



Grace Life Church *of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God



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Walking Someone Through Biblical Assurance

“Are you sure you are saved?”

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version (unless noted)

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All emphasis added/insertions are mine

Why it is necessary to preach on assurance regularly

- Scripture teaches on it regularly (warnings)
- Brings greater assurance to the true Christian
- Helps new converts understand what has happened to them (Spiritual Birth)
- Equips all of us to walk others through Biblical assurance
 - Helps parents as we walk with our children through their profession
- Exposes false converts dead faith

In our time today I won't be able to give a lot of detail,
but I pray it spurs you to study these scriptures

Things to remember when sharing on assurance

Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15)

- “I am coming to you because I have some concerns”
- Be ready to invest some time (multiple meetings)

As you share, quote or point to Scripture

- Don't say “I believe” but rather “Scripture says/teaches”
- In the end, their struggle will be with Scripture/God
- Be prepared for them to attack the messenger (you) (John 15:18-20, Matt 5:11-12)

Clarify over and over what you are NOT saying

- Often accused of “not understanding grace”
- Repeat often “We are saved by grace through faith not of works” Eph 2:8-9
- Remind them, “I am not talking with you about “How someone is saved” (Repenting/Believing the gospel Mark 1:15) but I am talking with you about “How do you know you are saved?” (Assurance of salvation)

We are NOT trying to convince them they do not believe

- This is a mistake many people make when going through assurance
- The question isn't “Do you believe?” but “Are you aware Scripture teaches there are two kinds of faith? Living faith (salvation) & dead faith (hell)”
- “Have you ever examined your faith to see if it is living or dead?”

Warnings of false Christianity and false faith in the scriptures

Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are **many**. 14For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are **few**”*

- **Not many people will be genuinely saved**

Matthew 7:21-23 *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.*

- **Many people who claim Jesus as Lord will not be saved**
- **Who are these people? How do you know you are not one of them?**

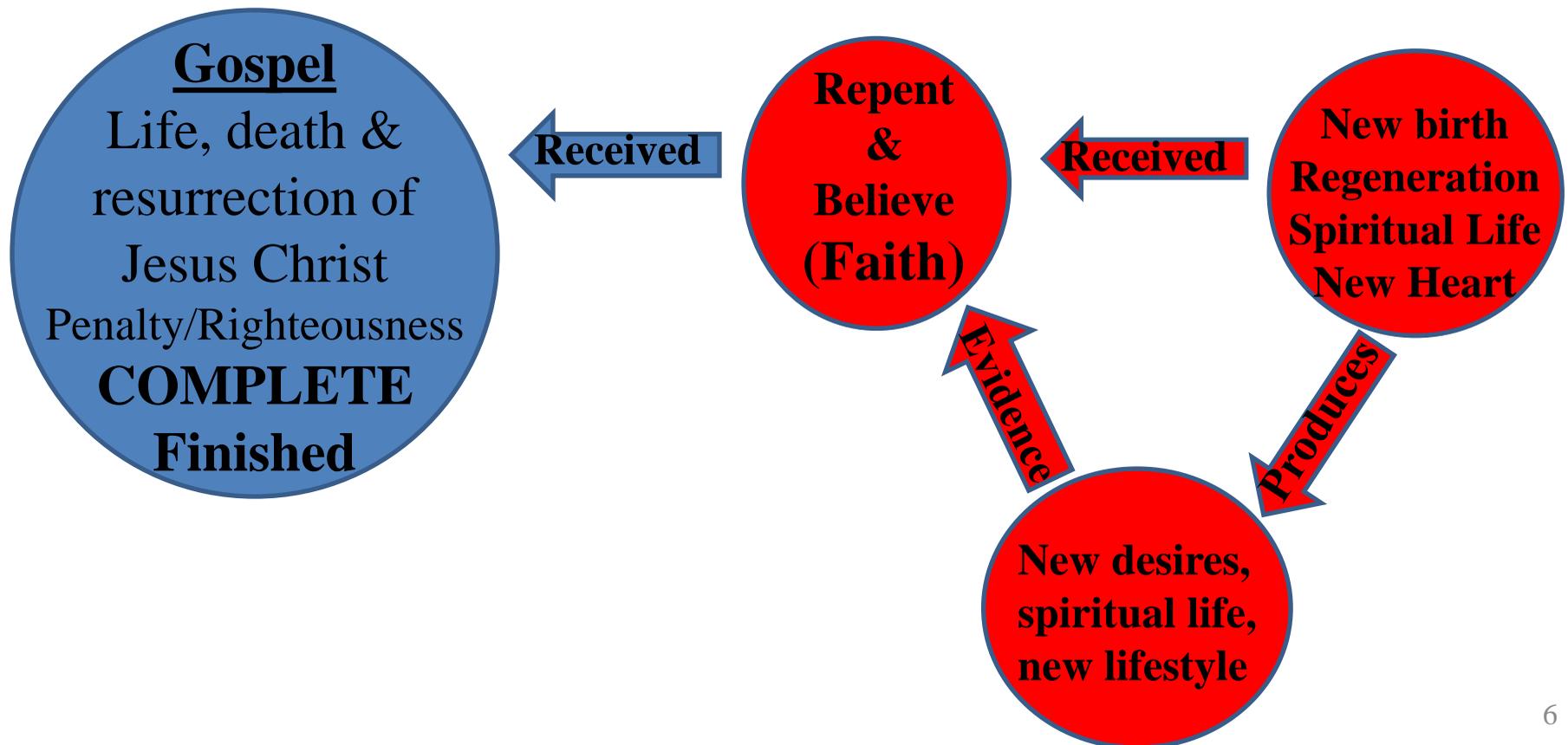
James 2:14-26 *v19You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! v26For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (John 8:31-51)*

