

Luke 10:20

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but **rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.** – Jesus Christ

HOW I KNOW I AM BORN AGAIN

Part One / Wednesday, November 16, 2016

1 *It might well be claimed that the discovery of the use of chloroform saved the world more*
2 *pain than any other single medical discovery. It was pioneered by medical scientist Sir*
3 *James Simpson. He was once asked, "What was your greatest discovery?" The*
4 *expected answer was, "Chloroform." But that's not what he replied. The great*
5 *scientist said, "My greatest discovery was that Jesus Christ is my Savior."*

6
7 Jesus had sent out 70 of His followers to minister. They returned with glowing reports
8 of spiritual triumphs which they had seen done in Jesus' Name. But Jesus told them
9 their victories were not the reason to rejoice. Rather - "Rejoice that your names are
10 written in Heaven!"

11
12 An old anthem proclaims:

13 *Nothing in my hand I bring,*
14 *Simply to thy Cross I cling!*

15
16 The question I am most often asked is, "How can I know that I am a Christian, that I am
17 saved or born-again? How can I be assured of eternal life?"

18
19 Most of the time, the questioners are looking for some emotional reason for assurance.
20 They want to "feel" saved. Almost any little setback can cause them to reel in confusion
21 and doubt. The fact is, YES, YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED....BUT IT HAS
22 TO DO WITH "KNOWING" FAR MORE THAN "FEELING." I love to hear Guy
23 Penrod sing Anna Waterman's fabulous old gospel song:

24 *Come ye sinners, lost and hopeless / Jesus' blood can make you free /*
25 *For He saved the worst among you / When He saved a wretch like me!*
26 *And I know, yes, I know Jesus' blood can make the vilest sinner clean.*
27 *And I know, yes, I know Jesus' blood can make the vilest sinner clean.*

28
29 Mrs. Waterman was simply echoing the classic line of the Apostle Paul: 2 Tim. 1:12

1 ***For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I***
2 ***know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have***
3 ***committed unto him against that day.***
4

5 What things was Paul suffering? Oh - he was in Nero's dungeon in Rome, awaiting his
6 execution by beheading. That's all! Would that not be a cause for depression? For
7 discouragement? Not to the great theologian/missionary/evangelist Paul! He knew he
8 was saved, he was persuaded of it. Note his verb in that verse: "For I...KNOW!" He
9 did not write, "For I...think - of for I ...feel - or for I ...hope." No, no - he penned from
10 that dungeon pit, "For I KNOW!"

11
12 Often in Pentecostal circles we will hear from the pulpit or worship leader, "Don't you
13 just *feel* His Spirit here....? Yes, sometimes. Often. And that can be delightful. But...I
14 always KNOW! Feeling is not always rational. Knowing is!

15
16 Isaiah 1:18 **Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins**
17 **be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they**
18 **shall be as wool.** Peter climbed aboard the same spiritual principle in 1 Peter 3:15,
19 **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to**
20 **every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and**
21 **fear:**

22
23 Webster's dictionary defines "reason" as: **a basis or cause, a justification, an**
24 **explanation, the mental powers concerned with forming conclusions or judgments.**
25 **Good sense, normal or sound powers of the mind.** Webster does not use the word
26 "feeling" in that definition. While emotion may be an valid after-effect, either positive
27 or negative, it cannot be the dependable day in - day out cause for assurance. Why?
28 Because emotion is dependent upon too many outside considerations that may or may not
29 be continuously valid. But reason is always based on fact alone!

30
31 Webster defines "reason" as: a basis or cause, a justification, an explanation, the mental
32 powers concerned with forming conclusions or judgments. Good sense, normal or sound
33 powers of the mind. Webster does not use the word "feeling" in that definition. While
34 emotion may be an after-effect - either positive or negative, it cannot be a dependable
35 day-in, day-out cause for living. Why? Because emotion is dependent upon too many
36 outside considerations that may or may not be valid. **But REASON IS ALWAYS**
37 **BASED ON FACT ALONE.**

38
39 Am I saved if I have repented of my sins and given my life to Christ? YES! Why?
40 Because Scripture (God's contract with you) says so! That's why! Whether I feel

