

BIBLICAL STUDY

**HOW CAN YOU KNOW
WHETHER YOUR SOUL HAS
TRULY BEEN SAVED THROUGH
FAITH IN THE GOSPEL?**

*A biblical foundation for recognizing Christ's saving work
received by faith*

PERSONALIZED BY

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Reina-Valera 1960 | Francisco Lacueva's Greek-Spanish Interlinear New
Testament

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Study Thesis

Salvation becomes effective in a person when, after hearing the true gospel, that person repents and places faith in Jesus Christ.

Assurance rests first in God's written testimony, Christ's finished work, and the seal of the Holy Spirit; a transformed life accompanies that reality as fruit.

Introduction: The Decisive Question

The question is not whether a person has reached a certain emotional intensity or achieved flawless conduct. The biblical question is whether that person has received the true gospel and rested by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Assurance begins outside of us: in what God has done, promised, and written.

This study distinguishes three dimensions that must never be confused: Christ is the foundation of salvation; faith is the means by which it is received; and the signs of new life are its fruit. The fruit matters, but it neither replaces the Savior nor turns grace into wages.

1. What Is the Gospel That Must Be Believed?

Paul summarizes its historical and redemptive content in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again. The gospel is not a self-

improvement method; it is good news about the Son of God and His substitutionary work.

The cross reveals both the seriousness of sin and the sufficiency of divine love. The resurrection confirms that Christ is alive and that His work was accepted. Removing the cross, the resurrection, or Christ's identity changes the message and leaves the hearer without the apostolic gospel.

2. The Human Condition and the Need for Salvation

Romans 1:18-3:20 places all humanity under sin. Ephesians 2:1-3 describes human beings as dead in trespasses and sins. Salvation is therefore not a superficial improvement; it is rescue, reconciliation, justification, and new life.

Biblical repentance is not paying for sin through sorrow or promising perfection. It is turning to God, acknowledging sin, and abandoning every rival confidence. Faith looks to Christ; repentance stops defending unbelief. They are inseparable aspects of a sincere response to the gospel.

3. The Faith That Receives Christ

Believing is more than accepting facts. In the New Testament, believing in Christ expresses personal trust: depending on Him as Savior and acknowledging Him as Lord. The object of faith, not the believer's psychological strength, gives that trust its value.

Saving faith includes knowledge of the message, agreement that it is true, and personal trust in Christ. It does not rest on rituals, family heritage, religious culture, works, feelings, or extraordinary experiences.

4. What Happens When a Person Believes

Scripture presents simultaneous realities: forgiveness, justification, reconciliation, eternal life, union with Christ, adoption, new birth, and the reception and seal of the Spirit. Some may be felt indirectly; all depend on God's promise.

John 5:24 uses the language of present possession and transfer: the person who hears and believes has eternal life and has passed from death to life. Romans 5:1 speaks of justification already granted. Ephesians 1:13 links hearing, believing, and being sealed.

5. How Can the Believer Know?

The first answer is God's written testimony. First John 5:11-13 does not direct the reader to measure an emotion but to recognize that life is in the Son and that whoever has the Son has life. Primary assurance is objective.

The second answer is Christ's sufficiency. Salvation remains secure not because the believer never stumbles, but because Christ completed the sacrifice, rose again, intercedes, and keeps His people. The third answer is the Spirit's witness, applying the Word, creating a filial relationship, and progressively transforming the believer.

The Order of Assurance

1) God's promise. 2) Christ's sufficient work. 3) The Spirit's witness. 4) Growing fruit. Reversing this order can make peace depend on emotional changes or imperfect performance.

6. Signs That Accompany New Life

New life normally appears through a new relationship with Christ, sensitivity to sin, desire for the Word, love for other believers, prayer, obedience, and perseverance. These signs may be weak at first and grow over time.

No single sign should become a new savior. Introspection without the gospel produces pride or despair. Biblical self-examination looks first to Christ and then asks whether His grace is producing real, though incomplete, fruit.

