



Got Assurance Of Being A New Creature In Christ?

By Kurt von Schleicher

What would you say if someone were to ask you if you were sure that you were going to heaven when you die? Would your response be something like: *"Man, I am so thankful, because I know deep down in my knower that I am born anew spiritually and on my way to heaven? The Lord Jesus saved me from my own way, from all my sins, from Hades, and from eternal suffering in a real place called, Hell. Alleluia! I am so stoked-out inside and I feel like shouting real loud!"*

That is great! Yet, so many saints of God are lacking that kind of inner assurance of their salvation. They struggle daily with false guilt and self condemnation after God has totally forgiven them and set them free from destructive sinful habits. They want to know that they are in right standing with God. They stroll around with their head bent over and droopy, "tribulating," wondering, fearing and wringing their hands together in worry. I feel for them, because they remind me of a question-mark-person, when God wants them to be more like an exclamation-point-Christian. Do you know someone who is a "wandering-general" wondering all the time and another who is a "meaningful-specific" that is totally sure about their future destiny? The devil wants Christians living in constant doubt. He wants you to be tormented in doubt about salvation. He wants assurance to be far from you, but God wants you stand up straight and tall with great joy and laughter saying, I know Jesus Christ personally and I know where I am going. Christ is my friend, Savior and Lord. ***"I know whom I have believed!"***

Rather than being exciting Christians with a spring in their step, there are so many who are troubled Christians. Rather than having a "know-so" deep in their spirit, they have a "hope-so" inside. I've once heard it said, *"If you could have salvation and not know it, you could lose salvation and not miss it."* Personally I don't teach that a person can lose their salvation. I'm here to help Christians gain the assurance God wants them to have. And where the Bible is silent we must remain silent. If you have salvation, you ought to know it! And if you have salvation, know that for sure and are pursuing Christ and His will for you, you will be so secure in Him! We all should be about sowing to the Spirit constantly, at home in the presence of the Lord lovingly fellowshiping with Him and about feeding our faith aggressively, that we don't have time to entertain intrusive guests of doubt!

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. — Crosby*

"Christ's followers live in the assurance that when the sun has burned its last and the stars have tumbled from the sky, we shall be alive. We anticipate a life greater than anything we could imagine in our wildest dreams." —Haddon W. Robinson

Personally, I was raised in a traditional church where I was told, "No one can know that they are saved from Purgatory or Hell," but that simply is not what the Bible teaches.

Have you been raised to reject what the Bible teaches? If so, no problem ...simply change. Why repudiate the teachings of authoritative Scripture? Why cling to some lame, religious doctrinal stance that won't allow you to receive an assurance of salvation from the Prince of Peace?

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle John penned this verse to tell us all what is true about salvation's assurance: ***"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . ."*** (1 John 5:13).

The word "know" here in the original language means to know! It means to be absolutely sure about. Look at it again! Verse thirteen, says that it is absolutely possible to be born again and have no doubts about it. But the very fact that the apostle of love wrote this verse also shows us that it is possible for some people to be saved and wavier in knowing it. Some Christians periodically doubt it, or sometimes "feeling like" it could be true. If trials or the circumstances of life are going against them, and not as they wish, they feel that this proves that God is not with them and therefore, they are lost. But being born again has nothing at all to do with what you feel like. It has everything to do with fact instead of emotions and the facts are in God's Word.

We need to get the doubt out. It's just no good? Doubt is kind of like to your human spirit what pain is to your physical body. And pain is like a warning signal telling you that something is wrong and needs to be addressed. What it doesn't mean is that the one who is feeling the pain is deceased. It merely means that something is wrong.

If you have persistent doubts as a born again Christian, you are basically suffering from some degree of spiritual sickness. Sounds funny but it's true. All believers will experience doubt sometimes, but it should not be often or persistent. A lady once told Dwight L. Moody that she had been saved for twenty five years and had never doubted. He responded, *"I doubt you're saved."*

But while we all might feel uptight at times about an occasional doubt, this is a small problem that must and can be overcome. John discloses for us the reason why he wrote chapter five. It was so we Christians may be sure inside our hearts

that we are saved. The words *know, knoweth, or known* appear thirty eight times in this epistle dealing with the topic of assurance.

