

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION NOTES

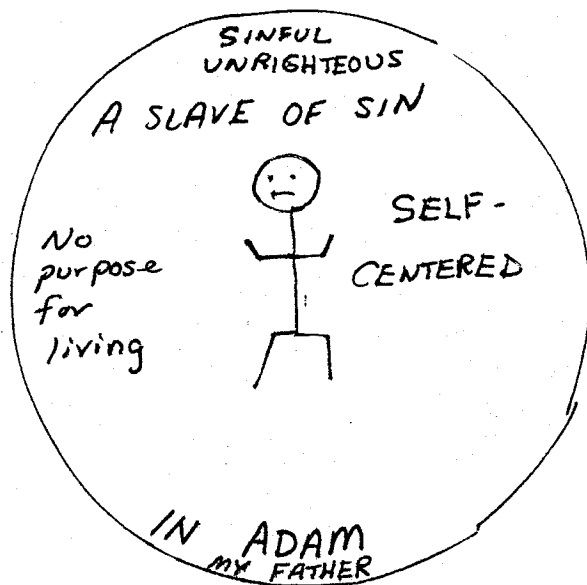
Lesson 9

Page 23 and following
(teacher helps)

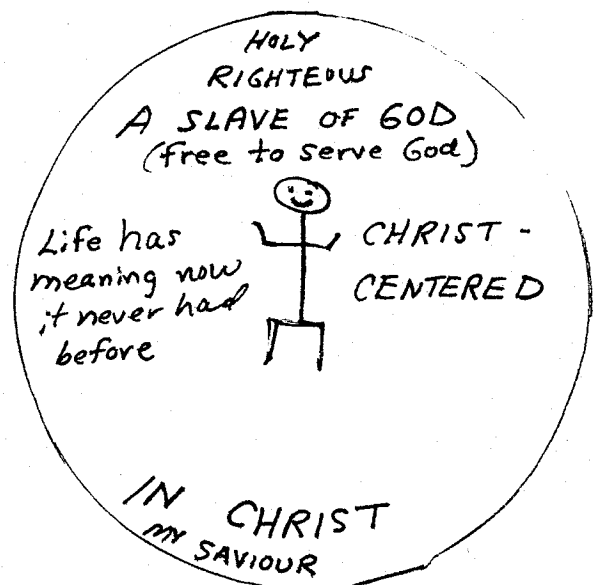
The believer needs to have a GROWING and INCREASING assurance and enjoyment of his or her salvation. HOW?

1. What about our LIFE? More and more I need to realize and believe that I have a NEW LIFE IN CHRIST. Note the contrast between the old life and the new life:

MY OLD LIFE



MY NEW LIFE



Is 2 Corinthians 5:17 true of you? Are you a new creature? How do you know? Are you in Christ? Why? How did this happen? Do you live as a new creature in Christ? Should a new creature in Christ live and walk differently than a person who is unsaved and not a new creature? (Have the class look again at the picture on page 13 and discuss how the new life ought to be seen in the way we live, look, speak, dress, act, etc.)

2. What about our DESIRE?

What do unsaved people desire? What do unsaved people want? What are certain things that they desire? Who do the unsaved desire

to please? (compare Romans 15:1) What does Ephesians 2:1-3 tell you about the DESIRES of those who are unsaved?

What was the DESIRE of the Lord Jesus Christ (see John 4:34; Luke 23:42)? Who did the Lord always PLEASE (see John 8:29)?

What does a saved person desire? What does a saved person want to do? The desires of an unsaved person are SELF-CENTERED. What about the desires of a saved person? An unsaved person is only concerned about pleasing SELF. Who does a saved person want to please?

See 1 Peter 2:2. What do little babies desire? Is this important for them? Could they grow and be healthy without it? What should saved people desire? Is this important for them? Could they grow and be healthy without it? Do you desire the Bible? Do you open your Bible during the week? Does the Bible help you during the week? How? Is the only time you open the Bible at church or during family altar? See 1 Peter 2:3--Have you tasted that the Lord is gracious and good? If we taste something that is really good, then usually we want more and more. If you taste a special cookie that is very good, you might want to try a second and then a third. When a person is saved they get their first real taste of God's goodness and grace. They learn that He is a wonderful and gracious Saviour. But they don't stop there. They want to learn more and more. They don't want to stop after the first taste. They want to keep on learning more and more (feeding on the Word of God). May God help you to help yourself to Him. Who does the saved person want to please (1 John 3:22)?