1 “good” or not so “good” has nothing to do with God’s contact with me: Romans 3:21-26
2 (New Living Testament) *But now God has shown us a different way to heaven --not by*
3 *"being good enough" and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way (though not new,*
4 *really, for the Scriptures told about it long ago). [22] Now God says he will accept and*
5 *acquit us--declare us "not guilty"--if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And*
6 *we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or*
7 *what we have been like. [23] Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal;*
8 *[24] yet now God declares us "not guilty" of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ,*
9 *who in his kindness freely takes away our sins. [25] For God sent Christ Jesus to take*
10 *the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's*
11 *blood and our faith as the means of saving us from his wrath. In this way he was being*
12 *entirely fair, even though he did not punish those who sinned in former times. For he*
13 *was looking forward to the time when Christ would come and take away those sins. [26]*
14 *And now in these days also he can receive sinners in this same way because Jesus took*
15 *away their sins.*

16
17 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to*
18 *cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

19
20 That is God’s written commitment to you; so it does not matter how you feel about it -
21 you have God’s promise! Therefore you can KNOW YOU ARE SAVED!

22
23 Now in this short series, we are going to study the FIVE BASICS OF SALVATION:

- 24 1. Conversion
- 25 2. Justification
- 26 3. Regeneration
- 27 4. Sanctification
- 28 5. Reconciliation

29
30 Recent surveys have indicated that most pentecostal/charismatic believers are not very
31 familiar with most of these terms - and yet those very terms are foundational to our faith.

32 33 CONVERSION

34
35 Paul’s written challenge to the church in Rome sets the stage for this part of our
36 discussion:

37
38 Romans 10:8-16

39 *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is,*
40 *the word of faith, which we preach; [9] That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the*

1 *Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,*
2 *thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with*
3 *the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [11] For the scripture saith, Whosoever*
4 *believeth on him shall not be ashamed. [12] For there is no difference between the Jew*
5 *and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. [13]*
6 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* [14] *How then*
7 *shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in*
8 *him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? [15]*
9 *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the*
10 *feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! [16]*
11 *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our*
12 *report?*

13
14 Over and over in this study I will refer you to scripture. Our faith comes by hearing the
15 Word. Here are the words of Jesus Himself:

16
17 Matthew 18:2-3 *And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of*
18 *them, [3] And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little*
19 *children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

20
21 CONVERSION MEANS THAT MANKIND CALLS UPON GOD TO TURN US
22 AROUND AND CHANGE OUR LIVES. It's a spiritual "about-face!"

23
24 There are two elements to conversion: Repentance and Faith.

25 26 REPENTANCE

- 27
28 • Without repentance there is no salvation.

29
30 Definition of repentance: Repentance is a sincere and thorough changing of the mind, involving a sense of personal guilt and helplessness, apprehension of God's mercy, a strong desire to be saved from sin and the voluntary abandonment of the sin.

31
32 2 Chron. 7:14

33 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and
34 seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will
35 forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- 36
37 • Jesus preached repentance. Matthew 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to*
38 *preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

1 Luke 13:5 *I tell you,except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

- 2
- 3 • Repentance was the theme of Peter’s sermon at Pentecost. Acts 2:38 *Then*
4 *Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of*
5 *Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy*
6 *Ghost.*
 - 7
 - 8 • Repentance was fundamental to Paul’s preaching. Acts 26:19-20 *Whereupon,*
9 *O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: [20] But shewed*
10 *first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of*
11 *Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and*
12 *do works meet for repentance.*
 - 13
 - 14 • Repentance is of great importance to Heaven. Luke 15:7 *Isay unto you, that*
15 *likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over*
16 *ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

17

18 There are three parts to repentance.

19

20 1. THE INTELLECTUAL PART

21

22 This means a change of view.

23

24 A. I now see sin as God sees it! And the sin is no longer attractive but repugnant to
25 me - as it is to God.

26 B. I see sin as my fault alone. David prayed, “....against thee have I sinned!”
27 Psalm 51:3-4 *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [4]*
28 *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou*
29 *mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

30 C. I accept God’s demand for righteousness.

31

32 2. THE EMOTIONAL PART

33

34 This now involves a change of feeling.

35

36 A. I now have sorrow for sin.

37 B. I ask God for His pardon for my sin. Psalm 51:1

38 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him,
39 after he had gone in to Bathsheba. *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy*
40 *lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my*

1 *transgressions.*

2
3 C. THE VOLITIONAL PART

4
5 This involves a change of WILL.

