

Salvation According to Scripture

The Biblical Examination of Salvation

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 2 - Chapter 01 – Study 09

When Doubt Is a Call to Examine, Not to Fear

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READ THIS FIRST

Each study in this series is the result of years of preparation, prayer, experience, research, and careful scriptural verification. This is not rushed teaching or surface-level content. Every study has been built deliberately, line upon line, to ensure clarity, accuracy, and faithfulness to Scripture.

Because of this, the order of these studies is not optional.

You must complete every study in sequence, book by book, chapter by chapter, beginning with Chapter 1, Study 1, then Study 2, Study 3, and so on before moving forward.

Do not skip. Do not rearrange. Do not jump ahead.

The entire Book 2 must be completed in exact order from beginning to end. It cannot be studied out of sequence under any circumstance.

You must not move to the next study unless you have fully verified what you learned. Do not advance until you are one hundred percent certain that the teaching in the current study is true, biblical, and godly.

No guessing.

No assuming.

No rushing.

Each study must be proven in Scripture and understood without confusion before you continue. This is how God leads a person into truth.

This order is essential. When followed correctly, your understanding will grow the way it was designed to. When ignored, confusion increases, and what should take weeks can take years.

**TRUTH RECEIVED OUT OF SEQUENCE INTENSIFIES
CONVICTION WITHOUT PROVIDING STABILITY.**

These studies are designed for anyone, regardless of background, tradition, or what they currently believe to be true. Whether you have spent years studying or have never opened the Scriptures, it does not matter. What matters is this, are you willing to listen, willing to study, and willing to test everything by the Word of God? If so, the truth will open to you exactly as it was written to be understood.

Please try to answer the following questions as best and truthful as you can.

1. Has your pastor ever said that questioning your salvation is a sin because it implies doubting God's promises?
2. Have you ever doubted your salvation? If so, what triggered those doubts?
3. What do you think salvation really means, and how can someone know they have it?
4. Do you believe it's wrong or dangerous to question your faith? Why or why not?
5. When you hear someone say, "God promised..." do you ever wonder if those promises apply to you?
6. How do you usually deal with spiritual doubts? Do you ignore them, pray, study, talk to others, or something else?

7. Have you ever read a Bible verse and thought, “That sounds good, but does it really apply to me?”

8. What do you think God requires from someone in order to receive His promises?

9. Do you rely more on your feelings or on God’s Word when it comes to knowing where you stand with Him?

10. What helps you feel closest to God? Prayer, worship, obedience, fellowship, or something else?

11. Have you ever felt unsure about whether you’re doing what God wants from you?

Understanding Doubt and Salvation

It's normal for disciples to sometimes wonder if they're really saved. These doubts can come from personal struggles, confusion, Satan or even the Holy Spirit. But instead of being afraid of doubt, we can use it to grow closer to God and strengthen our faith, if we handle it the right way.

Why do doubts arise?

Why This Study Exists

If you have completed the previous studies honestly, there is a good chance that some questions have begun to arise.

Perhaps you are reconsidering things you once assumed were true.

Perhaps you are noticing scriptures you never connected before.

Perhaps teachings you once accepted without question now seem less certain than they did before.

If so, do not panic.

Examination naturally creates tension.

For years you may have trusted what you were taught without personally verifying it.

Then Scripture challenged those beliefs.

When deeply held beliefs are examined, questions naturally follow.

The question is not whether doubt exists.

The question is what is causing it.

Not every doubt is a call to fear.

Some doubts are a call to examine.

1. You're sensitive to sin, which may be a good thing, but it can make you feel unworthy. Being sensitive to sin and feeling unworthy is not a sign of failure, but of humility, reverence, and readiness for God's mercy. Psalm 51:17 assures us that "a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise".

- a)** Isaiah 6:5 (KJV) Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Isaiah feels unworthy and sinful in the presence of God's holiness. This reveals a sensitive spirit awakened by a divine encounter.

- b) Luke 5:8 (KJV) When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Christ' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. Peter, upon witnessing the miraculous power of Christ, is convicted of his own sinfulness and feels unworthy to be near Him.

2. You've gone through a dry or distant season with God. Even God's greatest servants experienced seasons of dryness, distance, or silence, yet those seasons often produced deeper faith, repentance, and a more intimate walk with God.

