

An eternal certainty

If you have come to a funeral service this afternoon you are in the wrong building. If you have come to Diane's funeral service, sorry you have been miss-informed. Diane is not dead she is alive and well actually healthier than all of us put together.

In **John 11:25** Jesus said, this "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Is it possible to know for certain that one has eternal life and as a result has peace with God and will go to heaven? The Bible affirms that repentance (turning from sin), confession of sin, and belief in Jesus' death and resurrection will lead to eternal life.

In **John 5:24** Jesus gave a threefold promise to those who hear his word and believe in the God who sent him.

John 5:24-25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me (1) has everlasting life, and (2) shall not come into judgment, but (3) has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

In days of confusion and uncertainty, we've come to question most things in life and our society views life with a question mark. If you were to ask many church members about their assurance of eternal life and going to heaven, many would say, "I'm not sure."

2 Tim 1:12 "for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day".

God has promised us In John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

The Process of Gaining Assurance

It is appropriate to say that this gift has no price tag, but it does not come cheap, the questions arise:

- † What do we have to do, to be assured of this gift of salvation?
- † Is there a process that we must pass through in order to gain it?

There are certain necessary steps that are needed to acquire the assurance of salvation. The Bible teaches that God loves everyone and wants to be known by everyone. Sin, however, creates a separation between God and humanity. The Bible tells us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

There is within every person a desire to know God; an obstacle that stands in the way of knowing God; and a desire to overcome this separation. Often people try to satisfy God through good works (for example, being good parents, attending church regularly, or living by the golden rule.)

But the Bible tells us that these are ineffective and will not save us: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9). Even though good works are important, solve serious

social problems, and effectively bring people together, they can do nothing to bridge the separation between people and God.

This verse, however, also tells us that salvation is a gift that comes through faith. The faith assumption is that the cross of Christ spans that separation and bridges the road to God. The Apostle John writes, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

Baptist Don't go to heaven, Presbyterians don't go to heaven, Catholic Don't go to heaven, and Church of God Don't go to heaven, let me make it clearer for you today. Your church membership does not guarantee your salvation or eternal life.

The only thing that would guarantee eternal life is if you have been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ the son of the living God. 1 john 1:9
“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.

The Prayer of Repentance

If you have not prayed for forgiveness and sought to know Jesus as Lord and Savior; if you have not prayed to receive Christ into your life; if you are not certain that you have gone through this process, this is such a prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned against you. I am truly sorry for those sins. I ask your forgiveness. I believe in your son Jesus and that he died for my sins. By faith I invite you now to live in me. Thank you for forgiving me and coming to me now. Amen.

How do I know that I am saved (1 John 4:15) “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God” (1 John 5:11–13). “This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life”

Diane today is seated at the right hand of the father in Christ Jesus. And she is very much alive. The only person that is dead in this room is the one who is not in Christ Jesus.

Explain

The only sure word concerning life after death is the Word of God. In 1 Thess. 4:15 the Apostle Paul says, “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.” Now obviously the term “fallen asleep”