

How can anyone have biblical assurance that they are truly in the faith?

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit” (1 John 4:13).

The Bible gives us many evidences or “proofs” to examine ourselves by. These are related to the indwelling Holy Spirit present within every truly born-again believer.

“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9).

“He [the Apostle Paul] said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19:2).

Paul asked, “Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?” If they have truly been born-again by the Holy Spirit of Christ, the Spirit will witness of itself. Here are some ways in which the Holy Spirit works in our lives and witnesses of itself when we are truly saved.

1. The Holy Spirit regenerates us (brings us to new life). Could a dead man be brought to life without recognizable changes?

“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)” (Ephesians 2:5).

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

2. The Holy Spirit enlightens us, and brings us from darkness to light. Those who were once blind to spiritual things now see. (Could a blind man suddenly begin to see and not know it with certainty?)

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

3. The Holy Spirit gives us new desires to live pleasing to God. Instead of living to see how far we can push the rules, we begin to instead see how closely we can follow them. Our love for the Savior brings a desire to please Him.

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments” (1 John 2:3).

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him” (1 John 2:4-5).

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words” (John 14:23).

4. The Holy Spirit gives us discernment. The Holy Spirit gives us an understanding of spiritual things and helps us to recognize error.

“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error” (1 John 4:6).

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27)

5. The Holy Spirit gives us a love for the Brethren. Those who were once peculiar laughingstocks become the ones we desire to spend time with, and be like.

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren” (1 John 3:14).

6. The Holy Spirit gives us fruits if the Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Galatians 5:22-24).

Without the Holy Spirit's presence, often the works of the flesh are more evident:

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21).

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

7. The Holy Spirit gives us a desire to tell others of Christ. Could a dead man be brought to life or a blind man receive his sight and NOT want to tell others of this great and precious Savior?

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words” (John 14:23).

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

8. The Holy Spirit gives us true assurance. ONLY the Holy Spirit of Christ within us can give us a true assurance.

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:17-18).

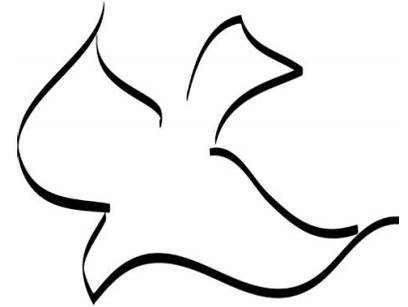
If we still fear and doubt our salvation, how can we have boldness in the day of judgement?

“And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us” (1 John 3:24).

We may not recognize every one of these evidences in our lives, but if we have the indwelling Spirit of Christ within us, we WILL know it.

Have YOU received the Holy Spirit since you believed? If not, it may be that you are not truly saved. Be sure. Repent and trust in Christ today. He will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. The Holy Spirit of Christ will begin to live within you and give you eternal life. If you have repented and believed in Christ today, find a Bible-believing Church, be baptized as a testimony of your faith, and read your Bible every day.

All Scripture is taken from the King James version of the Bible



Biblical Evidences of Salvation

“And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us” (1 John 3:24).