- a) Psalm 63:1 (KJV) O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. David expresses his thirst for God's presence during a spiritual wilderness.
- b) Psalm 13:1–2 (KJV) How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? A cry from the heart of someone who feels forgotten and spiritually distant from God.
- c) Lamentations 3:8, 17–18 (KJV) Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer. And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord. Jeremiah laments a season of great spiritual and emotional dryness, feeling as if his prayers are unheard.
- d) Job 23:8–9 (KJV) Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: Job speaks of a time when he cannot feel or see God's presence, though he knows God is still working.
- e) Psalm 102:1–4 (KJV) Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: ...My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to

eat my bread. A prayer in a season of grief, weariness, and spiritual drought.

- f) Isaiah 59:1–2 (KJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Sometimes distance from God is caused by sin, which must be acknowledged and repented of for restoration.
- g) Micah 7:7–8 (KJV) Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. A declaration of hope in a dark or dry season, God still sees, hears, and will restore.

3. You're comparing your walk to others. There is a danger or foolishness of comparing ourselves or our spiritual walk with others. Scripture encourages humility, individual accountability, and a focus on our own relationship with God rather than on others.

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4. You're under spiritual attack, whether is an attack from Satan and unseen evil forces trying to destroy you or Spiritual trials and intervention by the Holy Spirit to purify and mature us. The difference between Satan and the Holy Spirit is purpose; destruction vs. sanctification.

- a) Ephesians 6:11–12 (KJV) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the

devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. A direct warning about spiritual warfare and unseen evil forces.

- b) 1 Peter 5:8–9 (KJV) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith... Satan is portrayed as actively seeking to attack and destroy all disciples.
- c) Job 1:12 (KJV) And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. God allowed Satan to test Job. This shows that spiritual attacks may occur even under God's sovereign permission.
- d) 2 Corinthians 12:7 (KJV) And lest I should be exalted above measure... there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. Paul speaks of a persistent affliction allowed for humility, calling it a “messenger of Satan.”
- e) Luke 22:31–32 (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not... Christ reveals that Satan seeks to test and weaken disciples faith, but He intercedes for them.
- f) Matthew 4:1 (KJV) Then was Christ led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The Holy Spirit led Christ into the wilderness, where He faced temptation. Sometimes God allows trials for strengthening.
- g) John 16:8 (KJV) And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, which can feel heavy, but it is meant to lead us to repentance, not condemnation.
- h) Hebrews 12:6, 11 (KJV) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth...

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness... God disciplines us out of love, and though it may be painful, it brings spiritual growth.

- i) Psalm 139:23–24 (KJV) Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. A prayer of willingness to be searched and corrected by the Holy Spirit.

5. You may have started realizing that salvation may be deeper than many modern teachings portray and that there may be more to it than just believing/faith alone, or a simple prayer. Biblical salvation is not just a prayer or emotional moment. Doubts about shallow teachings can be a sign that the Holy Spirit is drawing you to a deeper, truer understanding of the gospel. To fully grasp this one, you will have to go through book 02 - chapter 01- study 08 “our feelings”, also book 03 - chapter 02 – study 01 “Love and obedience”, and book 03 – chapter 02- study 05 “Truth or deceit”.

6. Doubt Can Arise When Long-Held Beliefs Are Examined. Sometimes doubt appears because a person encounters Scriptures they have never seriously considered before. What they believed and what they are reading no longer seem to agree.

Questions begin forming.

Assumptions begin weakening.

Confidence built upon tradition begins collapsing.

This kind of doubt should not automatically be feared. It should be examined carefully.

The Bereans did not fear examination. They searched the Scriptures daily to determine whether those things were so. Acts 17:11

If a doctrine is true, examination will strengthen it.

If a doctrine is false, examination will expose it.

Either way, Scripture benefits.

Therefore, when doubt is caused by examination, the solution is not to stop examining.

The solution is to continue searching until the truth becomes clear.

7. Lack of God's knowledge and Godly understanding. Lack of Godly knowledge brings separation, bondage and destruction.

- a.** Hosea 4:6 (KJV) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge. This verse clearly shows that ignorance, especially willful rejection of God's knowledge, leads to destruction and separation from God's blessing.
- b.** Proverbs 10:21 (KJV) The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom. Lack of wisdom (applied knowledge) is a cause of death, especially spiritual or moral ruin.
- c.** Isaiah 5:13 (KJV) Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Ignorance led the people of God into bondage and ruin.
- d.** Proverbs 5:23 (KJV) He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. Neglecting instruction or correction leads to spiritual death and wandering away from truth.
- e.** Romans 10:2-3 (KJV) For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Paul describes how sincere zeal without proper understanding can result in rejection of God's true plan of salvation.
- f.** Proverbs 1:29-31 (KJV) For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the

LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. Rejecting knowledge and wisdom leads to consequences of one's own misguided choices.