7. What Is Not Sufficient Proof

None of the following proves salvation by itself: raising a hand, repeating a formula, being baptized, belonging to a church, knowing doctrine, doing visible works, feeling emotion, or remembering a date. Such things may accompany genuine conversion, but they do not replace faith in Christ.

Nor does the absence of struggle prove maturity. Romans 7 and Galatians 5 describe conflict. The difference is not instant sinlessness but a new relationship to sin: it no longer reigns legitimately, and the believer returns to Christ in confession and dependence.

8. Doubts, Falls, and Restoration

Doubt must be answered with truth, not denial. Helpful questions include: What gospel did I believe? In whom does my confidence rest today? What does God promise the one who believes? Am I confusing insufficient fruit with an insufficient foundation?

When believers sin, they must neither excuse it nor automatically conclude that Christ has abandoned them. First John 1:9-2:2 joins confession and cleansing with the advocacy of Jesus Christ. The Father's discipline in Hebrews 12 shows that God deals with His children for a holy purpose.

9. Biblical Warnings and False Assurance

The Bible warns against an empty profession. Matthew 7:21-23, the parable of the soils, James 2, and First John prevent us from confusing religious words with living faith. The warnings call us to examine the object of our confidence and the reality of our relationship with Christ.

The answer is not to add human merit to the gospel but to come truly to Christ. False assurance says, "I am saved because I performed a religious act." Biblical assurance says, "God promises life in His Son; I have trusted Him, and His Spirit is producing a life that is learning to follow Him."

10. The Hope That Completes Salvation

Salvation has past, present, and future dimensions: the believer has been justified, is being sanctified, and will be glorified. Romans 8:29-30 joins these purposes, and Philippians 1:6 affirms that God will complete the work He began.

Christian hope is more than escaping condemnation. It includes resurrection, transformation, fellowship with Christ, and an incorruptible inheritance. This perspective strengthens perseverance and places present suffering within God's faithfulness.

Direct Texts: Statements About Salvation and Its Assurance

Tema	Referencias	Aporte al estudio
The gospel that saves	1 Corinthians 15:1-4	Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day. Salvation rests on that event received by faith.
The call to believe	Mark 1:14-15; Acts 16:30-31	God commands repentance and faith; the jailer was told to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Present eternal life	John 3:16-18, 36; 5:24; 6:35-40, 47	The one who believes has eternal life, has passed from death to life, and is not under

Tema	Referencias	Aporte al estudio
		condemnation.
Justification by faith	Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-8, 23-25; 5:1-2	God declares righteous the person who believes in Christ, apart from works of the law.
Salvation by grace	Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7	Salvation is God's gift, not wages earned by merit. Good works follow as purpose and fruit.
Confession of faith	Romans 10:8-13	Heartfelt faith is directed to the risen Christ and is expressed by confessing Him as Lord.
Sealed upon believing	Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22	Upon hearing and believing the gospel, the believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit, the guarantee of the inheritance.
The written testimony	1 John 5:9-13	God has given eternal life in His Son; John wrote so believers may know that they have eternal life.
No condemnation	Romans 8:1-4, 28-39	There is no condemnation in Christ,

Tema	Referencias	Aporte al estudio
		and nothing can separate the believer from God's love in Him.
Security in Christ	John 10:27-30; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10-14	Christ keeps His people, intercedes for them, and His perfect sacrifice has lasting effectiveness.

These texts are called “direct” because they state the gospel, the condition of believing, or the reality granted to the believer. They should be read in full context in an accurate English Bible and compared with Lacueva’s interlinear for the Greek New Testament.

