



Certain Allegiance

1 John 2:18-27 (NIV)

Fourth in an 8-part series titled: *Are You Certain?*

Pastor Matt Friend – April 29 & May 2, 2021

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— **OUTLINE** —

Today's Big Idea:

Jesus will never forsake true Christians, and true Christians will never forsake Jesus.

Today's Takeaways:

#1 – Believe the gospel and be baptized!

Sign up for our next [Baptism Sunday here](#).

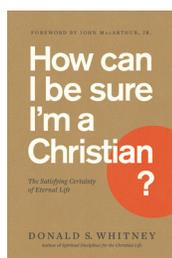
#2 – Stay connected to gospel truth.

#3 – Never ever, ever give up on Jesus.

Why must we never, ever give upon Jesus? Because...

Jesus will never forsake true Christians, and true Christians will never forsake Jesus.

Resource Recommendation



*How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?:
The Satisfying Certainty of Eternal Life*

By Donald S. Whitney



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– NOTES –

Introduction:

Today we continue our 8-week series, “Are You Certain?” studying through 1 John.

The book of 1 John is all about assurance. One of John’s primary goals is to give genuine believers assurance that all of our sins have been forgiven (past, present, and future); that God the Father completely accepts and approves of us through the merits of Jesus; that we really are going to be with Jesus when we die; and that this salvation is eternal.

Toward the end of the letter, John writes, “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” (1 John 5:13).

John’s goal is to assure these Christians (us) of who they (we) really are and to urge them to stay true to what they believe. He calls us back to the basics of the Christian life: true doctrine, obedient living, loving others, and fervent devotion. Many scholars summarize the main theme of this book as “tests by which we can know if we’re in Christ—beliefs and attitudes that authenticate one’s claims to be a Christian.”

Do you need assurance of your salvation? Has someone tried to convince you that your salvation can be lost?

In this book, the Spirit makes an ironclad case for how you can know—that you know—that you know you are a genuine Jesus-follower. This book lays out irrefutable evidence that’s not based on a religious experience you had, a feeling you felt, or a prayer you



prayed. Instead, John provides at least eight pieces of evidence to help you determine that you are (or are not) a child of God.

So far in this series we've examined three pieces of evidence that provide assurance of salvation: a relationship with Jesus ([1:1-4](#)), a desire to turn away from sin ([1:5-2:2](#)), and a desire for the things of God ([2:12-17](#)). Today we'll study a fourth.

Today's Big Idea:

Jesus will never forsake true Christians, and true Christians will never forsake Jesus.

Think About It:

We could also say it this way:

- Jesus will never give up on true Christians, and true Christians will never give up on Jesus.
- True Christians will not finally forsake the faith. Instead, they will be faithful to Christ to the end.
- A big evidence that you are truly saved is that you've not ultimately forsaken Jesus.
- Not only will Jesus never forsake true Christians, true Christians will never forsake Jesus.

Though genuine Christians experience regular temptation, and though we (unfortunately) give in to some of those temptations, the Scriptures clearly teach that our salvation is eternally secure, never able to be lost. Why? Because of...

- The promise Jesus made ([Psalm 37:18, 28](#); [Isaiah 43:1-3](#); [54:10](#); [Jeremiah 32:40](#); [John 3:14-18, 36](#); [4:14](#); [5:24](#); [6:35-40, 47, 50, 51, 54](#); [10:27-30](#); [11:25-26](#); [14:1-6, 16](#); [1 Corinthians 1:4-9](#); [2 Corinthians 1:22](#); [4:14, 17](#); [Romans 5:8-10](#); [8:1, 28-39](#); [10:9-13](#); [Ephesians 1:5, 13-14](#); [2:6](#); [4:30](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#); [2 Timothy 1:12-14](#); [4:18](#); [Hebrews 7:25](#); [9:12, 15](#); [10:10, 14](#); [12:2, 28](#); [13:5-6](#); [1 Peter 1:3-5, 23](#); [1 John 5:11-13](#); [Jude 24-25](#))



- The price Jesus paid ([John 13:1](#); [19:17-30](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:9-10](#); [Hebrews 6:4-6](#); [10:10](#))
- The prayer Jesus prayed ([Luke 22:32](#); [John 11:41-41](#); [17:1-24](#); [Hebrews 7:25](#); [1 John 2:1](#))

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What about this matter of “true Christians will never forsake Jesus?”
Let’s look closer...

Highlights from the Text:

1 John 2:18 —

- “Dear children” again shows the tender compassion John felt for this church.
- For John and early Christians, the “last hour” or “last days” began with Jesus’ incarnation ([1 Corinthians 10:11](#); [Galatians 4:4](#); [Hebrews 1:1-2](#); [9:26](#); [1 Peter 1:20](#)) and will end when He returns to raise the dead, restore the universe, and judge humanity ([John 6:39-40](#), [44](#), [54](#); [11:24](#); [12:48](#); [James 5:3](#); [1 Peter 1:5](#)).
- Even though John considered himself living in the last days, the apostles warned us that the last days will become more evil as they move toward conclusion ([1 Timothy 1:4](#); [2 Timothy 3:1](#); [2 Peter 3:3](#); [Jude 18](#)).
- Though the last two millennia have seen countless antichrist-like figures ([1 John 4:3](#)), John warns us that the ultimate, final antichrist is yet to come ([Daniel 7:7](#); [9:26-27](#); [11:31-39](#); [12:11](#); [Matthew 24:15](#); [Mark 13:6](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:1-12](#); [Revelation 11:7](#); [13:1-10](#), [18](#); [17:1-18](#)).

