

A

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Knowing I Am Saved

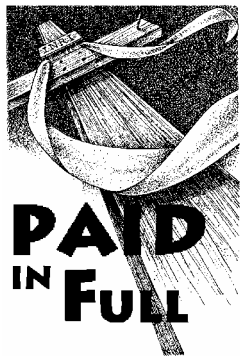
Study #1

Satan may try to get you to doubt your salvation. He may cause you to wonder if you really are a Christian, and tell you that because you do not **feel** any different than before, nothing really happened.

And then, you might sin. You might slip back into your old ways. Satan is quick to sow the seeds of doubt by telling you that Christians don't sin.

When doubts come, **what will your answer be?**

The purpose of this study is to teach you that by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior,



you are saved now and forever — and you can **KNOW** it for certain!

Lesson Overview

- I. What Is Meant By “Assurance”?
- II. Why Do I Need Assurance Of Salvation?
- III. What Is The Basis Of Assurance?
- IV. How May I Know I'm Saved?
- V. Why Do Some Genuine Believers Doubt Their Salvation?
- VI. What Brings Assurance Of Salvation Into My Life?
- VII. What Happens If I Sin?
- VIII. Can I Ever Lose My Salvation?

Checklist

- This Lesson
 - Spiritual Journal
- For Next Session**
- Lesson B

Discipler:

Do not simply read the boxed material to your Timothy during the session. Highlight a key word so you can quickly glance at the sentence and deliver the question, amplification, review, or comment. Always keep good eye contact with your Timothy.

Discuss Last Week's Assignments –

1. Ask your Timothy if he has any questions about last week's sermon(s).
2. Share one of your Quiet Times.
3. Ask him if he has any questions from his Bible reading.

Read page 1 and ask, “If Satan caused you to doubt your salvation, how would you answer those doubts?”

Stop and have him write his salvation date in the front of his Bible.

However, some people falsely think they are saved. An old spiritual put it simply and directly: “Everybody talkin’ about heaven ain’t going there.” Some may think all is well between them and God when it isn’t. One of the most chilling passages in the Bible is found in Matthew 7:21-23, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”

This reality compelled the Apostle Paul to warn, “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith*” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Part of this lesson is a test, a Biblical checklist, to allow yourself to examine the reality of your faith. How can you tell whether you really are a Christian? How do you know if your faith is real? The Apostle John wrote his first letter to answer these questions and gave a series of tests by which to measure us.

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives assurance (Romans 8:16). It is the work of God in the believer’s life as he lives righteously. With righteous behavior comes the peace and confidence of God. Read Isaiah 32:17, “*And the work of righteousness shall be P_____ ; and the effect of righteousness quietness and A_____ for ever.*”

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY “ASSURANCE”?

By “assurance of salvation” we mean the intellectual and spiritual certainty that you belong to God, that you possess eternal salvation.

A. Look up: 2 Timothy 1:12

The “key words” in this verse are K_____ and P_____ .

B. Look up: 1 John 5:13

1. On the basis of this verse of Scripture, would you say God wants you to have assurance of salvation? _____
2. What word in this verse indicates this?

Ask:

What does 1 John 5:13 teach you?
Answer – It is possible to know for sure that you have eternal life.

II. WHY DO I NEED ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

- A. Assurance brings us **J**____ (1 John 1:4).
- B. Assurance brings us **C**_____ before God (1 John 3:19, 21).
- C. Assurance brings us **C**_____ of heart (Colossians 2:2).
- D. Assurance enables us to **O**_____ the world (1 John 5:4-5).
- E. Assurance enables us to effectively serve the Lord by telling others about Jesus. Read the following Scriptures: John 1:40-41; John 4:28-29; and Acts 16:10.

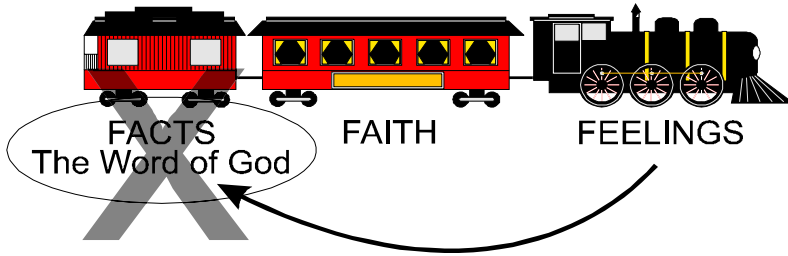
Explain how

assurance of salvation helps us serve God.
Answer—assurance builds confidence in ourselves. It releases us to think about others and not worry about ourselves.

