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GUIDE N° 6 OF 15 · FREE

Sure of Heaven

How you can know — truly know — that you are saved

— 1 JOHN 5:13 (KJV)

A free guide for new believers · slgrace.com

A letter to you, dear friend

Dear friend, perhaps you gave your life to Christ sincerely — yet a troubling question keeps returning, especially at night, especially after you have failed: 'Am I really saved? What if I only think I am?' You are not alone in that question, and you are not a bad believer for asking it. God foresaw it, and He wrote a whole letter — 1 John — so that believers may KNOW they have eternal life. Not hope vaguely, not guess, not wait until death to find out. Know.

This guide will lay your assurance on three solid pillars that never move: God's promise in His Word, the finished work of Jesus, and the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart — and it will honestly separate those pillars from the shaky ground of feelings. Read slowly. By the end, our prayer is that you will close this guide, lift your head, and say with a quiet, settled heart: 'I know whom I have believed.'

Pillar one: God's promise cannot lie

Your salvation rests first on what God has said, not on what you feel. The apostle John wrote his letter for one stated purpose: that you may KNOW you have eternal life. God wants His children certain. A good father does not keep his child guessing whether he belongs in the house. Read 1 John 5:13 again and notice — eternal life is something believers HAVE, present tense, a present possession received the moment they believed on the Son.

Feelings are real, but they are terrible judges. You can feel saved on a joyful Sunday and feel lost on a tired Tuesday, while your actual standing before God has not moved a hair. Feelings follow sleep, health, weather, hormones and circumstances. God's promise follows His character — and God cannot lie. Build your house on the promise, and let feelings be visitors, welcome when pleasant, never obeyed as masters.

Here is a practice that anchors many believers: when doubt speaks, answer it out loud with Scripture, the way Jesus answered temptation in the wilderness — 'It is written.' Keep this guide's closing verses where you can reach them at 2 a.m. The Word spoken in the dark drives doubt out like light drives out shadow.

> *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*
> **— 1 John 5:13 (KJV)**

Pillar two: Jesus finished the work

Doubt often hides a deeper question: 'Was the cross enough — even for someone like me?' Hear Jesus' own final word from the cross: 'It is finished.' Not 'it is started, now you complete it.' The debt was paid in full — your past sins, present sins, and future sins were all future when He died, and all were laid on Him. If your salvation depended on adding your own payment, no one could ever be sure. Because it rests on His finished payment, you can be.

Picture a courtroom. The judge declares the debt paid by another, the case closed, the prisoner free. The freed man may still tremble at the courtroom door — his feelings lag behind the verdict — but he IS free, because the verdict, not his trembling, decides it. God's verdict over you is written: there is now NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. No condemnation — not 'less condemnation,' not 'condemnation on bad days.' None.

This is why we urge you: stop re-trying a case heaven has closed. When the accusing voice rehearses your past, answer, 'That was paid for. I am in Christ. The case is closed.' You are not being proud; you are agreeing with the Judge.

> *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*
> **— Romans 8:1 (KJV)**

Held in two hands: the Father’s and the Son’s

Jesus described your security with a picture no believer should forget. His sheep hear His voice and follow Him; He gives them eternal life; they shall never perish; no one can pluck them out of His hand. Then He adds the second hand: His Father, who gave them to Him, is greater than all, and no one can pluck them out of the Father’s hand either. You are held in a double grip — the Son’s hand inside the Father’s hand. Your safety does not depend on the strength of your holding on to God, but on God’s holding on to you.

Does this mean a believer can live carelessly? No — a true sheep hears the Shepherd’s voice and follows; the desire to follow is itself a sign of life. But it does mean your eternal safety is not re-decided daily by your performance. A father does not disown his child for falling while learning to walk. He corrects, He teaches, He sometimes disciplines — because the child IS his. Discipline is proof of sonship, not its loss.

Memorise John 10:28. On the day fear says you have slipped out of God’s hand, read it slowly, word by word, and thank God that His grip is stronger than your weakness.

