



## DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

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**Lesson Number:** One

**Theme:** The Assurance of Salvation

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### Introduction

Have you ever wondered if the vows you made when you opened your heart to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour were enough? Do you sometimes feel guilty about your past sins and think there is no way God will forgive you? Do you sometimes think you are not good enough for God to use you? Well, gracefully, these are the questions we seek to answer in our study today. The Word of God says; *“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved”*. Romans 10:10. *“But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God”*, John 1:12.

We are going to discuss a crucial lesson in the life of every believer: the assurance of Salvation.

### A. What is Salvation?

Salvation simply means to be delivered from sin and the price you should have paid for such sin. It is the Christian position that all mankind sinned through Adam and carry the burden of sin until delivered from it by God through Christ Jesus. *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”*, Romans 3:23.

The Good News is that Christ Jesus saved us eternally when He died on the Cross and God raised Him from the dead (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4). All you need to do is to accept what He has done for you. Once you openly declare with a sincere heart that Christ Jesus is Lord and you invite Him to control the affairs of your life, then the Bible says that *you are saved*. It is that easy and simple!

Accepting Christ Jesus, the son of God, as your Lord and Saviour involves turning over to Him completely the management of your life, including your intellect, emotions, and will. When He manages your life, you have the privilege to fellowship with Him every day and every moment of your life. Is that not a beautiful experience? Your assurance of Salvation depends on the facts of the Word; it is not based on what you feel or think or anything else but on the word of God.

## **B. Conditions necessary for the assurance of Salvation**

Salvation is free and given through Christ Jesus. The assurance of Salvation depends on two conditions, based on the word of God:

1. hearing the word of God and
2. believing in God through His Word.

*“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.*

This means that you are no longer under the curse of sin but will live forever in Christ when you receive and accept God’s gift of Salvation to you. Eternal life begins when you have Salvation.

## **C. Doubting God’s Gift of Salvation**

Since the assurance of Salvation depends on hearing and believing in God’s Word, why do you sometimes doubt it? Growing as a child in the Lord, I usually thought that the confession I made when I received and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour was not enough; because it did not make me as perfect as I thought I should. I remember going constantly to God in prayer to save me whenever there was an altar call after a sermon. Later I learned through the Word of God that it was because I did not sincerely believe in Christ Jesus even though I had been baptized.

1 John 5:10-13 says, *“He that believed on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believed not the record that God gave of His Son...that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life.”*

*“For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged”, Romans 3:3-4.*

You doubt the assurance of Salvation because you did not believe in the first place; not because the process was incomplete. When you believe, the spirit of God in you bears witness and comes alive in you; that is how you will know that you have the assurance of Salvation (see 1 John 5:10a). Apostle Paul also says in 1 Corinthians 12:3 that, *“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”* In other words, one can only say Jesus is Lord by the Spirit of God. It is not of our own accord to do that and should be a sign to us of our salvation.

Doubt also comes because of disobedience. People who live in constant disobedience and neglect the Word of God permits the Devil to flood their minds with worldly things. This predisposes them to doubts about their person in Christ Jesus and in God. As a believer, you need to guard your mind by walking in obedience to God’s Word.

*“Finally, my Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His Might. Put on the full Armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil”, Ephesians 6:10-11.*

## **D. Not everyone is a child of God**

In the beginning, God created mankind through Adam and Eve; but, because of their disobedience, mankind was denied the right to be God's children. Sin separated mankind from God and men and women began to walk according to the dictates of the flesh; opening themselves to evil cravings and fulfilling the desires of the flesh and their mind. As a result, man was denied his righteous place until Christ Jesus came and reconciled us to God (see Colossians 1:20-22; Ephesians 2:4-7).

The conditions of Salvation, as discussed earlier, involving receiving and believing in God's word. John 1:12 says, "*But as many as received Him to them gave He the power to become the children of God....*" This means that to have the assurance of Salvation you need to receive, believe, and be saved; you must confess Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Salvation has little to do with the environment you grew up in – whether you were born into a Christian home, attend church every Sunday, are baptized at a young age, or trying to live a good life. *People of the world*, who live by the flesh, are not God's children because they have not yet received and believed God's word for their lives.

God will not deny anyone who seeks Him through Christ Jesus. God has lifted His Word above His Name and will not change His mind; neither will he refuse anyone who meets the conditions of Salvation. He would definitely make you His child when you receive and believe in the name of Jesus Christ.

*"For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul"* Psalm 138:2-3. The first evidence of your salvation is when you receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to you only after you have received the gift of Salvation. The Holy Spirit changes you from inside out and gives you the power to overcome the things of the flesh: fornication, lies, adultery, stealing, covetousness, etc; while you begin to walk in the will of God for your life. *"But ye shall receive power, after that, the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"*, Acts 1:8.

## **E. Salvation is a spiritual gift of God**

The process of Salvation is initiated by God entry out to completion by God alone, not by any human efforts. It is a gift from God to you. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God*". You need to be mindful of the fact that you did nothing, beyond accepting and believing in the name of Jesus Christ, to be saved. God gave you the grace to 'receive and believe'; the sinful flesh could not have done that by itself for it opposes the things of God. *"For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other"*, Galatians 5:17. Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ Jesus. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"*, Ephesians 2:8-9.

## **E. What is your response?**

Salvation is a gift but each one of us will account for it on the day of God's judgment. Hebrews 9:27 says, "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*" Today, you have the wonderful opportunity to receive this gift of God to you; tomorrow may be too late. God is knocking on the door of your heart with His Word, will you let Him in? Take a bold and sincere step to receive

and believe in God's Word of Salvation by asking Christ Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour. *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come into him and will sup with him, and he with me"*, Revelations 3:20.

## **G. Prayer**

Pray and ask God for forgiveness for doubting His word at any time.

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. What would you say is your assurance of the salvation of Jesus Christ?

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2. Can our salvation be lost?

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3. Why do we need to be saved at all?

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