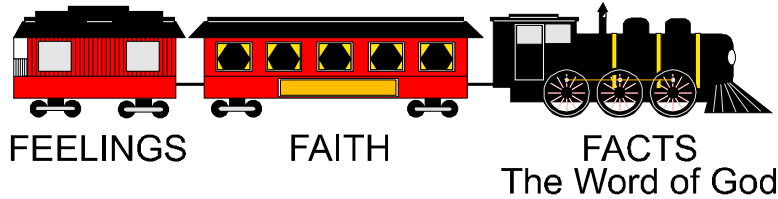
III. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

Many Christians base their assurance of salvation upon personal feelings. The problem with this is that feelings change. One day you may feel saved; the next day, through circumstances, you may not feel saved. When you allow feelings to be the power that drives you, you are in for a

rough ride. Feelings should never come before faith in the Word of God.



You have something MORE than feelings to go by — the UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD. Your faith is empowered by the Word of God — “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*” (Romans 10:17). If you put faith in the Word of God, the feelings of being saved will eventually follow.



Look up 1 John 5:11-12 and write this Scripture out in full.

Circle the words *record* and *hath* in the above verses. The record is – that you have eternal life!

There are three grounds for your assurance:

- A. **The PERSON of God**
According to *Titus 1:2*, God cannot ____.

Explain the relationship between *Facts* (Word of God), *Faith*, and *Feeling*. The Word of God is *Fact* and comes first. It is the engine (the power) which pulls (generates) faith. Faith always precedes feelings of being saved. People bothered by doubts put feelings first and base their assurance of salvation upon them. They have the caboose out front trying to pull the train. Assurance is not based upon feelings but upon the facts of the Word of God.

Or picture *Facts, Faith, and Feelings* as a triangle. The Word of God is fact, and it is the base of the triangle. Faith is supported by this base. Feelings of assurance are built upon faith.



GOD SAID IT — THAT SETTLES IT!

Assurance of salvation is the collective work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

1. God the Father gave His Son to be the Savior of the world (John 3:16). The Father gives people to the Son (John 6:37). Through some divine choice God gives people to Christ to be saved, and anyone who comes to Him will not be cast out. According to John 10:27-29, from whose hands is no one able to snatch us?

Comment:

Each member of the Trinity is involved in your assurance – from the Father who gave His Son and chose you, to the Son who is the anchor of your soul, to the Spirit who seals your salvation.

2. God the Son prayed, “*Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me*” (John 17:11). Since Jesus Christ always prays in perfect harmony with the will of the Father, we can be assured that keeping our salvation secure is the will of God. According to Hebrews 6:19-20, Jesus Christ is our High Priest and serves as an A _____ of the soul to keep us from drifting away from God.

3. God the Holy Spirit seals the believer’s salvation. He is God’s pledge to us that full redemption is coming.

Explain the sealing of the Holy Spirit. He is the “earnest of our inheritance” (Ephesians 1:13-14). Earnest money is the down payment. It guarantees the seller that you are serious about the purchase and you will return with the financial arrangements to complete the sale. The Holy Spirit is God’s down payment in us to guarantee us that we will receive the inheritance due us in Christ. One day we’re “going up!” We have the guarantee of the Holy Spirit.

B. The PROMISES of God

- 1. In *John 5:24*, God says if I H _____ everlasting life, I S _____ N _____ come into condemnation.
- 2. According to *John 6:37*, because I came to Jesus Christ, He will in _____ W _____ cast me out.
- 3. According to *Romans 10:13*, those who call upon the Name of the Lord S _____ be saved.

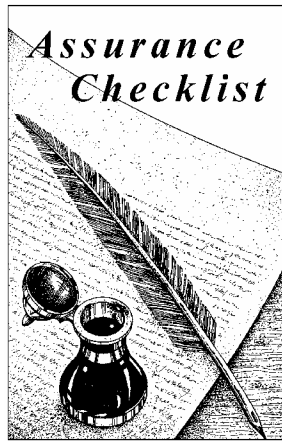
These are just a sample of the positive statements, put in writing, by the God who cannot lie.

C. The PRESENCE of God

1. According to *Romans 5:5*, when we are saved, God gives us His H _____ G _____, who dwells in our hearts.
2. According to *Romans 8:16*, the Spirit of God bears W _____ with our spirit that we are in fact God’s children. See also the first part of *1 John 5:10*.