The next question you probably have about now is: "What witness can I have as proof that I'm saved?" Well, I'm so glad that you asked. **Here are two. The root of our belief is one proof ...or one witness to us.**

Ask yourself: What is it that I really believe? We as Christians are not gullible. We don't commit to believing in fairy tales, in urban legends or in myths at all ...or do some of us? There is a solid basis for what you and I believe. Here's why: Faith is evidence – the substance of things hoped for – it's the very root basis of what we believe. ***"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see"*** (Hebrews 11:1 nlt). It is not about us canoeing in about on changing rapids or walking around on shifting sand. Faith has some spiritual medal in it, if you will. It is real, and the Lord has given us some authentic, genuine witnesses of this, a "testimony" that we might know we are saved and going to heaven.

John says these two witnesses are the eternal work of Christ, the internal witness of the Spirit, and the external Word of Scripture.

The Bible says in 1 John 5:6, ***"This is He that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood."*** When the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, a soldier jabbed a spear deep into His side, ***"and forthwith came there out blood and water"*** (John 19:34). This is the eternal work of Christ, that we are saved by blood and then sanctified by water.

In the Old Testament tabernacle we see a picture of Jesus Christ. When you entered, you came first to the brazen altar where the bloody sacrifice was made upon. Next was a laver, or what we call the great basin, in which the priests would come to wash. First there was the blood, and then came the water. The blood of Jesus Christ pays the price for our sins—nothing else—and the sanctifying water keeps us clean. Does this sound familiar to you? In "Rock of Ages," we sing ***"Let the water and the blood... from Thy wounded side which flowed... be of sin the double cure... save from wrath and make me pure."***

I know that I am born again because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died to purchase my salvation. That is a historical fact and I have received Him by faith (John 1:12-13). That is the saving work of Christ. **Yup, I also know I am saved because of the internal witness of the Spirit:** It is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost:** and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, **the spirit, and the water, and the blood:** and these three agree in one (check out 1 John 5:6-8).

How can I know there was a real man named Jesus Christ? How can I know Christ was the sinless Son of God? How can I know that God sent Jesus from heaven? How can I know that Jesus actually hung on that Roman cross, died and rose again the third day to take away all my sins?

I'm glad I don't need to depend on any mere human's argument. The Holy Spirit is here to make that all real inside my heart. God gave us the work of Jesus Christ. But to make the work of Christ—the water and the blood shed—real to us, He then gave us the Holy Spirit to drive that home.

The Apostle John said, ***"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God"*** (1 John 5: 9-13). The word "if" can also be translated "since." Since you and I believe the witness of men (or of people). All of us believe the witness of men (or of people).

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22).

Jesus said, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life"(John 6:47).

"Jesus said to her [Martha], 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world'"(John 11:25-27).

"The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance..." (Isaiah 32:17).

I was lost in Paris France one day and a sweet older lady grabbed my arm, led me and then told me about the train I needed to board. Following her instructions I found the train and was soon found. We accept the witness of men (and of women).

In the same way, by faith the Lord will grab a hold of our arms, so to speak, as we receive the instruction and witness of God through the Spirit that Christ died to give us. We will also receive our sanctification from Him. There is, therefore, now no excuse for not believing in Jesus. The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit will grant true repentance and help anyone to believe who wants to believe. First the Spirit witnesses to us; then He witnesses in us and then He witnesses through us ... to others as we live the life of the Spirit and tell people the Good News. The Holy Spirit even witnesses to us of our sweet salvation as we open our mouths in obedience to help our friends.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (1 John 5: 10). Before I was born again, the Holy Spirit witnessed to me about how much wrong I was doing, about how selfish I was, and about how badly I need to know

Christ. He explained to me (not audibly) what Christ did for me. I had such a fear of death and of where my own sinful choices would send me ...to hell. God wasn't going to send me there, I was doing a good enough job at sending myself there. Now the Holy Spirit witnesses in me that I am headed to heaven, that Jesus has saved me and written my name in His Lamb's book of life. I have the free gift of this witness in myself.

What if you were to tell me that the computer that I am using to type this out was just a figment of my imagination and even though I could feel the keys under my fingertips click clacking away, you had many words to try to convince me that the sound came from something else? Despite your many arguments, I have the witness within my fingertips. My eyes see the type appearing in the document before me and I have clicked on the save icon in the top left corner. I know in my knower that I am not dreaming – I have the witness on the inside. A saint with a real testimony about how they became born again is never at the mercy of an unbeliever with just an argument, because he has the Witness of the Spirit in himself. The Holy Spirit is as real as this keyboard, but the keyboard will not last forever. **The external Word of Scripture assures me that I am saved:**

The Word says, ***“All who believe in the Son of God know that this is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life. I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life”*** (1 John 5:10-13 nlt).