6 A. You make the decision to turn from sin. 2 Cor. 7:10 (The Living Bible) *For*
7 *God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek eternal*
8 *life. We should never regret his sending it. But the sorrow of the man who is not a*
9 *Christian is not the sorrow of true repentance and does not prevent eternal death.*

10
11

What is the difference between repentance and “penance?” In some circles, “penance” can be applied for remission of sins from church authorities, and in some cases even prior to the actual transgression. But...we are not saved FOR repenting, we are saved IF we repent. Repentance is not a satisfaction rendered to God, but a condition of the heart necessary before we can believe unto salvation.

12
13 FAITH

14
15 A person’s life is governed by personal belief. Your life will be lived in accordance
16 with the faith you have. Hebrews 11:6: *“Without faith....it is IMPOSSIBLE to please*
17 *God.”*

18
19 How important is faith?

20
21 1. We are SAVED by faith. Acts 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus*
22 *Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

23
24 2. We are ENRICHED by faith. Galatians 3:5 *He therefore that ministereth to*
25 *you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or*
26 *by the hearing of faith? Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come*
27 *on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit*
28 *through faith.*

29
30 3. We are SANCTIFIED by faith. Acts 26:18 *To open their eyes, and to turn*
31 *them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may*
32 *receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith*
33 *that is in me.*

34
35 4. We are KEPT by faith. 1 Peter 1:5 *Who are kept by the power of God*
36 *through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1 Definition of faith:

2 Faith is more than hope. Hope is only for the future while faith includes past, present
3 and future.

4 Faith is more than belief. Satan believes in God and he certainly does not please the
5 Creator.

6 Faith is substance - the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
7 (Hebrews 11:1)

8
9 There are three elements to FAITH.

10
11 A. THE INTELLECTUAL ELEMENT

12
13 This includes belief in the revelation of God in nature and in the historical facts of
14 Scripture – the doctrines taught therein as to man’s sinfulness, the redemption provided in
15 Christ Jesus, the conditions to salvation and all the blessings promised to God’s children.
16 It is therefore FAITH BASED ON THE BEST OF EVIDENCE.

17
18 I can only be in the ministry, personally, because of my strong and unshakeable
19 foundation of faith based on the intellectual element. Emotion alone is too flimsy and
20 shaky. Paul said he KNEW AND WAS PERSUADED about Jesus and salvation.
21 Amen to that!

22
23 B. THE EMOTIONAL ELEMENT

24
25 Emotion is proper in all of this, of course, but it is emotion based upon something
26 valid. Matthew 13:20-21 ***But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is***
27 ***he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; [21] Yet hath he not root in***
28 ***himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of***
29 ***the word, by and by he is offended.***

30
31 The emotional element means the awakening of the soul to its personal needs and to the
32 personal application of the redemption provided in Christ.

33
34 (Here once again is shown the need for the theology of the great hymns. The praise
35 choruses fill a certain need but don’t always have strong theology or doctrine in them.
36 Thus we have a generation of worshipers who know about praise but precious little about
37 theology.)

38
39 C. THE VOLUNTARY ELEMENT

1 This one is simple: the person who accepts the revelation of God and His salvation as
2 true, and believes it with all his or her heart, should logically go on to appropriate it to
3 himself or herself.

4
5 That person will accept and understand that Jesus is indeed THE LORD OF LIFE.

6
7 Here is a marvelous truth:

8 You can have as much of God as you want to have. John 1:12 *But as many as*
9 *received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that*
10 *believe on his name:* John 4:14 *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall*
11 *give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of*
12 *water springing up into everlasting life.*

13
14 CONCLUSION OF THIS SEGMENT: THE RESULT OF FAITH

15
16 Good works! Those good works do not save a person - but the saved person will do
17 good works. Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see*
18 *your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

19
20
21
22 NEXT TIME: THE MARVELOUS REALITY OF JUSTIFICATION!