

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Can I Know With Certainty That I Am Saved?

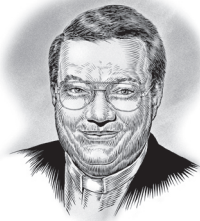
### Know This...

We cannot know with absolute certainty that we are saved. Jesus' death and resurrection won our redemption and opened the gates of heaven; but Jesus clearly proclaims in the Bible that if we, the faithful, are to spend eternity with Him, we must persevere in faith and good works. Jesus and the Apostles never preached the "assurance of salvation." If we come before the judgment seat of Christ in a state of grace, we will live with Him eternally in heaven.



**John:** For 2000 years, the Church has taught the doctrine of salvation just as Jesus handed it on to the Apostles: *we are saved by grace through faith working in charity.*

**James:** The idea that we can know with "absolute" certainty that we are saved was first taught in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by some early Protestant reformers. Many Christians still believe it.



**John:** They often use 1 Jn 5:13 to support this belief: "I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

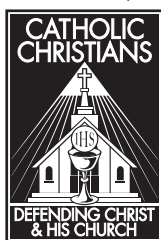
**James:** To avoid taking this verse out of context, we must digest all five chapters of St. John's first epistle.

**John:** He says we can't know God if we don't keep His commandments. We can't love God if we love the things of this world and we don't love one another.

**James:** We may choose to reject God's free gift of grace; even after many years of faithful obedience to His will. We can only live in the hope of salvation by constantly responding to His grace.

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"False prophets will rise in great numbers to mislead many. Because of the increase of evil, the love of most will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved."

**Mt 24:11-13** "You will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved." **Mk 13:13** "As the Father

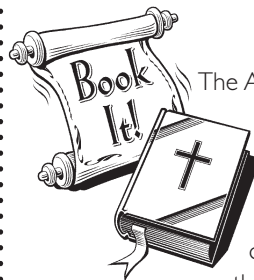
has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love." **Jn 15:9-10** To abide in God's love is to live in a state of grace.



"However great may be a man's righteousness, he must take thought lest something in him which he himself did not see be found to be deserving of blame when the righteous King shall sit upon His throne, He whose knowledge our transgressions cannot escape, not even those of which it is said: 'Who knows his transgressions?'" **St. Augustine, 415 A.D.** "We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere 'to the end' and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ." **CCC 1821**

## PAPA SAYS

"For if, after they [the righteous] have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them." **2 Pet 2:20-21** "You must not become secure about your sins, except when on the last day of your life you shall be able no longer to bewail those same sins." **Pope Gregory I, 597 A.D.**



The Apostle Paul rejects the "assurance of salvation." "I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me." **1 Cor 4:4** "I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified." **1 Cor 9:27** "Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall!" **1 Cor 10:12** "God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off." **Rom 11:22** "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." **Phil 2:12**

Lord, awaken me to Your grace that I may have the wisdom, discipline, and courage to persevere in faith and good works. Grant this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

