

CHAPTER TWO

HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

A. WE BASE OUR FAITH ON FACTS

You may ask, "What if I have doubts whether or not I am born again?"

The enemy's first tactic is to cast doubt on the work God has done in your heart. He will try to plant thoughts in your mind to convince you that you are not really born again. One day you may really think you are saved and the next day you may not; therefore, you can see that your intellect is not a good judge to go by. The enemy may also try to make you feel as if you are not saved. One day you may feel very born again and the next day you may not. Therefore, your feelings or any emotional experiences you may have are not a good standard to go by.

How do you know that you are truly a born-again Christian? How do you know you have eternal life? How do you counterattack the enemy when he works against your mind and feelings? The first thing you need to know is that your assurance of salvation is based on the authority of God's Word, not on your intellect or emotional feelings.

You must go by the facts. Facts do not change. What are the facts? God's Word contains the unchanging facts. God's Word is the only source of stability concerning your Christian life. God knows every fact; His Word contains the facts. Faith is our trust in God and His Word. Feelings are the *result* of our faith. We do not depend on feelings or emotions to be saved; we are saved by placing our trust in God.

B. TAKE THE ASSURANCE TEST

1. Facts

Do Bible facts ever change? _____

2. Feelings

Do our feelings ever change? _____

What determines our feelings? _____

3. Faith

What happens if our faith is in our feelings? _____

What happens if our faith is in the fact of God's Word? _____

C. WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

What are the facts? God's Word is fact. According to the Bible, what can you be assured of now that you have believed on and received Jesus Christ as your Savior?

1. 1 John 5:11-13

How do you know you have eternal life? _____

2. Revelation 3:20

How do you know Christ came into your life? _____

3. John 1:12

How do you know you became a child of God? _____

4. Colossians 1:14

What do you know you've received for your sins? _____

5. John 6:37

How do you know Jesus Christ has received you? _____

6. 2 Corinthians 5:17

What have you become in Christ? _____

What has happened to the old you? _____

7. Romans 8:16

How do you know that you are a child of God? _____

8. 1 John 4:7

How do you know that you are born of God and know God? _____

9. Hebrews 13:5

What do you know that Jesus Christ will never do? _____

Facts, faith and feelings: A preacher once expressed this idea of believing the facts of God's Word when he said, "God said it. I believe it. And that settles it!"

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Are you sure you are a Christian? _____

On what authority do you base your assurance? _____

2. On the inside cover of your Bible (or somewhere you can keep a permanent record) write down the date and time you received Jesus. You may have to estimate. Whenever the enemy tries to confuse you with doubts about your salvation, just tell him the date and time you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Also, in the future, you will appreciate having a record of this very important date.

3. Begin to grow in your new life with Christ.

Take time each day to get to know Him. Commit yourself to studying the Word of God and the lessons that follow in this series, and you will see your relationship with the Lord grow and develop.

E. GROUP EXERCISE

Each person in the group take three minutes and share with the others your story of receiving Christ as your Savior and Lord.

For example:

One minute — My life before I met Christ

One minute — How I met Christ

One minute — My life after receiving Christ

Sharing your testimony and hearing the testimony of others are exciting experiences in the Christian life. Make it a habit to share your testimony with others as a witness of what Christ has done for you.