> *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”*
> **— John 10:28-29 (KJV)**

Pillar three: the Spirit witnesses — and your life shows fruit

God also gives an inner witness. The Holy Spirit testifies with your spirit that you are a child of God. You experience this as a quiet, deep knowing beneath the noise — a heart that now calls God 'Father' naturally, that grieves over sin instead of enjoying it comfortably, that hungers for the Word and loves believers. These are not feelings of excitement; they are new directions of the heart, and they are strong evidence of new birth.

John gives simple tests in his letter, and they comfort honest hearts. Do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Do you grieve over sin and confess it, rather than hiding and boasting in it? Do you love God's people — actually want their company and their good? Is there a growing desire to obey God, however imperfectly? If yes — even weakly, even growing slowly — the fruit matches the tree. Fruit does not create life; it reveals it.

But a warning in love: if a person claims Christ yet feels nothing, loves sin freely, never confesses, never desires God at all — the honest step is not to claim assurance but to come to Christ freshly and truly, today. The prayer at the end of the guide 'You Are a New Creature' will lead you. God turns away no one who comes sincerely. Assurance is for those who have come; and all who come, He receives.

> *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."*
> **— Romans 8:16 (KJV)**

Do this:

1. Read 1 John fully this week — it was written for your assurance.

2. List three changes in your heart since you believed; thank God for each.

3. Memorise John 10:28 and Romans 8:1 this week.

When doubt still knocks

Even assured believers have seasons when doubt knocks loudly — after a failure, in grief, in sickness, in long unanswered prayer. Treat doubt as weather, not as verdict. Do three things. First, confess any known sin quickly and specifically; unconfessed sin clouds assurance the way dust clouds a window, though the sun has not moved. Second, return to the promises and read them aloud — faith comes by hearing. Third, stay in fellowship; doubt grows in isolation and shrinks in the company of believers who can remind you of truth when your own heart is too tired to hold it.

Never make big spiritual decisions in the valley of doubt — do not conclude you are lost at midnight and act on it by morning. Rest, eat, sleep, pray, read, and judge your standing by the Word in the light of day. You will find the Rock was under your feet the whole time.

Friend, God wants you sure — not proud, not careless, but sure: sure enough to rest, sure enough to serve, sure enough to face death itself without terror when your time comes. That sureness is His gift, written in His Word, sealed by His Son, witnessed by His Spirit. Receive it today, and walk in it.

> *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
>
> **— Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)**

A PRAYER FOR A SETTLED HEART

Father, thank You that my salvation rests on Your promise and on the finished work of Jesus — not on my feelings. I believe on

the Son of God, and Your Word says I have eternal life. Quiet my accusing thoughts with Your truth. Holy Spirit, witness with my spirit that I am God's child, and grow in me the fruit that matches my faith. I rest in the hands of Jesus and the Father today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Verses to hold on to

Keep these verses near you. Read one each morning. Say it aloud. God's Word will hold you on days when feelings are weak.

> *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."*
> **— John 5:24 (KJV)**

> *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*
> **— Philippians 1:6 (KJV)**

> *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*
> **— John 3:16 (KJV)**

> *"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth."*
> **— Romans 8:33 (KJV)**

You are not walking alone

Dear friend, you have finished this guide — well done. Keep it near your Bible and return to it whenever you need it. Growth is day by day, and your Father is patient, present and proud of every honest step you take toward Him.

If you would like someone to pray with you, answer your questions, or walk with you in these first steps, our free Salvation Follow-Up team would be honoured to hear from you. Visit slgrace.com and open the chat — ask for the "Salvation Follow-Up" desk. It is completely free, and you will be received with love.

The other free guides in this series

1. You Are a New Creature — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

2. First Steps With Jesus — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

3. How to Pray — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

4. Reading the Bible — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

5. The Holy Spirit, Your Helper — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

6. Water Baptism — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

7. Finding Fellowship — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

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12. When Doubts Come — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

13. God's Promises for You — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

14. Your First 30 Days — free from the Salvation Follow-Up Desk at slgrace.com

May the Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you, and give you peace — today and all your days. (Numbers 6:24-26)