



Certain Trust

[1 John 5:1-13 \(NIV\)](#)

Sixth in a 7-part series titled: *Are You Certain?*

Pastor Matt Friend – May 20-23, 2021

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– OUTLINE –

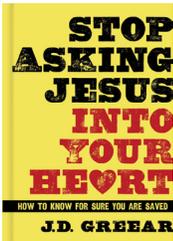
Today's Big Idea:

We can be sure of our salvation if we are still trusting Jesus.

Today's Takeaways:

- #1 – Trust Jesus to *save* you today.
- #2 – Trust Jesus to *transform* you every day.
- #3 – Trust Jesus to *restore* you on that Great Day.

Resource Recommendation



[Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart: How to Know for Sure You are Saved](#)

By J.D. Greear



Certain Love

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– NOTES –

Introduction:

Have you ever considered how uncertain life really is? In a world of doubts and questions, very few things are guaranteed.

Jobs vanish as companies downsize and outsource. The volatility of the stock market, the fluctuations of the economy, and the uncertainty of politics all feed this reality. Relationships come and go, especially in a day and age when people’s faithfulness often lasts only as long as their felt needs are being met—or until they find someone who is more attractive or exciting.

On a larger scale, natural disasters (such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, floods, and pandemics) can sweep away in an instant the accumulated treasure of a lifetime. Think of all the money we spend on insurance as we attempt to safeguard against potential negative contingencies.

Thankfully, God’s Word is filled with assurances, especially the comforting promise that Christians can know for sure that we have eternal life!

Today we continue our 7-week series, “Are You Certain?” studying through the book of 1 John. The goal for this series is for you to know that you know you are a Christian.

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).



In this inspired letter, John identifies 7 pieces of evidence that you are—or are not—a child of God. So far, we've discovered 5 characteristics of authentic Jesus-followers. They...

1. Have a relationship with Jesus.
2. Are eager to confess and change when they sin.
3. Desire to know God above all else.
4. Will persevere in their faith to the end.
5. Possess a new kind of sacrificial love.

Today we'll consider a sixth birthmark of genuine Christians: "Certain Trust."

Today's Big Idea:

We can be sure of our salvation if we are still trusting Jesus.

Other ways to say the same thing:

- We can be sure of our salvation if we trusted Jesus yesterday and are still trusting Him today.
- We can be sure of our salvation if we trusted Jesus in the past and are still trusting Him in the present.
- Assurance of salvation comes not from the fact that we trusted Jesus in the past but that we're trusting Jesus in the present.
- Assurance of salvation comes not from a prayer you prayed in the past but from your posture of faith in the present.
- The proof of salvation comes not from a prayer you prayed in the past but from your posture of faith in the present.
- We can have assurance of our salvation if we're trusting Jesus for our salvation, transformation, and restoration.



Highlights from the Text:

1 John 5:1 —

- Verses 1-3 serve as a review of all John has already covered in the first four chapters.
- Here we see what true, authentic, genuine Christians believe about Jesus. We know He is the Messiah, the Son of God, God in the flesh, the second person of the Trinity who came to earth to die and rise—accomplishing salvation for sinners.
- Christians are Christian not just because they believe in something; Christians are Christians because they believe Jesus is Lord.
- The last half of this verse reminds us of last weekend's message: real Christians receive and reflect God's love through Jesus (1 John 2:10-11; 3:10, 14, 17, 23; 4:7-8, 12, 20-21).

1 John 5:2 —

- Genuine saving faith produces love, which results in obedience.
- The present tense verb here indicates that our love and obedience are to be continuous. Though they are not our perfection, they are our direction.
- We can know we are God's children when all the marks are working together.
- What commands are we required to keep? All that is revealed in the New Covenant (New Testament). What about all the Old Testament commands? We are only obligated to keep them when they are repeated in the New Testament..

1 John 5:3 —

- If we are tempted to think that the love and obedience commanded of Christians are beyond our powers, this verse comes as a welcome source of encouragement.



