

Glendora Alliance Church Sermon Notes for 11-14-2021
Misery Versus Salvation
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- **When have you felt the most miserable in your life?**
- **Have you ever faced any doubts about you and your salvation?**
- **Have you ever noticed that nothing drains your spiritual energy like fear?**

When believers are repeatedly worried about their salvation:

- **Anxiety can cloud their thoughts**
- **Distract us from God's purpose for our lives**
- **It can also rob us of the peace and joy the Lord promises His followers.**

There are several reasons why some Christians struggle with doubts about whether they are saved.

- **Read I John 3:19-24**

Our Doubts Can Be Fueled By Several facets:

1. **When we focus on sin. Salvation brings forgiveness and a righteous standing before the Lord. But when we focus on our sins and failures, we may doubt that God could forgive us. (I John 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all righteousness.**
2. **When we focus on our emotions. Sometimes we rely solely on our feelings, rather than the truth of God's Word, to determine our salvation. (Psalm 94:19) When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. Do you have a condemning heart? Do you have a contented heart?**
3. **When Christian immaturity is the foundation of our life. Due to ignorance of Scripture or the slow process of change, new believers may begin to question whether they are truly saved. (II Timothy 2:15) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of truth.**

4. **When legalism is the foundation of our Christian walk. Some Christians evaluate their eternal security by their performance. If they fall short of a standard they themselves set, uncertainty can take root. (Colossians 2:20-23) Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of the world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: Do not handle. do not taste , do not touch? These rules that have to do with things that are destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings.**

Three tests of authentic Christianity:

1. **Moral Test of Obedience**
2. **The relational Test of Love**
3. **The Doctrinal Test of Faith in the person of Jesus Christ**

Remember These Four Categories:

1. **Unsaved and know it.**
2. **Saved but do not know they are saved (doubt and troubled conscience).**
3. **Saved and know it.**
4. **Those who are not saved but confidently think they are. (False Assurance.)**

**Did Noah rest on his feelings or build an Ark?
(Faith verses doubt and trust)**

Satan knows that we will not feel close to God if we doubt our standing before Him as beloved children. So he accuses, lies, and fosters doubts within us. What did Jesus do when He was challenged by Satan?

I John 3:19: says we can know that we are the truth and assure our heart before God. The word assure means to pacify and calm our soul so we are not consumed by fearful doubts that prevent us from enjoying our new life in Christ.