You can know for sure! How exciting. Here is the basis of our belief system. Here is the reason for our inner rock-solid-certainty. We aren't gullible, simple, fools as worldly people might say. Jesus Christ died. He was put in a tomb, and He came out victorious the third day. He came by the water and the blood. The Holy Spirit of God inside us testifies saying yes, this is true. It is all attested to by the Word of the living God.

To choose to doubt the Bible is to basically call God a liar. It's true. Some say, ***“Well, wait a minute. I'm trying to believe.”*** Maybe they are sowing too much to the world to spend time building up their God-given faith. Yes, maybe they are doubting constantly, because they aren't aggressively feeding their faith. Maybe they are listening to the wrong music lyrics a lot, or seeing the wrong movies or TV shows ...or maybe they might be reading the wrong literature that tells them, ***“Following Jesus is a stupid business indeed.”*** And all this activity it is literally tearing down the work of faith in their minds and hearts.

Feed your faith more in daily Bible reading, verse memorization and verse meditation. Feed your faith as you involve yourself in believing prayer to God, and in seeking-out regular fellowship with spiritual Christians who are fully committed to Jesus Christ ...and in Bible application as you wisely fish for souls. Express yourself clearly taking a stand for what you believe. **Starve your doubts and fleshly habits to death, Christian!**

Either the Bible is His Word—His inerrant, His unwavering, His infallible Word—or it is not. You must choose. And the work of Christ, the witness of the Spirit, and the Word of the living God all say it is true. This is a fact, a matter of historical record. My salvation does not hinge on my emotions, tears or feelings. I have an official record just like I have a marriage license with my bride, Liney. If someone says *"Kurt, you are simply deluded dude! Hey, you don't know the person, Liney, at all. You only think you are married to Liney."* I could reply: *"No, I do know that I know her and I can prove that Liney and I are legally married. I have written assurance of this."*

"But you must continue to believe this truth and stand in it firmly. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News" (Colossians 1:23).

"We have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again!" (Isaiah 26:19).

"As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:9-11).

"...Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory" (Colossians 1:27).

I have the Bible which says: ***"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life"*** (1 John 5:13). Jesus said in John 5:24, ***"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."***

God said it was so and I received Him by faith into my heart ...and that right there is the very basis of my belief. If you've confessed, repented and believed, that's the source of your certain belief, as well. It is so much better to have God's Word than the words, wishes, opinions, prayer cloths, plastic Christian TV nightlights, or the emotions and tears of people. Adrain Rogers used to teach that if a person is truly saved, they will *believe* and pass *the fruit of good behavior test, the commandment test, the companion test and the commitment test.*

- ***The Fruit of Good Behavior Test.*** In addition to the root of our belief, we as professing Christians can also take a close look at the fruit of our behavior to see whether or not we are truly righteous (saved). What has Jesus Christ done inside of me? Is this all merely some intellectual exercise, or has there been a true change? The Apostle John is very practical here. He shows us how our salvation ought to show up in our outward behavior, and he gives us three tests.

God says, ***“So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family calling him “Father, dear Father. For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children”*** (Romans 8:15-16).

- ***The Commandment Test.*** *“And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked”* (1 John 2:3-6).

I really wonder if John had attended a testimony meeting or something, where somebody was just bragging away about being saved—saying he was righteous, but his walk and his talk did not agree with each other or get together. If you say that you are truly saved, this fact is absolutely going to show up in your life so that you will be a good witness. You will be keeping the commandments of God. Of course no one keeps the commandments of God in order to get saved; but you and I do keep the commandments of God because we are saved.

Think about it. This presents a problem, because not one of us has always kept all of the commandments of God. I haven't since I've been saved, and you haven't either since you've been saved. Yet the Bible clearly states that we know we are in Him in that we keep His commandments.

Both the problem and the solution to the problem are found in the word keep. This is actually a mariner's word. In the apostles' day, sailors would navigate through the waves of the seas by the stars. And a sailor setting his course by the stars was said to be "keeping the stars." It was his intention and plan to accurately sail by the stars.