IV. HOW MAY I KNOW I’M SAVED?

Here is a checklist to use in evaluating the authenticity of your salvation experience. The Apostle John’s letter delves into the subjective grounds for assurance. They focus on the fruit of righteousness in the believer’s life and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. These subjective factors have meaning only if they are first rooted by faith in the objective truth of God’s Word.



Ask:
How did you do on this checklist?

Ask your Timothy each of these checklist questions and get his responses.

A. Do I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

This is a belief that is evidenced by love for Christ and the Father. (1 John 5:1) *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”* The Apostle Paul said it this way, (Galatians 2:20) *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the*

faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” There’s something very experiential about this truth; there is an experience of knowing God intimately. Do you believe in Christ from the depths of your heart?

B. *Am I sensitive to sin?*

We cannot claim fellowship with God and walk in darkness. Light and darkness cannot coexist. What does God call people who walk in darkness and claim to have fellowship with Christ? L_____ (1 John 1:6). In 1 John 2:1, John writes that believers should not sin. If they do, they realize that forgiveness is in Jesus Christ, the righteous one. True believers are sensitive to sin.

C. *Do I keep God’s commandments?*

Do I obey God? 1 John 2:3 says, “*And hereby we do K_____ that we K_____ him, if we K_____ his commandments.*” The word “keep” means watchful, careful, thoughtful obedience. When Jesus commissioned His church in Matthew 28:20, one of the elements of that commission was to teach disciples to observe all things that He commanded. True disciples are “obeyers.” Obedience to the commands of God produces assurance. What does God call people who say they know Him and keep not His commandments? L_____ (1 John 2:4). According to 1 John 2:17, who abides forever? “*He that D_____ the will of God.*”

D. *Do I reject this evil world?*

Do I desire to turn from the world and all its sin? Does this evil world system, with Satan as its god, have a pull on my heart and affections? According to 1 John 2:15, what is not in the person who loves the world? “*The L_____ of the F_____*”

Comment:
God places a high premium on obedience. 1 John says Christians obey. In a society that is moving toward chaos, as ours is, obedience is a hallmark of Christianity.

is not in him.” Jesus said His children are not of this world even as He is not of this world (John 17:14-16). We may have to live in this world, but we are not of it. A believer rejects its false religions, errant ideologies, damning philosophies, godless living, vain pursuits, immorality, materialism, and the like. Is this you? Do you love darkness or light? According to John 3:19-21, unbelievers love darkness; light only reproves their wicked lifestyles.

E. *Do I love believers?*

According to 1 John 3:14, assurance resides in those who love the brethren; they know *they* “*have passed from D _____ unto L _____.*” In verse 10, God defines an unbeliever as one who D _____ not righteousness, neither L _____ his brother. Loving fellow Christians comes naturally to believers. It shows that the love of God has been poured out in their hearts. Jesus went so far as to say that this love is an identifying mark of His disciples (John 13:35). So, do you love Christians? Do you love those in the church, or are you cold, indifferent, and uncaring toward them? Your love may not be perfect, but it will be there.

F. *Do I experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit?*

God says that people can know that they dwell in Him because He *has* “*G _____ us of his Spirit*” (1 John 4:13). This ministry of the Spirit includes things such as conviction of sin, fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), spiritual understanding when reading the Scriptures, and so on. In Romans 8:16, Paul says, “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*” In a definite, concrete way the Holy Spirit brings assurance to you that you belong to God.

G. Am I experiencing spiritual victory?

According to 1 John 5:4, who is born of God? “For whatsoever is born of God O _____ - _____ the W _____.” Believers experience spiritual victory. They may not do so all the time, but there is a pattern of growth. Believers are overcomers! Every believer stumbles from time to time; but unbelievers are devoid of spiritual victory for they do not possess the Holy Spirit who causes the victory.

A person’s assurance cannot be based upon the feeling he experienced at the moment of his “alleged” conversion. A person’s true spiritual state is not known by a past experience but rather by a present pursuit of holiness. Jonathan Edwards (a Puritan preacher) said, “Assurance is never to be enjoyed on the basis of a past experience. There is need of the present and continuing work of the Holy Spirit...[in] giving assurance.”



V. WHY DO SOME GENUINE BELIEVERS DOUBT THEIR SALVATION?

The answer to this question could have an infinite number of reasons. Here are several of them:

A. Ignorance

Some Christians haven’t fully understood God’s sovereign operation of securing our salvation forever. They tend to base assurance on feeling and

Review these causes for doubting one’s salvation. If your Timothy has struggled with doubts this may meet his needs.

don't understand the objective truth of God's Word on this issue.

