

How can you really make sure of the fact that you are a Christian? Can you ever lose your salvation by sinning?

Really there are two questions here, and I'd like to take them in reverse order if I may. The first one is, "Can you ever lose your salvation by sinning?" The answer is no. If you have salvation, you have eternal life, that's the only kind of life that God offers on faith in Christ. He doesn't offer temporary eternal life, he doesn't offer limited eternal life, He offers eternal life. If you have eternal life, you have eternal life. Now, of course, we do sin as Christians. James says, "In many things we all offend" and we are all guilty of sinning, every day of our life, even as a Christian. But, this does not affect our salvation for God has said that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus and that means if you belong to the Lord, then you are secure as Jesus Christ is for all eternity. Judicially, your sins have been forgiven. Judgment has been rendered and the verdict is this person is righteous, not guilty, righteous in the sight of God. But, sins do affect our family relationship to our Heavenly Father and to other members of the family. So, John reminds us that we should confess our sins and if we do, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Now, the second part of this question is, "How can you make sure you're a Christian?" Well, first of all let me ask you, where is your faith? Have you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin? Is He the one who took your place on the cross and died for you in order that you might have forgiveness and eternal life? If you have, then the Lord said, "Him that cometh to me, I will never cast out." That's a promise based upon truthfulness of the Son of God, not upon your feelings, but upon His truthfulness. Now, if you've done that, maybe your looking at your experience. It doesn't measure up to what you think it ought to be. Well, if you're a new Christian, it probably doesn't. But it takes time to grow. But let me ask you some other questions. Has God answered your prayers? Are you having a Christian experience that could only happen to a Christian? Do you begin to love the things of God? Do you begin to understand His Word? Do you begin to be happy when you're with God's people in church, whereas before you couldn't stand it perhaps? If so, these are evidences of the new life. Perhaps they're not very strong yet but the fact that they are there says that you really know the Lord and you really belong to his family. So, I've asked you two things. Where is your faith? Be sure it is in Jesus Christ. And are you having some experiences which are the experiences that a Christian should have even if you're having them in just a rather small way, the fact that you're having them shows that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus for new things have come and old things have passed away.