To keep the commandments of God, then, means to use the Word of God as the ultimate Guide for our lives. And it is the desire of every child of God to live by God's Word. While we may be blown off course, buffeted, distracted, or confused, the goal of our lives is to keep the commandments of God by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Ever since I gave my heart to Jesus, there has been a deep, divine, supernatural change in me; and there is also in me a burning desire to please God and live consistently in victory for the Lord. And there should be this desire inside of you, too, if you are born again.

I'm not at all saying that I never sin anymore. The difference is that before I got saved I was running to sin; now I am running from it. I hate sinning. I do all I can to avoid sinning. If I ever fail, like we all do, I just turn right around and start running away again. I run to God and tell on myself. Why pile up more sins just to cover a sin I've committed, when my true desire is to be free from all sins?

The commandment test says: if you can willfully and knowingly sin against the will of God with no conviction, no compunction, and no remorse inside, you need to get

saved. You are not yet a true Christian. A lot of people say, *"Well, I walked down an aisle, I felt lots of emotions well up, I cried lots of tears, I shook a preacher's hand, I filled out his conversion card—I was saved. I know I'm just a lame backslider now that has fallen into loving to sin, but I'm still saved and going to heaven."*

No, unfortunately you are not yet a Christian. You are still hurting the Lord. Yes, with all due respect; regardless of your alleged Holy Spirit experiences you were not saved. Real Christians never love to sin. If you are living that way—fat and happy in your sinning so to speak—and it does not break your heart, then you do not know the God of the Bible yet.

- ***The Companion Test.*** *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3: 14).* When a person is truly saved, they want to be right with the Father, and they want to be right with their brothers and sisters in Jesus.

Paul's deep hope was this: ***"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding"*** (Colossians 2: 2).

But there are still some today who would say, *"Well, I'm born again, but I have no use for the organized Church."* But the Bible says if we love Jesus, we are going to love what Jesus loves; and Jesus is passionate about His bride the Church. He loves her—He loves all of His saints!

The word "saint" (singular) appears in the Bible only five times. The plural appears nearly 100 times. Now, going to church will not make you a saint any more than going to visit the garage will make you an automobile. But when you realize that you have been bought by the blood of Christ, when the Spirit of God comes into your person, you receive a new nature inside, and you are going to keep God's commandments and you will love the brethren.

- ***The Commitment Test.*** Now here's the strongest test. It is the commitment test. All of the others grow out of it. *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself... These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God"* (1 John 5: 10, 13).

In the Word of God, the words "believe" and "commit" are for all practical purposes the same word. Concerning Jesus, it says, *"Many believed in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men"* (John 2: 23-24). They said they believed in Him, but He did not believe in them in one sense. The demons believe and tremble. Lots of lost people today say they believe in Jesus. But Jesus knew that these people were just signs and wonder-mongers not really wanting Him as Lord. He knew that they were after more miracles and didn't care about the becoming true saints in His Kingdom.

Listen, biblical faith is not merely an intellectual exercise. That wouldn't save anyone. You do not believe about Jesus, you believe in Jesus. You commit yourself—your whole life and person to Jesus Christ!

Do you merely believe in that chair you see at the table when it is dinner time or do you go sit down in it with your full weight resting upon it? He who commits himself to the Son of God will live forever and ever with Him in His Kingdom. He who commits himself fully to Jesus Christ is the very one who is saved. Have you really done this yet?

Check it out closely. The Bible doesn't say, he who has believed; it says He who believes. It's a "present tense" thing. Do you ask people, "*Are you saved?*"

They say, "*Yes, I'm saved. I remember trusting in and believing on Jesus Christ at Sunday school.*" The Bible calls for true repentance and it never uses such an experience alone as proof of salvation. It never points back to some time when you believed on Jesus Christ.

When you hear, "*Hey, if you can't tell me about the place and moment when you received Jesus, you are not really saved.*" Well, that isn't really biblical. The Bible never says you have to remember and know the date and specific location when you were saved in the past. It says, "*He that believes.*"

I am not saying there is not a time when you received Christ. There is a moment in time when you are born again. It happened on a certain day in a certain location. But that is not the biblical test to tell if you are saved. The test is, do you believe in Jesus Christ now? Is your life changed? Are you done with a life of sin? Are you trusting in Christ right now? Is there evidence in your life right now that you are the true offspring of God? That's proof of your salvation.

