

Fear & Doubt

by Wayne Goff

One of Satan's most successful tactics is discouragement caused by fear and doubt. However, we must remember that while we must do our part as Christians to obey God and submit to His will, God will also do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Do not be duped into believing that your eternal salvation is **all up to you!**

The apostle John could hardly have written a more encouraging verse than 1 John 5:13. It reads: *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."* God wants us to **know** that we have eternal life, and that we may *continue* in the Faith, grounded and settled! Yes, there are conditions to this assurance and the book of 1 John contains the many **"Ifs"** of *conditionality*. But going through the book and noting those **"Ifs"** is of great comfort to believers striving to go to heaven. There are twenty-one appearances of the word **"If,"** but not all of them are statements of condition. In fact, some of them remind us of our imperfections and the need for forgiveness from our sins (1 Jn. 1:6-10).

If we sin, then we have an Advocate with the Father (1 Jn. 2:1). **If** we love the world, then the love of God is not in us (1 Jn. 2:15). **If** the truth you have heard from the beginning abides in you, then you abide in the Son and His Father (1 Jn. 2:24). These are both instructive and encouraging. Read through the list of **"Ifs"** in 1 John. Here are the references: **1 John 1:6-10; 2:1, 23, 15, 19, 24, 29; 3:13, 20-21; 4:11-12, 20; 5:9, 14-16.**

There is no *automatic* eternal life, nor *automatic* cleansing, but there is safety and security in the Christian's salvation when we work with God and through Jesus Christ to obtain our eternal salvation. That is why Jesus died in the first place, and why God developed the scheme of redemption! Be sure to know your security!

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