfectly normal for a follower of Christ to have occasional doubts concerning their salvation. These thoughts help keep us in check. Persistent thoughts of this, however, becomes a major concern. So, how do we know we are a true follower of Christ?

I want to ask these questions:

**1. Do you share the intimacies of the Christian life with other believers?**

1 John 1:6-7 - So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Notice in Verse 7, it says that two things are true of us who walk with God in the light:

 a. "...we have fellowship with each other"

 b. " ...the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin".

One mark of people who walk with God is that they have fellowship with other Christians.

**2. Do you have a deep awareness of your sin against the Word and love of God?**

1 John 1:8, 10 - If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His Word has no place in our hearts.

Everyone will admit to not being perfect, but that is not what these verses mean. This involves more than just a willingness to acknowledge that on occasion, we have been wrong. Another mark of someone who walks with God is that they are rarely able to do or think anything without seeing their sin in it.

**3. Do you live in conscious obedience to the Word of God?**

1 John 2:3-5 - And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's Word, truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.

No one but Jesus has ever perfectly and consistently obeyed the commands of God; nevertheless, obedience to the Word of God characterizes the lifestyle of one who truly walks with God.

Just as coming to Christ in done consciously, so is living daily in obedience to His Word. It is a conscious effort that allows us to be able to live for Christ.

**4. Do you despise the world and its ways?**

1 John 2:15 - Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

When the verse speaks of "the world", it is speaking of the world system instead of God's creation. It refers to the world with God: the ungodly ways and things that characterize the world.

Nonbelievers love the world and plunge into it's antics because it is all they know and have. Once they gain awareness that they will not be among the living forever, they will begin to immerse themselves into the world to find meaning, hope, pleasure and satisfaction. They discover, of course, that the world is incapable of filling the holes in their hearts. Unfortunately, they continuously keep trying, despite their failed attempts. This is largely due to the fact that they do not have anything else to place their hope in.

What the world and it's ways is missing is that the love, acceptance, hope, belonging that they are so desperately seeking can only be found in Jesus Christ!

**5. Do you long for the return of Jesus Christ, and do you long to be made like Him?**

1 John 3:2-3 - Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure just as He is pure.

Followers of Christ can hardly wait for Jesus to fulfill His promise and return to the earth. Those who are in Christ often think along the lines of "I wish He would come today". Imagining the glorious place where they will spend eternity, followers of Christ daydream about what life will be like in the "New Heaven and the new earth" where Jesus reigns (Revelation 21:1). A large part of a believer's anticipation to see Christ is becoming just like Him. It is at that moment that the Bible says that "we shall be changed, in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthains 15:51-52).

**6. Do you habitually do what is right more and sin less?**

1 John 3:7-8 - Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

All people do some things that they consider righteous and some things they wouldn't. So it is easy to assume that we are righteous just because we do some things that we consider right. But much of the meaning of these verses comes down to the phrase, "Keep on" or "Practice" according to another translation. Each time that it is used here, it is in the present tense referring to patterns of habitual action.

"When people do what is right, it shows they are righteous", doesn't mean that a Christian can never sin. Instead it means Christians are those who, throughout their lives, habitually do what is right and sin less.

The life change is not merely found in the power of a follower of Christ's own might. No, this change can only occur because of the work of Christ in their lives through the instrumentation of the Holy Ghost.

**7. Do you sacrificially love other Christians and want to be with them?**

1 John 3:14 - If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

Few marks of a true follower of Christ is as underestimated as the one in this passage of scripture. Although that it is true that love for all people should characterize followers of Christ, this verse is specifically referring to loving other Christians as well. Surely, no professing Christian would claim not to love others in God's family, but the love that John is speaking of requires believers to love beyond just a fondness of another. This verse refers to a sacrificial love.

At the very least, it is a love that makes you want to be with other Christians and be willing to sacrifice other things and events to do so.

**8. Do you discern the presence of the Holy Ghost within you?**

John 3:24 - Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with Him, and He with them. And we know He lives in us because the Spirit, He gave us lives in us.

John 4:13 - And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us.

Even those who have difficulty discerning the testimony of the Spirit within them should be able to discern the Fuit of the Spirit's presence within them. I will describe more in detail concerning the Fruit of the Spirit in a future class, so I will not go into everything just yet. Just know that exhibiting the Fruit of the Spirit is the most identifiable way to know that you have the Holy Ghost within you. The Holy Ghost will cause you to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit.

**9. Do you enjoy listening to the doctrines the apostles of Jesus taught?**

1 John 4:6 - But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

John could say as a matter of fact and without arrogance that he and the other apostles of Jesus where from God. There was clear evidence of that. He knew that those who knew God would listen to him and the other apostles and that those who were not from God would not listen. Each of the apostles were already dead by about 100 A.D. and John was the last of them to die. So here is how we should apply this test of a Christian today: Do you enjoy listening to the doctrines the apostles of Jesus taught? If you do, this more than likely means you are a Christian.

**10. Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ?**

1 John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.

The Old Testament told of a Messiah (The Old Testament word for Christ) who was to come. The New Testament tells us that Jesus is the Messiah and the Anointed One of God (Mark 8:29; John 1:41, 4:25-26; Romans 9:5). Jesus was the One and the ONLY ONE sent by the Father to do all that was needed to bring His people to himself. All that Jesus spoke and did was in fulfillment of His role as the Christ of God. The Christian is one who believes all that the scriptures say about Jesus.