B. Temptation

Christians feel the pull of the flesh to sin even though they have a new nature. This pull is disconcerting.

C. Uncertainty

Christians who were saved at a very young age often can't remember the "experience" of the conversion moment. Link that with the "glowing" testimonies of people saved out of a life of wickedness and you have a formula for doubts.

Tell your Timothy of your own struggle with doubts if you have had that.

Things which cause doubts –

This author was in Bible College taking a course entitled "Philosophy of Christian Living" when asked to write out a testimony of his salvation experience. He was saved as a boy and was raised in church. Another student in class was saved out of the debauchery of a country western singer's lifestyle (drugs, alcohol, and sex). The singer's testimony of salvation earned an "A" from the professor; the Sunday school boy only achieved a "C" grade. In less than a year the singer was back in Nashville and back in sin. The Sunday school boy entered the ministry.

The "flash" of the dramatically changed life can cause others to doubt their own salvation.

D. Trials

Some Christians become spiritually unstable because they can't see the hand of God in all their trials. "How could God love me and let me go through this?"

E. Disobedience

Emphasize this source of doubts. It is probably the most prevalent cause why Christians question the reality of their faith – with good reason.

Perhaps the most common reason for lacking assurance is disobedience. With disobedience comes guilt, and then we question *“How could I possibly be saved and have done....”*

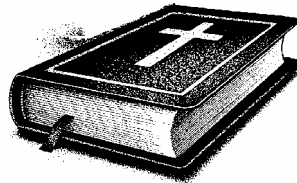
The testimony of Charles Spurgeon –

Whenever I feel that I have sinned and desire to overcome that sin for the future, the devil at the same time comes to me and whispers, “How can you be a pardoned person and accepted with God while you still sin in this way?” If I listen to this I drop into despondency and if I continued in that state I should fall into despair, and should commit sin more frequently than before; but God’s grace comes in and says to my soul, “Thou hast sinned; but did not Christ come to save sinners? Thou art not saved because thou art righteous; for Christ died for the ungodly.” And my faith says, “Though I have sinned, I have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and though I am guilty, yet by grace I am saved and I am a child of God still.” And what then? Why the tears begin to flow and I say, “How could I ever sin against my God who has been so good to me? Now I will overcome that sin,” and I get strong to fight with sin through the conviction that I am God’s child.

(source unknown)

VI. WHAT BRINGS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION INTO MY LIFE?

It is possible you may have doubts from time to time. Just remember that Satan is a liar (John 8:44), and his first recorded words in the Bible were casting doubt upon God’s Word (Genesis 3:1). Here are some ways you can have assurance, or deepen your



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Review all of section VI. WHAT BRINGS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION INTO MY LIFE?

Ask your Timothy to make a public profession of faith (if he hasn’t done so) by coming down the aisle during the invitation. Offer to walk the aisle with him.

Contact the pastoral staff to inform them of your coming.

assurance in what God has done for you:

A. *Learn the Word of God.*

Your salvation is based upon what God has said — not upon how you think or feel. Thus it is important for you to read and study the Bible. Read 2 Timothy 3:14,15.

B. *Thank God for His gift of salvation.*

According to Romans 6:23, you have received the GIFT of E_____

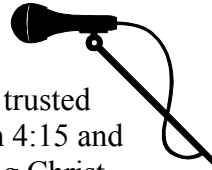
L_____. Have you thanked God for this gift yet? Thanksgiving is evidence of faith. Read 2 Corinthians 9:15.



C. *Make a public testimony before others.*

Have you told someone that you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ? Look at 1 John 4:15 and see the relationship between confessing Christ and assurance.

Read Matthew 10:32 and Romans 10:9,10.



One way you can confess Christ publicly is to come forward at the “invitation” in one of our Church services. The pastor will gladly introduce you to the Church.

D. *Attend church services faithfully.*

Fellowshipping with your brothers and sisters in Christ will encourage you. Many of them have experienced the same doubts you may have. Hebrews 10:25 commands this, while Hebrews 10:22



Ask:

Are you going to be able to attend this week's worship services?
Why don't we try to sit together?
How about going out to eat together after the service?
Discipler, **become a part** of your Timothy's life.

talks about assurance. Have a goal to begin attending all the services.

E. Live a righteous life.

Sometimes a full assurance does not come until God sees we mean business for Him.



According to Isaiah 32:17, the effect of
R_____ is quietness
and A_____ forever.

Remember, your peace and assurance is based upon believing God’s promises and **not** on your feelings.