3. What about our WILL?

The WILL has to do with the decisions and choices that we must make. What choices did you have to make already this day? (what to wear, what to eat for breakfast, etc.) Some choices are not very important (whether to have eggs or pancakes for breakfast) but some choices are very, very important. What is the most important decision that a person must make? (see Deut. 30:19--CHOOSE LIFE: the decision to allow Jesus Christ to save me soul) Most people refuse to do this (John 5:40).

Have you made a decision to let Jesus Christ save you? Have you made a decision to be baptized? Have you made a decision to become a member of God's local assembly? Tomorrow, (Monday) will you make a decision to read your Bible? Tomorrow, (Monday) will you make a decision to pray? Tomorrow, will you make a decision to obey your parents?

What important decision did Daniel make long ago (Daniel 1:8)? Daniel dared to be different. Daniel chose to keep himself pure and clean for God. Do you need to make decisions like Daniel's decision? What about when you are in school or with your friends. You must decide what kind of words you will use and what kind of language will come out of your mouth or what kind of jokes you will tell or listen to? Do the unsaved care about keeping themselves clean and pure in these areas? Do they care what kind of language they use? Do they care what kind of jokes they tell? Do you care?

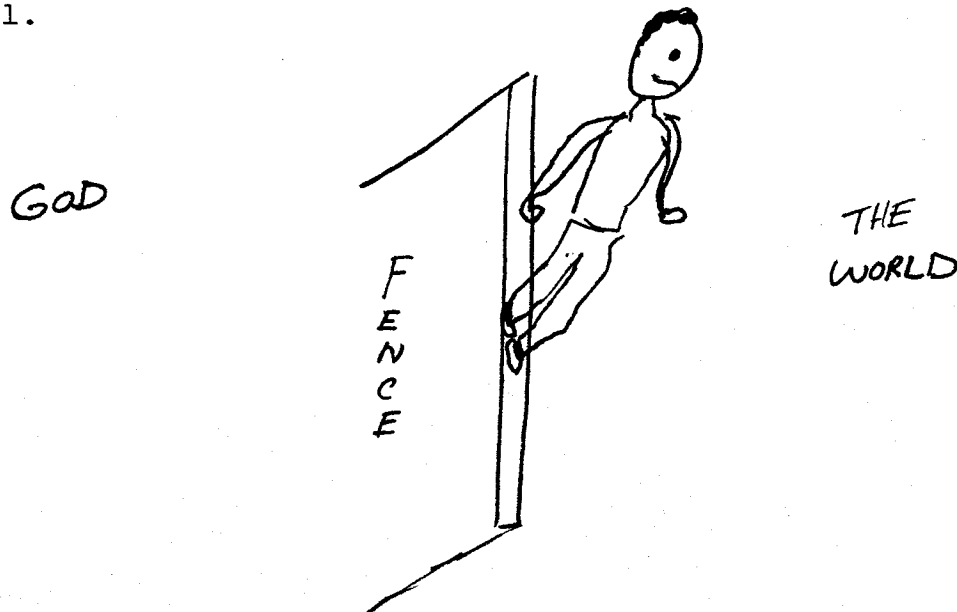
What decision did Joshua make as found in Joshua 24:15? Have you decided to serve Christ or have you decided to serve SELF?

God is looking for "A WILLING MIND" (see 2 Cor. 8:11-12). Are you willing to do God's will, even if it might be difficult? Are you willing to follow God's Word, even though it is not always easy to do this? Are you willing to do what is right even when those all around you do wrong and will make fun of you if you do right? What was Jesus Christ willing to do to save you? Was He willing to pay a price?