8. We lean unto our own understanding and not allow for us to receive God's understanding, and this leads to foolishness, spiritual blindness and destruction.

- a. Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV) Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. This is the clearest warning against relying on human wisdom instead of trusting God. God promises guidance when we trust Him fully.
- b. Proverbs 14:12 (KJV) There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. What feels right to us may actually lead to spiritual or even physical destruction.
- c. Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Human intuition and feelings are unreliable and can mislead us if we trust them over God's Word.
- d. Isaiah 5:21 (KJV) Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! God warns of judgment upon those who consider themselves wise apart from Him.
- e. Romans 1:21–22 (KJV) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, Relying on one's own reasoning without

glorifying God leads to foolishness and spiritual blindness.

- f. Isaiah 55:8–9 (KJV) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. A reminder that God's wisdom surpasses ours. Trusting in His perspective is far better than relying on our own.

9. A lack of faith and believing! This part is taken from B3-C02-S04 - “Truth or Deceit Testing What You Believe”

There are many and I say many staggered (hesitant) and unfruitful brothers in Christ because of their lack of believing and Godly faith. Romans 4:20

- A “lack of faith” is brought through the lack of Godly understanding. 2 Tim 3:16-16
- A lack of “Godly understanding” is because we lean to our own understanding instead of God’s understanding. Prov 3:5, Prov 28:26.
- We lean to “Our own understanding” because of the lack of Godly knowledge. Prov 3:5-6, Prov 10:13 and a lack of Godly knowledge brings death. Hosea 4:6
- We have a “lack of “Godly knowledge” due to a lack of studying the word of God. 2 Tim 2:15
- A “lack of studying” is because of plain laziness or of an overflow of faith and trust to false teachings, through the acceptance of the knowledge that the world gives through false teachers and false prophets. Proverbs 24:32, James 4:17,

- A “trust to false teachings” because we listen to our deceitful hearts and run with it because it just feels right. Most do this without even taking their time to verify their teachings being disobedient to when God tell us to “TEST EVERY SPIRIT” whether is from Him or not. 1 John 4,
- A “deceitful heart” is because of a lack of obedience. Disobeying God’s commandments such us to study, test every spirit, to correct, be corrected, instruct, reproof, etc. Matt 15:19, Mark 7:21, Luke 12:24, Luke 6:45.

Lack of obedience! The exact same reason Adam and Eve got kicked out of the garden of eve. Man’s first sin!

So, it’s just another big circle on which all boils down to **DISOBEDIENCE.**

How the Enemy Works

Satan is the accuser. He tries to make us feel like we’re not good enough for God by reminding us of our past, making us compare ourselves to others, or making us question God’s love. His main goal is to keep us away from salvation. If that doesn’t work, and we attain salvation, then he will try to steal our peace and shake our trust in God while also keeping us busy, so we do not do the works he has called us to do. Works like helping others come to Christ and receive salvation.

Other Reasons People Doubt

- Life struggles: Hard times and sin can make us feel unworthy.
- Not understanding the Bible: Misunderstanding God’s promises leads to confusion.
- Spiritual battles: Doubt can be a part of the fight for your faith.
- Emotions: Feelings change, and can’t be trusted as truth.

Why Asking “Am I Really Saved?” Can Help You Grow

- Honest Self-Check: Are your actions matching your beliefs?
- The Bible Tells Us to Examine Ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5)
- Stronger Faith: Doubt can lead to deeper trust.
- Focus on Christ: Stop relying on your own good works.
- Spiritual Growth: You learn patience and truth.
- Understanding God's Will: You learn what He really wants from you.
- Real Confidence: You can gain peace and assurance.

A Key Truth: Know What God Asks of Us

Reading about God's promises is good, but it's not enough. To receive those promises, we must also know and follow what God asks of us.

Examples:

- Forgiveness is promised, but we must confess and repent (1 John 1:9).
- Peace is promised, but we must keep our minds on God (Isaiah 26:3).
- Salvation is a gift, but it's for those who put their faith in Christ and obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

How to Work Through Doubts

People deal with spiritual doubts in different ways depending on their background, faith maturity, and support systems. Here are some common ways people tend to navigate spiritual doubts:

1. Prayer and Seeking God

- a. Many turn to prayer, asking God for clarity, reassurance, and increased faith.
- b. Examples: Praying like the man in Mark 9:24 “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”

2. Studying Scripture

- a. Doubt is often answered by truth. People often return to the Word of God to reaffirm God's promises and character.
- b. Verses that address doubt and assurance can provide comfort (e.g., James 1:5, Psalm 34:4).

