How can I know I am saved and others are saved?

New Testament. I John Epistle

1Jn 5:1 Everyone who *believes* that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. And everyone who *loves* Him who begets also loves him who has been born of Him.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we *love the children of God, whenever we love God and keep His commandments.*

1Jn 5:3 For this is *the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.*

1Jn 5:4 For everything that has been born of God *overcomes* the world. And this is the victory that *overcomes* the world, our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he who *overcomes* the world, but he who *believes* that Jesus is the Son of God?

1Jn 5:10 He who *believes* on the Son of God has the witness in himself. He who *does not believe* God has made him a liar, because he does not *believe* the record that God gave of His Son.

\*\*\*1Jn 5:11 And this is the record, that God has given to us everlasting life, and this life is in His Son.

1Jn 5:12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life\*\*\*

1Jn 5:13 I have written these things to you who *believe* on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have everlasting life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever *believes* in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Observations:

The payout for *believing* on Jesus is you have everlasting life with Him.

If we believe in Jesus we are born of Him. The question is what does believing mean and what are its implications?

Believe-Greek: to *trust* or believe, morally to *be true* or certain; *-* hence assurance, establish, sure,

Believe-Webster: to have confidence in a truth, the existence, or the reliability of something,

The evidence of your belief is that you act on it.

If you know something or believe something is true, you act on it. You will obey.

Conclusion:

The operative word for salvation is not pray or a phrase, it is “believe”

To obey is to believe.

We know God when we obey Him, see 1Joh 5:3. Since we can’t trust our emotions, it isn’t how we feel about God but it is willingness to obey even when it is difficult and we don’t feel like it.

Also, if I consider myself a free spirit and disobey Him willingly, then I must conclude that I am not saved or I have no reason to believe I am saved.

You may attend church, run with Christian people but if you dabble with disobedience and particularly sexual sin, $$, vocabulary, loving your spouse, obeying the Law, honoring your parents, you should question the validity of your salvation.

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Other comments on salvation in the Epistles:

Rom 4:3 For what says the scripture? And Abraham ***believed*** God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. (this is a code phrase for saved)

Eph 2:8 for by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 not of works, that no man should glory.

Tit 3:5 not by works *done* in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost,

The only indicator of Titus group that they were saved was they believed and obeyed. How do you know you are saved or believe?

Test for your salvation: Joh14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him. Love here is not just an emotion but a management of your will to obey Jesus. Note in 1John 5:3, “we *love the children of God, whenever we love God and keep His commandments.”*

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Jesus teaching on your salvation:

Mat\_24:13 But he that endured to the end, the same shall be saved

Mat\_7:13 Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many be they that enter in thereby.

Mat\_7:14 For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leads unto life, and few be they that find it.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow(obey) me…obey

The only prescriptions taught by Jesus in the Bible for being saved is believe, endure, and hear Christ. The manifestation of these words is obedience to the Word.

I have been challenged more than once that to emphasize obedience too much is legalism. Show me where that is in the Bible!!

Overzealousness is not legalism.

*No one is accursed in the bible for the sin for being overzealous for obedience to the Word.*

Comments and applications: Spiritual revelation, without obedience, is spiritual abortion.

1. You do nothing to be saved but believe Jesus.
2. Obedience is in your best interest for your time here on earth and in Heaven.
3. Do an inventory on your life, habits, vocabulary, etc. and straighten out the areas of your life to align with God biblically.
4. On each bible study, quiet time or discussion, review your thinking for application.
5. We used to have a saying for the person who claimed salvation but acted otherwise. We would say that they had a “Cheap Grace”.

There is no Cheap Grace. The truth is with disobedience you must conclude you are either not a Christian or have no reason to believe they are a Christian. Many people who say they are Christian have no reason to think they are.

Author’s note: I have found the Institutional Church to be full of these people. That is why the local Institutional Church is such a great “fishing pond” to evangelize in. No other place in our society has as many seekers in one place.

1. To be an evangelist, you must emphasize spiritual growth through obedience to the word when saved.

Parting Note:

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Mission statement of the blogs

These blogs are to stimulate your biblical thinking to become Issachar’s of our time.

1Ch 12:32 and from the sons of Issachar, *men* who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.

These blogs are an attempt to articulate key biblical issues of our day so that we can:

1. Learn and understand the propositions of the Bible concerning our life.
2. We can apply the truth in our life in the sanctification process.
3. Contend/defend against heresy or apostasy.
4. We can draw closer to God.

We post these blogs on a website. The address is JacksonsJournal.com

Gayle