- Jesus doesn't want us weighed down with legalism, pointless traditionalism, or even the hundreds of laws given to Moses not repeated for us in the New Testament.
- Jesus came to set us free to love God, love each other, and love our neighbors.
- Loving obedience always comes from the heart (Deuteronomy 11:13; 30:2, 10; Psalms 1:1-2; 35:27; 37:4; 40:8; 112:1; 119:14, 16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 143, 174; Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 6:17).
- "What you desire to do with your whole heart is not burdensome to do." –John Piper.

1 John 5:4 –

- All those who are born of God are overcomers, and only those who believe in Jesus Christ are born of God.
- If you're a Christian, you're an overcomer! You are in the process of overcoming the world and its lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life.
- The words "overcome," "overcomer," and "victory" are all from the same Greek word: *nike*. This was one of John's favorite terms, using it 24x in his writings.
- Through Jesus victory over Satan (John 16:33), believers can also overcome Satan, death, and defeat (Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; 1 John 2:13-17; 4:1-4; Revelation 12:11).

1 John 5:5 –

- Faith in Jesus is absolutely central to the Gospel and salvation. Without understanding, defending, and believing this truth the church will die and fade away.
- John repeats this same truth in 1 John 2:23; 4:3; 4:15; 5:1; and 5:12.



- “Faith in faith is just positive thinking, but faith in Jesus is salvation.” –Adrian Rogers

1 John 5:6 —

- John relentlessly continues to hammer home the truth that a correct view of the Lord Jesus Christ is essential to salvation.
- Jesus “came” to earth; that is, His life did not begin when He was born in Bethlehem. He exists from all eternity (John 1:14; 8:14, 58; 13:3; 18:37; 16:28; 2 John 7).
- As for the terms “water” and “blood,” there’s not a consistent opinion on how to interpret these verses. Some think the terms refer to the blood and water that flowed from Jesus’ side when the soldier pierced his side on the cross (John 19:34; Zechariah 12:10). Others believe they refer to Christian baptism and communion. To contradict the false teachers who claimed that Christ wasn’t completely human, some believe John used the terms in the same way we use the terms “flesh and blood” today, thus proving His humanity. Most conservative scholars today believe the terms refer to two milestones in Jesus’ life: baptism (water) and death (blood).
- Whatever they mean, they were obviously meant to draw the original readers’ attention to facts which would act as convincing testimony about Jesus.

1 John 5:7-9 —

- Assuming the event of Jesus baptism and death on the cross are what John have in mind—with the Spirit—they form a threefold witness.
- Why such an emphasis on threefold witness? In both Jewish and Roman law, a threefold witness was considered to be ironclad



(Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1).

1 John 5:10 —

- Faith is the overarching characteristic of Jesus followers.
- The Spirit of God applies the Word of God to the child of God so we can know the character of God.
- Those who reject the witness of Jesus, the Bible, the Church, and the Spirit are essentially provoking God to His face.

1 John 5:11 —

- It is the message of Jesus' incarnation, death, and resurrection, through which eternal life has been made available through faith.
- Eternal life involves far more than merely living forever in a chronological sense. The essence of eternal life is the believer's participation in the blessed everlasting life of Christ (John 1:4) through his or her union with Him (Romans 5:21; 6:4, 11, 23; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:1, 10; Jude 21).
- Jesus defined eternal life in John 17:3.

1 John 5:12 —

- See also the Gospel of John 1:12 and 3:36.
- Jesus is the only way to God the Father (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Timothy 1:16; 1 John 2:23; Jude 21).
- Eternal life is not possible apart from true belief in Jesus as the Son of God.



1 John 5:13 —

- Those who believe in the name of Jesus can be sure of their possession of eternal life.
- Because we are human, our faith can be shaky, but it is possible for Christians to have assurance of salvation (1 John 2:3; 3:14; 2 Peter 1:10).

Today's Takeaways:

- #1 – Trust Jesus to *save* you today.
- #2 – Trust Jesus to *transform* you every day.
- #3 – Trust Jesus to *restore* you on that Great Day.

Why do these three things? Because...

We can be sure of our salvation if we are still trusting Jesus.