

Journey #1 **So Ya Know!**

Being Confident in Your Salvation through Jesus Christ

Janelle was going to die and everyone knew it. Her lungs were at 10% and without a transplant, she'd be dead in two days. Miraculously, a lung donor became available. After the operation, she had quite a few questions: "Who was the donor? Why was I chosen? How long will my new lungs last?"

After placing their faith in God, many people have the same questions concerning their salvation that is provided through God's Son, Jesus. They want to know what their new salvation means and how to be sure their salvation is secured for eternity.

The 411: *In this study, you'll learn more about Jesus, what happens when a person places their faith in God through His Son, and how you can be confident in your salvation through Christ.*

What's Up With Jesus?

"Don't you know who I am? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask Me to show you the Father?"
—John 14:9

When Jesus walked the earth, many people had views and opinions about Him and His mission. In order to clear the confusion, Jesus made some key statements about Himself in the Bible. In a conversation with Philip, one of His disciples, Jesus is asked to show the disciples a glimpse of God the Father.

Jesus' response affirms who He is and why He's come: "Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don't you know who I am? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask Me to show you the Father?"

Truth: John 14:8-9

What do you think Jesus wanted Philip to understand about His identity? And why?

Truth: Romans 1:1-4

Jesus' response to Philip is a bold one. Claiming to be God is one thing. Proving you are is something very different. What evidence is there to prove Jesus' claim?

Truth: Colossians 1:15-23

What do these verses say about Jesus?

"But His Son became a human and died. So God made peace with you, and now He lets you stand in His presence as people who are holy and faultless and innocent." —Colossians 1:22

Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin on the cross so that the sins of the world could be forgiven by God. You, I and this entire world will be responsible to pay for our own sins unless we accept Jesus' death as our atonement. This atoning death provides complete forgiveness, thus reconciling us back to God and displaying His deity in full fashion.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines atonement as the reconciliation of God and man through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ; the reparation for an offense or injury. God's love for us compelled Him to give His Son in this way so that we could experience a personal and fulfilling relationship with Him and no longer be separated from Him because of our sin. How does this knowledge of God's love through His Son Jesus make you feel?

Trusting In What Jesus Has Done

There is a story about an audience that watched as a young man walked across the Grand Canyon on a tight rope. To everyone's amazement, the man then walked a wheel barrel across the tight rope. The man said, "Who believes I can walk this wheel barrel across the Canyon, on the tight rope, with a person inside?"

Some responded, "We believe you can do it."

"Okay then," he said. "Who's willing to get into the wheel barrel?" No one moved an inch.

Do you think the audience had faith in the man's ability? Why or why not?

Many understand that Jesus died on the cross for their sins. However, they do not put their trust in His death to bring them into right-standing with God. Rather than trusting in the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross to connect them to God, these individuals trust in their good works or what they perceive as their inherent good nature to save them instead.

In essence, they are like the people at the Grand Canyon, because they're telling God, "We know you made everything right between you and us when you sacrificed your Son Jesus to take away our sins. We believe it, but just to make sure that we're covered, we'll give a little more money at church, pray a little harder, study the Bible a little more, serve more, you know, just to fill any spaces in this sin-removal equation that Jesus may have not gotten right the first time."

It may sound a bit ridiculous, but many have this perspective when it comes to being assured of their salvation. How can fallen, broken and sinful people add anything to a work that is created, initiated and completed by a holy, perfect and infinite God? We can't, plain and simple.

Truth: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Why did Jesus, who knew no sin, become sin on our behalf?

This Scripture is often called The Great Exchange. Jesus, who had never sinned, bore your sin upon Himself at a cross on Calvary. You, who were not capable of doing right because of the effects of sin, now carry His righteousness by trusting in His death for your sins and His resurrection for your eternal life that you now have through Him. When you place your trust in Jesus' death for your sins, by entering "into the wheel barrel," you are made right with God and are able to fellowship with Him continuously and freely because sin no longer hinders your relationship with Him. Have you done this? If you haven't, would you like to now?

"God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children." —Ephesians 1:5

Belonging to God

A story is told about Chris, who had been in and out of foster care his whole life. At age seven, he was adopted. One night his parents went out. When they returned, the babysitter said he had misbehaved. Chris walked to his room and loaded his clothes into his suitcase. His father came in the room and said, "Son, what are you doing?"

"I messed up and thought you'd get rid of me like everyone else did before," Chris said.

"Listen son," his father replied. "You belong to us. You're not going anywhere."

No one starts a relationship with God wanting to fail. However, it's inevitable that you will make mistakes along the way. When you do make a mistake, you'll be tempted to pack your suitcases like Chris and think God is done with you. But He's not and never will be. He loves you too deeply and incredibly to stop pursuing and finishing the good work that He has begun in you (Philippians 1:6).

Truth: Ephesians 2:8-9

What does this verse say about your salvation?

Truth: 1 John 5:11-13

If you believe in God's Son, what is true of you according to the verse above? How might this verse encourage you the next time you make a mistake or doubt your salvation?

"You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own." —Ephesians 2:8

The Application

- In order to keep this knowledge in your mind and heart, find time before next week to write in a journal. Share your thoughts about what you just learned, how you know that your salvation is secured and through whom your salvation is secured, and how you'll live differently in light of these truths.
- Become familiar with the following truths and memorize them to help as you continue growing in your relationship with God:
 - Psalm 139:13-14
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - 1 John 3:19-24