

RIVER BIBLE COURSE

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SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY HAPPENED TO ME !

Study 2 - Assurance

When you were converted to Christ, something really **HAPPENED**. It is exciting to hear the stories of how different people met Jesus and how it changed their lives. Some have quite spectacular spiritual experiences like Paul in Acts 9: 1-19. Others simply felt a quiet "certainty" deep down inside. Whatever your experience, one thing is for sure; something's definitely happened to you.

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE I FEEL DIFFERENT

The first thing you would have felt was peace when you realised that Christ died for **your** sin, and you confessed it to him, and you accepted him into your life. You will have sensed a relief as if a weight of guilt was taken away from you. It wasn't a dream! Look at Psalm 103: 12. How far has God taken our sin from us?

The second thing you would have felt is not so much a feeling in your mind, but a feeling which comes from deep down inside. It is the Holy Spirit confirming with your spirit that you **are** a son or daughter of God. Write Romans 8: 16 here:

The third thing you will feel is a new growing love (kinship, affection) for your new brothers and sisters in Christ. This is a personal inner proof that you really are born into God's family. Write the first part of 1 John 3: 14 here.

WHAT FAMOUS CHRISTIANS HAVE SAID ABOUT THEIR CONVERSION EXPERIENCE

"It was as though the light of faith flooded into my heart and all the darkness of doubt was dispelled."

(Augustine. Early church teacher)

"Night and day I pondered until ... I grasped the truth that ... through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before 'the righteousness of God' had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet."

(Martin Luther. German reformer)

"I felt my heart strangely warmed ... and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine."

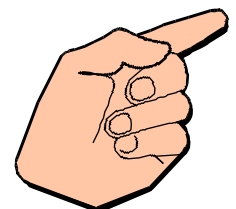
(John Wesley. English evangelist)

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS

There is a problem however with just emotions and feelings, as good as these may be. God knows that your former master, Satan, will do all he can to destroy your new life. (See John 10: 10) He will attempt to blot out your experience and bombard your mind with questions and arguments until you doubt your believing and you believe your doubts. He will bring thoughts to your mind and even use other people to kill your faith with negative suggestions: "Are you **really** a Christian"? "Was it all just in the mind"? "You're too bad. God would never forgive you"! "You can't know **for sure** that you have eternal life"!

This is why God has given to us his word **in writing**. You don't have to rely on just your feelings. God's salvation for you is in the Bible in black and white so that you can **know** that you are saved. So think of his promises as your **personal guarantee**. Fill in the "small print" around the guarantee (next page) then write in block letters in the middle, 1 John 5: 11-12.

Learn this promise off by heart!



*God's Guarantee
to You*

"Whoever comes to me I will never drive away"
(John 6: 37)

_____ (Numbers 23:19)

This is the Testimony:

(1 John 5: 11, 12)

_____ (Isaiah 54:10)

"I write these things to you who believe
in the name of the Son of God
so that you may **know** that you
have eternal life" (1 John 5:13)



LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR ME

As you look through God's "Word," the Bible, you will begin to realise the full extent of what has happened to you. Listed below are six things which God has done for you when you received Christ. Look up the scripture references opposite, and connect each one to the correct statement. (With an arrow)

- | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Colossians 1: 13 | He has : | forgiven my sin. |
| John 5: 24 | | rescued me from darkness. |
| 1 John 5: 4 | | made me his son/daughter. |
| 2 Corinth. 6: 18 | | made me a new person. |
| 1 John 1: 9 | | given me eternal life. |
| 2 Corinth. 5: 17 | | given me power over the world. (temptation/sin) |

These verses only begin to show the great salvation that God has done. Let them sink into your heart until your experience grows into an unshakeable conviction. You will be able to say as St. Paul did:

*"I know whom I have believed, and **am convinced** that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day."
(2 Timothy 1: 12)*

Answers here:
www.5loaves2fishes.net/pdfs/answers.pdf