

# **EVIDENCE OF PARDON**

(Can I know I am saved?)

**Romans 8:14-16**

**Nehemiah 9:17**



We invite you to our upcoming

# **Gospel Meeting**

**Joe Price**

of Las Vegas, Nevada will be our speaker

**October 5-10, 2025**

Sunday - 9:45am, 10:50 am, & 6 pm

Monday – Friday - 7:30 pm

For more information, see our website:

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# **EVIDENCE OF PARDON**

(Can I know I am saved?)

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## Romans 8:14-16

- *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
- Tonight, I want to address the final verse of this text:  
How does the Spirit bear witness and how does our spirit bear witness of our salvation?
- But first I want to lay some groundwork by talking about being pardoned.

## Nehemiah 9:17

- Nehemiah is about rebuilding the walls of a Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. BUT, after the city is repaired, we find the spiritual restoration of Judah recorded, including a prayer of confession and repentance.
- Our text records: ... *But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them*



## Evidence of pardon - Introduction

- When we think of pardon, we think of president/governor releasing someone from punishment or excusing a conviction (or potential conviction) or fault.

It is about forgiving someone for what has been done.

## Evidence of pardon - Introduction

- Pardon can also be applied spiritually as well. In fact, the greatest spiritual NEED man has is to be pardoned by God for our sins (**Romans 3:23, 6:23**).
- It was God's merciful disposition that prompted the prayer in Nehemiah.



## Evidence of pardon - Introduction

- Consider also **Micah 7:18**, *Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.*
- **Isaiah 55:7**, *Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*
- His willingness to pardon is a reason we have hope and comfort.
- BUT can I know that I have been pardoned? How?



Can I know that I have been pardoned?

- Scripture says yes we can.
- **1 John 5:13**, *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.*

# Can I know that I have been pardoned?

- Scripture says yes we can.
- **2 Timothy 4:6-8, 1:12** – Paul knew
- The Bible emphasizes forgiveness is available to all:
  - Why Jesus came - **Luke 19:10, John 10:10**
  - **1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9** – God desires all to be saved
  - **Romans 6:18,22** – we have been set free from sin
  - **Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 3:2**
  - **Hebrews 6:18** – God cannot lie. SO, if He says we are saved, we are saved.



HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

It is NOT about my feelings

- Feelings can be deceptive
- Consider Paul – **Acts 23:1, 26:9, 2 Timothy 1:3**
- Jacob believed Joseph was dead – **Genesis 37:28-36**
- **1 Kings 13:11-32** – a man of God believed the lies of an older prophet.

HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

It is NOT about what others tell me

- In the world there are many “plans of salvation.”
- They cannot all be right – **1 Corinthians 14:33**
- The Bible says there is ONE – **John 14:6, Acts 4:12**
- The Bible warns of false teachers – **Matthew 7:15-16, 2 Peter 2:1-3, cf. 1 John 4:1-2**



HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

It is NOT about what others tell me

- BUT, who is right? **Galatians 1:6-9**
- Paul then notes the source of his message – **Galatians 1:11-12**
- Jesus taught many THINK they are ok, but their actions betray them - **Matthew 7:21-23**
- Do NOT listen to ANY man (myself included) unless they say what God has said – **1 Peter 4:11, 2 Timothy 4:2-4**

HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

ONLY God can pardon us of our sins

- When we sin, it is against God –  
**Romans 3:23, cf. Isaiah 59:2, Psalm 51:4**
- Sin brings enmity with Him – **Romans 8:6-7, James 4:4**
- He is the one we need to be reconciled to –  
**2 Corinthians 5:18-20.** He has provided the way through Jesus.



HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit

- **Romans 8:16-17**, We can know we have been pardoned because the Holy Spirit tells us (we are children of God and heirs, hence forgiven).

# HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit

- HOW does the Holy Spirit tell us?
- Through His word.
  - John 14:26, 16:12-13** – the apostles were guided by Him in teaching
  - 1 Corinthians 2:9-13**
  - 2 Peter 1:20-21**
  - Paul's writings – **Ephesians 3:1-5**
- He does NOT need to communicate to us any other way today – **2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3, Jude 3, etc.**



# HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit

- WHAT does the Holy Spirit tell us to do to be saved?
- Believe – **Hebrews 11:6, John 8:24, 3:16, Romans 10:10, etc.**
- Repent – **2 Peter 3:9, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 2:38, 17:30-31**
- Confess Him – **Romans 10:10, 1 Timothy 6:12-13**
- Be baptized – **Acts 2:38, 22:16, Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Peter 3:20-21, etc.**
- This pattern was CONSISTENTLY taught in Acts

HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit

- WHAT does the Holy Spirit tell us to do to STAY saved?
- Be faithful – **Revelation 2:10,**  
**1 Corinthians 4:2**
- When we sin, we take care of our sins – **Acts 8:22, 1 John 1:9**



# HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

## How does my spirit bear witness?

- My “spirit” is about who I am. The part of me that will live on eternally. It defines who I am within – my heart and mind.
- It is what I know about myself.  
I likely know more about myself than others (except God).
- I can KNOW that I have been pardoned, because I have obeyed what the Holy Spirit tells me to do. **Hebrews 5:9**
- Have I followed the pattern the Holy Spirit revealed to me through His word? Do I believe in Jesus? Have I repented? Have I confessed Him? Have I been baptized FOR the remission of my sins?
- IF so, THAT is the EVIDENCE that I have been pardoned!

# HOW can I know that I have been pardoned?

How does my spirit bear witness?

- When “my spirit” is in agreement with “the Holy Spirit”, I can know!
- But I must ALSO understand that initial pardon (obeying the gospel) is only the beginning.
- He, the Holy Spirit, has instructed me how to live and take care of my sins as a Christian.
- If “my spirit” tells me I have sinned (I know!), have I repented, confessed and prayed? If so, I can KNOW I am reconciled
- Again, THAT is the EVIDENCE that I have been pardoned!



Have you been pardoned by God?

**Romans 8:16**

Let us pray!