

Divine Assurance

It is vitally important that you understand what faith is and what is involved with the act of believing. You must know the distinction between the belief of a demon and the faith of a genuine Believer.

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. (James 2:19, LSB)

What gives you the confidence that you cannot lose your salvation?

1. Carefully observe who is testifying. What has Jesus witnessed? What is the nature of faith?

“He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no one receives His witness. He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true.

For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:31-36, LSB)

2. Who is testifying? Make a chart of your observations.

19) Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing from Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same manner.

20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. 21) For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22) For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23) so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

24) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:19-24, LSB)

What Jesus does not do (John 5:19)	What Jesus does do (John 5:19)

What God does do (John 5:20-23)	What Jesus does do (John 5:20-23)

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Teacher Notes

It is vitally important that you understand what faith is and what is involved with the act of believing. You must know the distinction between the belief of a demon and the faith of a genuine Believer.

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. (James 2:19, LSB)

What gives you the confidence that you cannot lose your salvation?

It is important that the student understands the meaning of the word "faith."

God Himself defines what faith means in Exodus 19:4-6:

"You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." (Ex 19:4-6, LSB)

1. A belief in the reality of the invisible God ("You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself").
2. A trust in God's word that engenders obedience ("if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine").

A demon will believe in #1 but will not be obedient to God.

1. Carefully observe who is testifying. What has Jesus witnessed? What is the nature of faith?

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What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no one receives His witness. He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true.

For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:31-36, LSB)

Ask the student: who is testifying? Go online (Legacy Standard Bible) to read the context of John 3:31-36.

John the Baptist is speaking to his disciples and Jews.

Ask the student: what does John the Baptist say about Jesus' testimony? Encourage the student in his observations of the passage.

Jesus is from heaven so His testimony is above all authority – God is true.

Jesus was sent from God and speaks the words of God.

God gave Jesus the Spirit without limit. God loves Jesus and has given everything to Him.

Faith in God's Son has eternal life.

2. Who is testifying? Make a chart of your observations.

19) Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing from Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same manner.

20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. 21) For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22) For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23) so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

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Ask the student: who is testifying?

Jesus was speaking to Jews offended by Jesus calling God His Father.

Assist the student in using the chart as a method to record their observations. For example, use a white board or a poster sized piece of paper so that the chart can be seen by all. Ask questions to sharpen their observations and record them on the public chart. The more they can observe, the less they’ll need to interpret the text.

What Jesus does not do (John 5:19)	What Jesus does do (John 5:19)
Jesus does not do anything by Himself.	Jesus only can do what He sees His Father doing and in the same manner.

What God does do (John 5:20-23)	What Jesus does do (John 5:20-23)
<p>God loves His Son and shows Him all of what He is doing.</p> <p>God will show Jesus even greater things than what the disciples see of Jesus.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Raises the dead and gives them life.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Given all judgment to Jesus so that all will honor the Son even as they all honor the Father.</p>	<p>Jesus gives life to whom He wishes.</p> <p>Jesus is the eschatological Judge. Whoever does not honor the Son, does not honor the Father who sent Him.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.</p>