4. What about our FRIENDS?

Who is your best friend? Why? Are you God's friend or God's enemy (James 4:4)? Do you love what is against God and opposed to God? Are you for God or are you against God? Are you going in God's direction or are you going in your own direction (Isaiah 53:6)? Are you and God in agreement (see Amos 3:3)? Can you really walk together with those who are not in agreement with God? If you are playing another team in football, can you be friendly with one of the players on the other team and out of friendship give him the football? Can you do this in basketball? Would your teammates appreciate it? You need to decide what team you are really on and who you are for and who you are against.

Some people try to stay on the fence and not take any side at all.



Which side are you on? He doesn't want to be against God but he doesn't want to be against the world. He tries to be in the middle (neutral). He tries to please both. He tries to please God (goes to church, etc.) and he tries to please the world. He is not hot and he is not cold--he is a lukewarm fence walker! He is also a very miserable person. He can't be happy with God because he is too worldly. He can't be happy with the world because he knows he should not be there. See 1 Kings 18:21--Elijah was telling the people that they needed to make a decision. Stop standing on the fence! If God is really God, then follow Him; but if Baal is really God, then follow him. (see Joshua 24:15--Joshua in essence said, "You can choose which idols you will serve, but as for me, I will serve the Lord!")

How can friends help you? How can friends hurt you? How can friends pull you up? How can friends drag you down? How can friends be a good influence on you? How can friends be a bad influence? What kind of a friend are you? What kind of an influence are you? Do you lead people toward God? Do you lead people away from God? Are you moving in a right and healthy direction? Are you moving in a wrong and sinful direction?

Has a so-called friend ever disappointed you? let you down? failed to do what he said he would do? Has a so-called friend ever turned on you and become your enemy? What is a true

friend?

What is peer pressure? What is the pressure of the crowd? Is it easy to follow a multitude (many people) to do evil? (see Exodus 23:2) If everyone is doing it, is it hard not to do it? Suppose you were trying to go up some stairs at school and all of a sudden twenty students all came down the stairs. Wouldn't that make it hard for you to do up? Wouldn't it be easier for you to turn around and go down with the crowd?

It's always easier to go with the current. (go the way everything else is going) It's always hard to fight against the stream (that takes work and effort). Anyone can drift along with the stream. The crowd is often wrong, but God wants us to be right and to do right.

Why is it hard to be different from the crowd? Why are we so concerned about what others think or say? Why is it so important to please the crowd and stay on favorable terms with the crowd. No one wants to be an "outcast." No one wants to be alone. No one wants to be different. These are not easy things. Daniel dared to be different and he had to stand alone (with his three friends). David dared to be different (the entire crowd was afraid of Goliath but David refused to be like the crowd). Like Daniel, we need to find the right kind of friends. See Psalm 119:63. A real friend is a COMPANION, someone that I can be united with. According to this verse, what are two things that should be true of my close companions? (they fear God, they obey God) Are such friends common or are such friends rare? Are you this kind of friend? Do you look for this kind of person to be your friend? Of course, we should be friendly to all (be a good testimony to all people), but we should be very careful who our close friends are. What does it mean to fear God? What does it mean to obey God? Are you the kind of person who is afraid of displeasing God? Are you afraid of not doing what God has said? What are you most afraid of--pleasing the crowd or pleasing the Lord? What is your biggest concern--being on poor terms with the crowd or being on poor terms with the Lord?

Did you know that if you REALLY do what is right, the crowd will respect you. They will see that you are different and they

will know that you have something that they do not have. They will still make fun of you and will probably give you a hard time, but if you live right, they will respect you and even be envious of you (they will want what you have). Of course if you are always grumpy and full of gripes ("Woe unto me! I never have any fun! I'm a Christian. I can't do anything that is fun." etc.) then not only will you be different from the crowd (in a wrong way) but also they will feel sorry for you! They will think, "What a terrible thing it must be to be a Christian! I'm sure glad that I'm not like him!" But if we are really a true believer and living as a true believer ought to live, we will show them something that is very special and that is very rare and they will be very interested in you! They will watch you and observe you and try to figure you out! They will be amazed at you! And if you keep it up, someday one of them will become like you! Because of you and your testimony, one of them will decide to trust the Lord! Then you will have a real friend! Then instead of you standing all alone against the crowd you'll have two of you! Soon it might even be three!

May the living God do a work in our hearts that these things might really be so! God is able! ARE you able to trust Him?