

Gunston Bible Church
 Pastor David Bennett
 2 Peter 1:10

Making Sure of Your Salvation

2 Peter 1:10, *“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

2 Peter 1:10 (Amplified Bible), *“Therefore, believers, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you [**be sure that your behavior reflects and confirms your relationship with God**]; for by doing these things [**actively developing these virtues**], you will never stumble [**in your spiritual growth and will live a life that leads others away from sin**];*

This text is addressed primarily to Christians. There is one little word here that I wish to mention before expounding the text: **“certain”**—making your calling and election sure.

If there is anything people ought to be sure or certain about, it is their soul, where they will spend eternity, whether or not they are saved.

The Word of God gives great emphasis to this: **“Make your calling and election sure.”** Now you and I had better be sure that we are saved, know that we are saved and know why we are saved. **“Make your calling and election sure.”**

We can debate any and everything under the sun, at the end of the day it will still boil down to this one question?

If you were to die today are you sure you would go to Heaven?

If you can't answer right away, **YES** if there is a shadow of doubt in your heart you had better pay attention to what I am preaching to you today.....

The Bible speaks of those of us who have been saved as God's elect. "**Elect**" means "**chosen**."

We have been chosen of Him. If God knew you were going to be saved long before you were, then everything about your life was known of Him beforehand.

All your **sins**, all your **problems**, all your **weaknesses**—nothing has ever slipped up on the Lord.

Now notice the teaching of the Scripture. **Romans 8:33** says, "*Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*"

In the sight of God, there is **no charge** against elect people, saved people.

Thank God for that result of election!

It is reassuring to know what it says in **Psalms 37:23-24**

²³ *"The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way;*
²⁴ *though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand."*

Make your calling and election sure, is a very serious calling.

Today we are going to look at four ways to make your calling and election sure.

Make Your Calling and Election Sure by ...

1. **Public Confession of Your Faith**

The more I read the Bible, the more I believe God is in this matter of a public confession of your faith. Jesus said in

Matthew 10:32, "*So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,*"

Are you a Christian?
Are you saved?
Have you been born again?

You answer **yes**, but do it with uncertainty.

Ladies let me ask you a question, how would you feel if you're supposed boyfriend would not be seen with you in public. I mean they would come over late at night and hang out or meet you at a bar but would never be seen walking around the mall holding hands with you.

It was almost as if they were ashamed of being seen in public with you.

Now take that same scenario and use yourself and Christ, are we ashamed to be seen as a Christian? Is it something we hide publicly until Sunday morning but would never do during the week?

The people I have just described to you are called Sunday Christians, and here is what Jesus said to people that fall into that category;

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Russell Sewall said: "I carried a check halfway to the bank. Did the bank therefore pay me half the value of the check? Nay; the bank didn't pay me a cent till I went all the way to the paying teller's window. And then the check was paid in full. Half-trust in God is no trust at all, and gets no reward; and that is why so many Christians lead flabby lives."—*Christian Union Herald*.

This Bible says we should make a public confession of faith.

Romans 10:9-10 says:

⁹ “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

When your heart believes unto righteousness, it should open your mouth. You should not be ashamed, reluctant or hesitant about making a public confession of faith.

Make your calling and election sure by a public confession of your faith in Christ.

Make Your Calling and Election Sure by...

2. **Absolute Trust** in the Word of God

Trust in yourself, and you are doomed to disappointment;
 Trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you;
 Trust in money, and you may have it taken from you;
 Trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue may blast it; but trust in God, and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.—*D. L. Moody.*

There is no more certain and wonderful way to make your calling and election sure than by faith in the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ

John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

You may say, Pastor Dave, how do you know you are saved?”

I know it because the Word of God **tells me** that I am a Christian.
 I know I am saved even when I don't feel like it or act like it.

Hebrews 4:12, *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*

Make Your Calling and Election Sure by

3. The Recognition of the **Holy Spirit** in Your Life

In **John 3:5**, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”*

Now listen to **Romans 8:14**, *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons[a] of God.”*

Romans 8:16 says, *“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”*

Saints, when you and I were saved, we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit came into your body. This Bible describes your body and mine as the temple in which the Holy Spirit lives.