- **There is living faith (evidenced by works/New life) and dead faith (demon faith, evidenced by a lack of works)**
- **James is NOT teaching we are saved by faith AND works, but that works (lifestyle) are the evidence our faith is real**

Warnings of false Christianity and false faith in the scriptures

“Did you know you can test your faith to see if it is living or dead?”

- In Biblical assurance we are testing faith (Is faith genuine?) How do you test faith?
- Genuine saving faith is given in regeneration (new birth), dead faith is humanistic ascent/affirmation.
- Therefore, to test genuine saving faith we look for the evidences of the being born again



In the beginning

- Everything begins with a right understanding of God (Holy, Righteous, & Just) Ex 15:11, Ps 97:2, 7:11, Hab 1:13) Study attributes of God
- **Genesis 1:27** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* (Pre-fall, sin not present, all was “good” v31)
- **Genesis 3 (Fall/Sin)-Two important truths regarding the fall**
 - **We are all guilty/condemned in Adam (Romans 5:18** *Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men)*
 - **Anyone born after seed of man is born in sin (sinners) (Genesis 5:3** *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth)*
 - We gain our understanding of the impact of being born with a “sin nature” or “depraved” from the portrait scripture paints of mankind from birth

Impact of being born in sin

Psalm 51:5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

Genesis 6:5 *The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

John 3:19 *people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

Ephesians 2:1-3 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

Impact of being born in sin

Romans 3:10-18 *“None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

The natural man is spiritually dead, deceived in his heart, lover of sin, does not and cannot accept the things of God, does not seek after God, does no good, has no fear of God and the intention of his heart is only evil continually.

How is this person ever going to respond to the call of the gospel (repent and believe)?

We need to be born again

John 3:1-21 *V3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

What happens in the new birth (regeneration, born again)?

Ezekiel 36:22-31 *25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules....31 Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.*

Picture of new birth given in **John 11** (*Lazarus*) “*Lazarus, come out.*”

- Did Jesus call to the dead man (Lazarus) and Lazarus raised himself from the dead and obeyed, or when Jesus said “Come out” did Jesus grant life with the command, which raised Lazarus from the dead, and then he came out?

This is why we hear Jesus often say “*He who has ears, let him hear*” **Matt 11:15; 13:9**

We need to be born again

All true Christians have experienced the new birth from above. It was the same work in all of us (spiritual life, new heart, Spirit of God).

- It produces fruit in all believers (lifestyle)
- This fruit is what Paul encourages the Corinthian church to test to see if they are in the faith (**2 Corinthians 13:5** *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*)
- This newness of life is what John points to as evidence that we have eternal life (**1 John 5:13** *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*)
 - The whole book of **1 John** is written so professing Christians can know if they have eternal life (if their faith is living faith and not dead)
 - John is testing the fruit of the new birth (if their life shows evidence of being born again, then they have assurance. Why? Newness of life is evidence of the new birth. In the new birth we received repentance/faith.

Assurance

Remember the deceitful work of the enemy (masquerading) can be very hard to detect. We do NOT determine people's salvation.

- That is a work of the Spirit (**Rom 8**) and the Word
- Example of deceptive work (**2 Cor 7:10**)

If you go through the test and they fail the test:

- Often they believe they are still saved and need to go “do” (put on the fruit/start living Christian life)
- Gently remind them, they need to be saved and call them to repentance and faith
 - Walk them through the gospel
 - “How will I know if it is genuine this time?”
 - Newness of life (because of new birth) will be the evidence

Salvation is more than a decision to not go to hell, it is the miracle of LIFE
**Give your life to the study of scripture (gospel/salvation) for your own soul,
your family, the church, the lost world and the glory of God**