- **Here's a Question for You:** Have you repented and fully surrendered your heart and life to the Lord? Do you have the assurance that if you were to die right now, you would go straight to heaven? If not, allow me to explain how you can be born again.
- **Admit It and Quit It.** First, understand that you are a sinner that needs to confess this and turn away from all sinning to God through Christ. We've all blown it. We've sinned and broken God's holy laws. The Bible says, "***All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God***" (Romans 3:23).
- **Ditch all your Self-based Efforts.** Second, understand that you can't regenerate, cleanse or reform yourself by many good efforts. A fish doesn't need to clean itself before it gets caught. That's the Fisherman's duty. The Bible is very clear that it's "***not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us***" (Titus 3:5). Again, "***By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast***" (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- **Recognize the great Value of Christ's Payment.** Third, believe that Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, died in your place, for all your sins on the cross. The Bible says, "***God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us***" (Romans 5:8). Yes, Jesus died vicariously—in your place. Your sin-debt was beyond huge, but it has all

been paid by the blood of Jesus, which **"cleanseth us from all sin"** (1 John 1:7).

- **Accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.** Fourth, you must put your faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone for your salvation. The blood of Jesus does you no good until you receive Him by faith. The Bible says, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"** (Acts 16:31).

Have you ever taken this mega-important step of faith? If not, I urge you. Do it today—right now! Why? Because the devil will say "Manyana" and Jesus says that today is the day of salvation. He is God's only way to heaven! Don't procrastinate. Not to decide is to decide.

Speaking of Jesus, the Apostle Peter who had denied Christ three times and was forgiven, said this in Acts 4:12, **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

Jesus Himself said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"** (John 14:6). Couldn't it be any clearer than that? There is no other way! There is no other salvation plan. Are you willing to offer up a prayer of repentance faith to God today? Faith is so necessary! **"It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen"** (Heb. 11:1). Then voice something like this:

"God, I'm sorry that I have sinned against You by breaking your laws—the Ten Commandments. I am a lost person, and I do need to be forgiven and born anew today. There is nothing that I can do to redeem myself or rescue myself from eternal fire and destruction in Hell, so right now, by faith, once and for all, I repent and ask You to save me. Please come into my heart, forgive all of my sins, and make me into Your child. I give You my entire life—all of it! Guide me and help me know how to live according to Your Word and Spirit. Be the Chief executive Decision Maker—my Lord—and as I cooperate, make me into a good representative for you as you want me to be. Daily, I want to reflect your holy character, love, peace and joy. I commit to live for You by your power and I thank you for your strength."

Yes, will you humble yourself and voice that prayer sincerely from your heart? If so, God will hear you and cause you to be born of His Spirit! You'll be saved in the fullest sense of the term. Jesus promised that no one who comes to Him—who humbly turns to Him in repentance and faith—will be turned away in rejection. Jesus said, **"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out"** (John 6:37 nkjv). Turn to Him with all your heart and keep turning to Him daily. Moment by moment allow His Spirit to control you. Christ promised: **"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"** (John 1:12 nkjv).

Jesus wants more than mere righteous sounding King James platitudes from those for whom He died; He wants you to have assurance of His abiding agape LOVE, and then in that love, daily abide. He wants you to abide in Him rather than strive in the flesh.

You need never restart up old or new sinful habits. The Bible encourages us saying, ***“We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end”*** (Hebrews 3:14). And it says, ***“Ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”*** (Mark 13:13). So what’s the bottom-line? God’s promise of security is to those who persevere—who go the distance with Jesus Christ. Of course the Bible remains silent regarding those who do not. So preserving with Him is radically important. If you fall down, get back up and run to Him. Feed on His Word, pray, fellowship with mature believers, share your faith. Become strong spiritually! Don’t let your heart be troubled! Appropriate His assurance. Paul said, ***“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*** (Galatians 5:1).

When you get the time, you’ll love reading the Bible verses in their context. Read through whole books with a heart to apply. If a loved one writes you a love letter, you read the whole letter to get the full meaning, right? When you prayerfully read, you’ll grow hungrier for God and His Word. When you don’t read or (listen), hunger for God can totally evaporate. Some Christians are so busy reading in-between the lines they don’t read the lines. You don’t need Bible-codes. Some are hopping around the Bible to different verses lucky-dipping so much they get spiritual indigestion.