

How Can I Know for Sure I'm Saved?

At the end of 1 John (5:13), the author says the reason he wrote the book was to help Christians know for sure they are born again. Using this book any professing Christian can do self-examination to see if he is in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). The test can reassure the Christian who doubts her salvation, or disturb the sinner who is overconfident of his. What's the true condition of your soul?

8 tests to verify the authenticity your faith.	Typically true of me	Not typically
You obey God. 2:3-6; 2:29		
You love other Christians. 2:9-10; 3:14-15; 4:7-8, 20		
You do not idolize what unbelievers do: money, power, popularity, possessions, position. 2:15-6		
You are a part of a local church. 2:19		
You believe that Jesus is the Son of God. 2:22-23 4:14-15; 5:1, 10		
You don't indulge in continuous, unrepentant sin habits. 3:6, 9-10		
You are moved by human need. 3:17		
You do not ignore what the Bible says. 4:6		

Growing Christians should be able to say "typically" to all but you should be especially concerned if you cannot for at least 6 of the 8.

Let's say you can only say "typically" to 4; now what? Well, maybe you're starting to wonder if you really *are* saved. Jesus was puzzled when people claimed to be His, yet didn't follow Him: *Why do you call me Lord, when you won't obey me?* (Luke 6:46). Paul wrote about people in the church who profess to be Christians, but "...deny him by the way they live." (Titus 1:16) In other words, our lives tend to either confirm or deny that God's truly saved us.

If left with doubts, repent, and place your faith in Jesus. Repenting is your intention to **turn from** your love affair with sin, and faith is your **turning to** Jesus for forgiveness of sin. Repentance and faith is your step; and salvation through