Assurance of Salvation – 1 John

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Begin with discussion of 1 John's purpose. 1:4; 2:1; 5:13. 5:13 is the primary purpose. The other two will follow if 5:13 is accomplished.

Quick testimony of my conversion after having been a church member for 11 years. I was a teacher and choir member.

Billy Graham said in the '80s that 70% of church members are lost. I have seen preachers, music ministers, pastor's wives, old old people, and people in every age, position, and place discover they were not truly saved.

So, 1 John can help us. It will give us the information we need to affirm or challenge our salvation.

Reading very conservatively, I find 23 different evidences of salvation, with 58 specific instances stated. There are certainly more. All are true about a Christian all the time.

How to read 1 John

Descriptive phrases indicating salvation:

"we have come to know Him"
"we are in Him"
"abides in Him"
"is in the light"
"walks in darkness"
"not really of us"
"antichrist"
"does not have the Father"
"born of Him"
"righteous"
"of the devil"
"children of God"
"children of the devil"
"passed out of death into life"
"knows God"

5:18 vs. 1:10 – How can both be true?

= "habit of life"

Read some of them.

Summary:

We should all read through 1 John. It will give each of us either confirmation or serious questions about our relationship with God.

Either way, it will lead us to a strong, confident relationship with Him, which will result in having joy, and will also drive us to sin less.