3. Talking with a Trusted Mentor or Pastor

- a. Speaking with someone spiritually mature can offer guidance, perspective, and prayer support.
- b. Spiritual leaders can help clarify misunderstood teachings that may be the root of the doubt.

4. Reflecting on Personal Experiences with God

- a) Recalling past moments where God provided, answered prayer, or showed love can rekindle trust.
- b) Some keep journals or testimonies to revisit in times of doubt.

5. Wrestling Honestly

- a) Some believers go through a season of wrestling with their faith, asking hard questions, reading widely, and being honest with their struggles.
- b) Like Job or the psalmists, they express their doubt openly to God but remain in pursuit of truth.

6. Engaging in Fellowship

- a)** Being around other believers and hearing their faith stories can strengthen and encourage those who are doubting.
- b)** Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us not to forsake gathering together.

7. Taking a Break from Routine to Seek Clarity

- a)** Some retreat, fast, or pause certain activities to deeply seek God's voice without distractions.

8. Recognizing Doubt is a Part of Growth

- a)** Doubt doesn't always mean unbelief. It can be part of refining and deepening one's faith.
- b)** Even biblical heroes like Thomas and Elijah experienced doubts, yet God met them in love.

Would you like to reflect on a specific kind of doubt, like salvation, God's love, or spiritual calling?

I can help explore how to respond biblically and spiritually.

Important Reminders

Everyone Doubts Sometimes

Don't Trust Your Feelings, Trust God's Word.

Before You Continue

If the previous studies have caused you to question things you once accepted without examination, do not be discouraged.

Questions are not the enemy.

Refusing to seek answers is.

Some people respond to doubt by avoiding difficult questions.

Others respond by searching the Scriptures more carefully.

The Bereans chose the second path.

They examined.

They tested.

They verified.

They allowed Scripture to speak for itself.

As you continue, do not ask:

"How can I get rid of my doubts?"

Ask:

"What does Scripture actually teach?"

Truth does not fear examination.

Error does.

Next Study

One of the most common assumptions in modern Christianity is that believing and salvation are the same thing.

But does Scripture actually teach that?

Or does believing bring a person nearer to salvation while other covenant requirements still remain?

In the next study, we will examine what the Scriptures actually connect believing to and whether believing alone places a person into salvation.

CONTINUE CAREFULLY

If this study has caused questions to arise within you, do not immediately assume that something is wrong.

Questions are often the beginning of understanding.

For many years, you may have accepted certain beliefs because they were taught to you by trusted people.

You may have repeated them.

Defended them.

Built your confidence upon them.

Yet confidence and correctness are not always the same thing. When long-held beliefs are examined by Scripture, tension often follows.

This should not surprise you.

The Bereans did not fear examination.

They welcomed it.

They searched the Scriptures daily to determine whether those things were so.

The goal is not to protect what you already believe.

The goal is to discover whether it is true.

If what you believe agrees with Scripture, examination will strengthen it.

If it does not, examination will expose it.

Either way, truth benefits.

Do not seek relief from your questions before seeking answers.

Do not seek comfort before seeking truth.

Do not seek reassurance before seeking understanding.

Continue searching.

Continue testing.

Continue verifying.

Truth does not fear examination.

Error does.

The next study will examine one of the most common assumptions in modern Christianity and compare it directly against the testimony of Scripture.

Proceed carefully.

NEED HELP?

You were not meant to figure this out alone.

If you have questions, need clarification, or want to go through these studies with someone, reach out.

We will study the Scriptures with you, step by step, so that what you learn is clear, proven, and grounded in truth.

If what you believe is true, it will stand.

If it is not, it must fall.

You Should Have Already Verified and Tested:

B2-C01-S01 - God's Call to Examine Salvation

B2-C01-S02 - Questions That Reveal What We Truly Believe

B2-C01-S03 - Tracing the Biblical Path to Salvation

B2-C01-S04 - The Full Biblical Pattern of Salvation

B2-C01-S05 - Are You Truly Saved

B2-C01-S06 - Challenging the Common Salvation Narrative

B2-C01-S07 - A Common Salvation Story Examined

B2-C01-S08 - Why Feelings Cannot Be Trusted for Salvation

You Are Here:

B2-C01-S09 - When Doubt Is a Call to Examine, Not to Fear

Your Next Study:

B2-C01-S10 - Believing Nearer to Salvation, Not Saved

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