Notice the teaching of Paul in his Corinthian epistle:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20,¹⁹ *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*

In order to have full assurance and great confidence, you must fully recognize the blessed presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The Gospel is not something that we come to church **to hear**, it is something we go from church **to tell**.

It is said that years ago there was a beautiful, old, unoccupied mansion, a part of a large estate. Heirs were waiting for the settlement of the

inheritance to see who got the old home place. In the meantime, a widowed lady with six children, homeless and poor, moved into the beautiful old residence. No one knew she had moved in for several weeks.

Then one day the estate was settled, and one of the sons was awarded the old place. Soon, when he went with his fine, cultured family to occupy the home which was now rightfully his, he was amazed to find the house occupied by other people. "You must move immediately," he said to the poor old woman and her ragged children.

She was reluctant: "I have no home."

"I am sorry," he replied, "but this is my home, and you must move."

It is said that she moved downstairs, and then later into the two back rooms, and finally, one day, after much pressure, she moved out. The owner was so happy! "We can occupy every room now; it is all ours to enjoy."

When I heard this story, I thought how, in many instances, the Holy Spirit has **waited many years** to occupy every part of our body, which is His home, His dwelling place. "Ye are not your own....ye are bought with a price." Make your calling and election sure by the recognition of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Our final point this morning is;

Make Your Calling and Election Sure by

4. **Growing in Grace**

Rowland Hill once visited a home and saw a child riding a rocking-horse. After watching the little boy for some time, he wittily remarked, "He reminds me of some Christians. There is plenty of motion but no progress."—*Gospel Herald*.

2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

Peter could speak with authority on this subject.

To grow physically one must have health, food and exercise.

To grow spiritually, God's child must be healthy spiritually!

He must have victory over sin, the flesh and the world.

He must feed upon the Word of God and exercise his soul in dedicated service for the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is astonishing how many people there are in the churches who have to be nursed. Instead of being spiritually strong men and women, they are mere babes and have to be cared for.

Turn to the person on your right and say he's not talking about me but, it might be you.....

Paul said, in [1 Corinthians 13:11](#), "*When I was a child, I **spoke** as a child, I **thought** as a child, I **understood** as a child; but when I became a man I put **away** childish things.*"

Turn to the person on your left and say, now I know he's talking about you....

But many who profess to be matured believers are still drinking Similac, and eating Gerber baby food.

Spiritual babes, instead of doing work, make work for others.

The difference between a child and a man is that the **man works** and the child **makes work for others.**

Most churches of today are full of babies. They do not help; they hinder. Many have not learned to walk, **but they have learned to talk.**

The sad part is the church finds itself under constraint of **running a nursery** for many of them, some of these babies are thirty and forty years old. Did you ever see a gray-headed baby?

I have. Many of them. They never get out of spiritual babyhood. They have never cut their teeth. Permanently dwarfed in spiritual infancy!

What a pity! Instead of eating meat, they must in mid-life and beyond be nursed from the bottle.

The reason why so many are not strong men and women in Christ Jesus is because they do not eat the proper food. We are to grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We cannot grow in grace by feasting on **sinful pleasures**.

We must have God's Word. Many are drinking milk who ought to be eating meat.

It is no disgrace to be a baby. But we must not remain babies.

Today we have briefly looked at ways you can make sure your calling and election is sure, by;

1. Public Confession.
2. Complete trust in God's Word.
3. Recognition of the Holy Spirit in your life.
4. Finally by Growing in Grace....

If you are not sure today of your eternal salvation, **don't leave** here with unanswered questions.

Don't leave here **today** with doubt in your heart.

Don't leave here today with the gift of eternal salvation.

It's a very costly gift that is **given freely** to anyone who asks the Lord to come into their heart.

I am not going to ask you to close your eyes and raise your hand I am asking you with all **eyes open** and heads **held high** if you have never received the free gift of Gods salvation just simply step forward and I will pray for you...

Don't worry about what anyone might say to your right or left, don't let the Devil rob you of your blessings, just simply step forward and leave all the sins of the past behind you....

Let us pray.....