1 John 2:19 —

- In our pop culture, unfortunately, many who are now opposed to Jesus grew up in religious environments where they were given a wrong view of Jesus.



- Some, like Judas Iscariot, choose to deny Jesus even if they've been given every healthy opportunity to follow Him.
- When someone permanently departs from the faith, it is a sign that they were never a genuine believer to begin with ([Matthew 7:21-23](#); [13:24-43](#); [Mark 4:1-20](#); [Luke 12:2](#); [1 Corinthians 3:13](#); [4:5](#); [11:19](#); [2 Corinthians 11:5, 26](#); [Galatians 2:4](#)).
- “There are some who share our earthly company who do not share our heavenly birth.” —Alistair Begg
- “Those who fall away have never been thoroughly imbued with the knowledge of Christ but only had a slight and passing taste of it.” —John Calvin
- Had they been genuine Christians, they would have continued professing Jesus and would have remained connected with God's people.
- All who partake of the grace and power of saving union with Christ by faith continue in that union with its benefits and fruits. ([Matthew 10:22](#); [Mark 13:13](#); [John 6:37-40](#); [8:31-32](#); [Romans 6:14](#); [8:28-30](#); [1 Corinthians 1:8-9](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [Colossians 1:22-23](#); [2 Timothy 4:7](#); [Hebrews 3:14](#); [1 Peter 1:5](#); [Jude 24-25](#))
- This doctrine is often called “eternal security” or “perseverance of the saints,” or “preservation of the saints.”
- “If God lights the candle, none can blow it out.” —C. H. Spurgeon

1 John 2:20 —

- Here, in contrast to the false believers, John describes the character of true believers.
- All genuine believers have been “anointed” by the Holy Spirit; that is, we have been regenerated by the Spirit, indwelt by the Spirit, and Jesus has baptized us into the body of Christ by means of the Spirit ([John 14:17](#); [15:26](#); [16:13](#); [1 Corinthians 1:21-22](#); [12:13](#)).
- This is further proven by the reference to Jesus the “Holy One” who does the anointing by means of the Spirit ([Mark 1:24](#); [Luke 4:34](#); [John 6:69](#); [Acts 3:14](#); [1 Peter 1:15](#); [Revelation 3:7](#)).



1 John 2:21 —

- All genuine Christians know the truth of the gospel (even at the most elementary level), in which faith is required for salvation.
- By nature, God is a revealer of truth, not a liar. This is true of God the Father ([2 Chronicles 15:3](#); [Jeremiah 10:10](#); [17:3](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:9](#); [1 John 5:20](#)), God the Son ([John 14:6](#)), and God the Holy Spirit ([John 14:17](#); [15:26](#); [16:13](#); [1 John 5:6](#)).

1 John 2:22 —

- Returning his focus to false believers (for a second description), here John defines the antichrist spirit: “Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ.”
- False believers and false teachers don’t always outright reject the Christ of history; they just redefine him to suit their tastes. They re-imagine him in ways such as, “He is good but he is not God. He may be a son of God like we can be sons and daughters of God but He is not the Son of God. He may have died on the cross as a martyr but He did not die as a Savior.”
- For a false believer or false teacher, Jesus might be important but not preeminent. He might be significant but not the Savior.
- We see these teaching in many other world religions and cults today.

1 John 2:23 —

- For the second and final time in this text, John switches back to describing a genuine believer.
- Genuine Christians are willing to go public with their faith ([Matthew 10:32-33](#); [John 12:42](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#)).



1 John 2:24 —

- Here John encourages believers with the first of two safeguards that help genuine Christians not to stray from the faith: the truth of the gospel. In context, it's what Christians have believed from the beginning.
- Continual exposure to the truth is what God uses to help genuine believers persevere in the faith ([John 8:31-32](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-2](#); [Philippians 2:12-13](#); [Colossians 1:22-23](#); [2 Timothy 2:14-16](#)).
- “Remain” is one of John’s favorite words. He uses it 23 times in this letter alone, and also in his gospel ([John 15:1-10](#)).

1 John 2:25 —

- Through continued faith in Jesus, we can be assured that we have eternal life ([1 John 5:11-13](#)).

1 John 2:26 —

- Satan seeks to use everything in his power to lead us astray from our faith.
- What is Satan using in your life right now?

1 John 2:27 —

- As in verse 20, again John refers to the anointing that all genuine Christians possess. In addition to the truth of the gospel, this is the second safeguard that helps genuine Christians to not stray from the faith.
- In other words, our two-fold arsenal is the Word and the Spirit. “Word and Spirit” was the battle cry of the Protestant Reformation. Both are received the moment we become Jesus-followers.
- What does he mean by, “You do not need anyone to teach you”?



He's certainly not diminishing the role of Bible teaching in the church ([Matthew 28:20](#); [Acts 4:18](#); [5:28, 42](#); [1 Corinthians 12:28-29](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [1 Timothy 4:11](#); [2 Timothy 2:2, 24](#)). Even this letter was sent by John with the intention to teach.

- Instead, with many words, John is saying, “When you are becoming a Christian, the Spirit of God gives you an innate sense of God in which the truth about Jesus makes sense to you like never before.”
- The Spirit gives new converts spiritual “ears” to hear the voice of God in an intimate way for the first time in their lives.
- This is what Jesus promised in John 10:27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
- This is the blessing and promise of the New Covenant ([Jeremiah 31:31-34](#); [John 14:26](#); [16:12-15](#)).

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