Complementary Texts: Characteristics, Hope, and Promises

Tema	Referencias	Aporte al estudio
New birth and new creation	John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15	Salvation brings a new life whose source is God.
The Spirit bears witness	Romans 8:9-17; Galatians 4:4-7	The Spirit leads the believer to cry, “Abba, Father,” and confirms the relationship of adoption.
Love for fellow	John 13:34-35; 1 John	Christian love does not

Tema	Referencias	Aporte al estudio
believers	3:14-18; 4:7-12	purchase eternal life; it shows that God's life is at work.
Growing obedience	John 14:15, 21; 1 John 2:3-6; James 2:14-26	Living faith produces obedience. Works demonstrate faith; they do not replace grace.
Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:8-10	The Spirit forms love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Perseverance and discipline	Hebrews 12:5-11; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13	God disciplines as a Father and carries forward the work He began.
The struggle against sin	Romans 6:1-14; 7:14-25; 1 John 1:7-2:2	The believer still battles sin but no longer accepts it as master; he confesses and turns to the Advocate.
Future hope	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Philippians 3:20-21	Salvation will culminate in resurrection, transformation, and eternal presence with Christ.

The complementary texts describe effects, evidence, growth, and hope. They do not add a price to grace; they reveal the breadth of the saving work.

Insights from the Greek Text

The following observations reflect the lexical sense visible in Francisco Lacueva's Greek-Spanish Interlinear New Testament. They do not replace reading each passage in context; they help show the precision of apostolic terminology.

Term	Greek	Meaning	References
euangélion	εὐαγγέλιον	gospel, good news	1 Cor. 15:1; Rom. 1:16
pisteúō / pístis	πιστεύω / πίστις	to believe, trust / faith	John 3:16; Rom. 3:22
sōzō / sōtēria	σώζω / σωτηρία	to save / salvation	Eph. 2:8; Rom. 1:16
dikaiōō	δικαιόω	to declare righteous, justify	Rom. 3:24, 28; 5:1
metanoéō	μετανοέω	to repent; a change of mind turning to God	Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38
sphragizō	σφραγίζω	to seal, authenticate, mark ownership	Eph. 1:13; 4:30

Term	Greek	Meaning	References
arrabōn	ἄρραβών	guarantee, pledge, down payment	Eph. 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:22
ginōskō / oīda	γινώσκω / οἶδα	to know / know with certainty	1 John 2:3; 5:13

A Pastoral Guide for Personal Examination

These questions are not a ladder of merit. They help clarify whether your confidence rests in Christ and whether new life is producing fruit.

1. Do I acknowledge before God that I am a sinner and cannot justify myself by my works?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for my sins and rose again?
3. Do I rest in Christ and His promise, or in a ceremony, merit, emotion, or conduct of my own?
4. Can I sincerely confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior?
5. Is there a new attitude toward sin in me: grief, confession, and a desire to turn away?
6. Do I desire to know the Word, pray, love believers, and obey Christ?
7. When I fall, do I turn away permanently, or do I return to the Savior and His grace?
8. Is my future hope in Christ's completing His work and receiving me to Himself?

Central Answer

If your confidence is placed in Jesus Christ as He is proclaimed in the gospel, believe God's promise: whoever has the Son has life. Then view the fruit as confirmation of God's work, not as the price of acceptance.

Conclusion

How, then, can you know whether your soul has truly been saved through faith in the gospel? Do not begin by measuring the intensity of an experience. Answer God's Word: Have you heard the apostolic gospel and placed your trust in Jesus Christ, who died for your sins and rose again? If the answer is sincere, receive the Son's promise: the one who believes has eternal life.

Then humbly examine the fruit the Spirit produces: a new relationship with God, confession of Christ, struggle against sin, love, obedience, and perseverance. These fruits are neither perfect nor identical in everyone, but they direct life toward Christ. Mature assurance holds together the objective foundation and living evidence without confusing them.

Final Summary

CHRIST is the foundation. FAITH is the means of reception. THE WORD is the objective testimony. THE SPIRIT is the seal and guarantee. A TRANSFORMED LIFE is the fruit. GLORY WITH CHRIST is the hope.

Reference Works

- The Holy Bible. Biblical references follow the canonical Protestant order.
- Lacueva, Francisco. Nuevo Testamento Interlineal Griego-Español. Editorial CLIE. Every listed passage should be read in context.

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Editorial Note

Only professional background relevant to a public publication has been included. Sensitive personal information, identity documents, addresses, and other private data have been omitted.