

Parenting Tools:

When They Doubt Their Salvation



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Parenting Tools:

*When Your Child Struggles
With Assurance of Salvation*

Salvation is a personal decision that is between one person and the Lord. It is not a parent's place to convince a child whether he or she is saved or not. A parent's role is to fully present the Gospel, and then urge children to honestly look at themselves to see if they truly believe in it or not. Below are some strategies and concepts that may be of help if your child is struggling with assurance of salvation.

1. Ask why your child doubts.

Just because a person doubts does not mean that he or she is not saved. Does your child doubt because of a particular sin, a grievous sin, or a continual sin in his or her life? Does he doubt because he cannot articulate the Gospel? Does she doubt because a lack of knowledge about biblical truth? Are the doubts partially due to a lack of discipleship? Knowing why your child doubts will assist you in knowing how to counsel him or her.

2. Determine if the doubts are biblical reasons to doubt salvation.

Consider the following verses as you prayerfully approach the situation.

1 John 3:7–10 & James 2:14, 17

When people become Christians, they do not instantly know everything about the depths of the Gospel or all there is to know about living as a Christian. They are babes in Christ. The role of parents, as the main disciplers of their children, is that once a child prays to receive Christ, parents affirm the decision and help the child understand the Gospel and how it enables a believer for spiritual growth. 1 John says that continual sin is a reason to doubt whether a person is born of God or not. Parents need to help their

child know whether continual sin is a result of never truly being born of God or whether the doubts result from a lack of discipleship for a child to know how to put off sin, renew his or her mind, and put on righteousness. Ultimately, the parent cannot answer this question for the child. The honest answer is between the child and the Lord.

3. Present the Gospel.

Share the following verses with your child to apply Truth and provide peace and comfort in the midst of his or her doubt. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:10 & Romans 10:9–10

Salvation is received by faith alone in Jesus Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection. Salvation is a free gift of forgiveness of sins and new life that God extends to us. Any form of our good works does not earn salvation; rather, it is received by faith.

4. Explain how a believer deals with sin.

Use the following verses to explain to your child how he or she can deal with sin. 1 John 1:8–9, Romans 12:1–2, Ephesians 4:17-24

When a believer sins, he or she does not forfeit salvation. When we sin, we are able to confess our sins to God, knowing that he is faithful and just to forgive us. Once we confess, we then are to enter into the process of putting off sin, renewing our minds, and putting on righteousness.

5. Explain that assurance of salvation does not rest in us, but in Christ.

Use these powerful verses to remind your child we need only put our trust in Jesus—and not ourselves—to receive salvation. 1 John 3:19–24 & Romans 8:31–39

One of the wonderful truths of Scripture is that salvation is not ours to hang on to in fear that we may lose it. Salvation is a free gift from God that He gives us! Rather than it resting upon us to keep it, we get to rest in the truth that God is holding on to us. God has promised salvation to those who place their faith in Him.

6. Let your child determine if he or she is saved or not.

Share this verse with your child to help him or her see the truth of his or her relationship with Jesus as it is. 2 Corinthians 4:1–2

Your role as parents is to not play the “Holy Spirit.” Your role is to present the truth of Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your child’s heart. Place your trust in God to reveal to your child his or her standing with Him. Let your child make the decision.