

What We Really Need Secure Forever

When we are truly in Christ, we are forever secure (Romans 8:35, 38-39). We can experience security because God is faithful and declares His followers cannot be snatched out of His hand (John 10:27-29). In fact, when we are *in Christ*, we are marked with a seal, the Holy Spirit, as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance and redemption in Him (Ephesians 1:13-14). We can live securely because our faith in Jesus has been properly tested. Testing brings confidence, provides certainty, and produces security. Examining ourselves is a process of asking the right questions in order to determine if we are bearing good fruit and progressing towards Christ-likeness. If we see the evidence of growth and maturing, then we can live courageously, purposefully and worry-free knowing deep within that we are truly *in Christ*.

GETTING STARTED

What brand, company, or product do you genuinely trust? How did they gain your trust? What brand, company, or product do you not trust, and why?

GO DEEPER

1. In Romans 8:35, Paul lists several things that could potentially separate him from the love of Christ (e.g. tribulation, famine, nakedness, sword, etc.). What kinds of situations today try to separate us from God's love?
2. According to John 10:27-29, those who are truly in Christ know His voice and follow Him. What else is evidence that we are truly in Christ? What does it look like for people to believe that they are in Christ, when in reality they are not?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. 2 Corinthians 13:5 tells us to examine and test our faith to determine if it is real and authentic. How confident are you that you would pass the test? What gives you that confidence? What, if anything, makes you insecure in the testing process?
2. Pastor David listed 12 questions that can help us test ourselves. Which of these questions resonates most with you? Which one do you feel you need the most growth in, and why?

Has there been a time in my life when I honestly realized I was a sinner and admitted this to myself and to God?

Have I trusted Jesus and Jesus alone for my salvation?

Have I said yes to be His follower?

Is my love for God growing?

Is my love for God seen through a life of obedience?

Is my love for people growing?

Do I look forward to the return of Jesus and the thought of heaven?

Does something deep within confirm I am God's child?

Do I see evidence of change and growth in my life due to my faith?

Do I see the fruit of the Spirit growing in me?

Does the use of my money indicate a greater trust & affection towards God than money?

Is my faith only evidenced by attendance at religious events, or does it affect my daily decisions?

While grieving, can I be thankful for the growth that God brings to me when I have gone through difficulty?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to purposefully ask God to show you that you are totally and forever secure in your salvation. Thank Him that there is truly nothing that can separate you from His love. Ask Him to help you produce good fruit and to continually mature in your faith. Pray that those you come in contact with will desire what you have in Jesus.

BLESS

Who do you know that maybe thinks they are secure in Jesus, but honestly may not be? Begin to pray for them, asking Jesus to grant you opportunities to foster a relationship to them and to lead them to our Heavenly Father.