- **Don’t sugarcoat sin in your life!** Recognize it, hate it, call it for what it is – rebellion against God.
- **Fix your heart on God.** Devote every area of your life to God.
- **Use the Word of God to bolster your faith.** Memorize it and quote it when Satan whispers doubts in your ear.
- **Relentlessly move forward.** Perseverance is a forgotten practice in our culture – oh, some athletes and businessmen have it; but few Christians tenaciously hold to the commitments they make at the church altar.

VII. WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN?

A. Look up 1 John 1:8. Is it possible for a Christian to sin? _____

B. Look up 1 John 2:1. Does God want a Christian to sin? _____



- C. *Look up 1 John 1:9. If a Christian sins, what is the one thing we are to do about it? C _____ it to God.*
- D. *Look up 1 John 2:1 again. When I sin, Who appears before God the Father in heaven on my behalf? J _____ C _____ the Righteous.*
- E. *Look up 1 John 1:6,7. In your own words, what does a Christian lose if he sins? _____*

Explain 1 John 1:9. Confession is for the purpose of restoring fellowship, not restoring relationship. Fellowship may be broken, relationship cannot. God will always be the believer's Father.

VIII. CAN I EVER LOSE MY SALVATION?

- A. *John 10:28 says we shall N _____ perish.*
- B. *John 10:29 says no man is A _____ to remove us from God's hand.*
- C. *John 6:37 says God will in _____ W _____ cast out those who come to Christ.*
- D. *John 6:39 says the responsibility of keeping us saved is the Lord's, not ours, and that Christ can L _____ nothing.*
- E. *John 5:24 says the kind of life I now have is E _____.*
- F. *Romans 8:38,39 says that nothing can S _____ us from the love of Christ.*
- G. *1 Peter 1:5 says we are K _____ by the P _____ of God.*
- H. *Jude 24 says Christ is able to K _____ us from F _____.*

Comment: Caution your Timothy that assurance of salvation is not a license to sin. **Look at** Romans 6:1-2.

- I. *Philippians 1:6 says that Christ will continue His good W_____ in us until the D_____ of Jesus Christ.*
- J. *Ephesians 1:13 says our salvation has been S_____ with the Holy Spirit.*
- K. *Ephesians 2:8 says that our salvation is the G_____ of God. A gift taken back by the giver is no gift.*
- L. *Ephesians 2:9 says that we have done nothing to gain salvation. If we have done nothing to gain it — we can do nothing to lose it!*
- M. *According to Ephesians 2:2,3 and 1 John 3:10, before we were saved we were in the control of Satan. Now that we are saved, we have a new relationship with God.*
1. God is our heavenly F_____ (Romans 8:15).
 2. Christians are the S_____ of God (1 John 3:1).
 3. In our earthly family, when a child does wrong, his parents do not cast him out of the family and disown him. They will correct and chasten their son — but he is still their son and a member of that family.
 4. When a Christian sins, he is not cast out of God's family, thus losing his salvation. However, like any loving father, God may



Ask:

Have you had doubts regarding your salvation? Why? When did the doubts come? Were they a response to anything specific that you can pinpoint?

Ask:

What questions do you have regarding salvation and assurance of salvation?

C _____ the erring Christian
(Hebrews 12:6).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT:

- Read your B Lesson (**B**aptism) and answer all the questions. Look up the lesson's Bible references in God's Word.
- Start reading the Gospel of John *at your own pace* or use the Bible Reading Schedule. If you have any questions as you read, write them in the note-taking section of your *Spiritual Journal*. Ask your Discipler to answer them during your next session.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week. If you have questions about the sermon, be sure to write them down. You can ask your Discipler about them during your next session.
- Where would you like to meet for next week's session?
- Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, B Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Review this spiritual growth assignment with your Timothy.

Schedule your next session together.

Encourage him in spiritual growth. Inform him that soon he will be understanding the Bible much better. Cast a vision for him by helping him to see his potential in serving God.

Pray with him and for him. Take prayer requests from your Timothy and pray for him (in his presence and through the week at home).

REMEMBER!!!
Turn in the "Discipler Report Back" page by dropping it off at the Hospitality Booth in the church foyer.

TAKING NOTES IN YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNAL

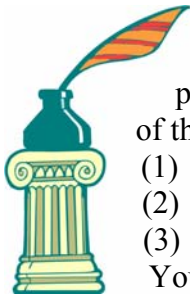
You can see from these statistics how taking notes will greatly increase your retention level. You will be able to grow spiritually more quickly if you retain the insights you receive from pastors and teachers.

Most sermons are prepared in some kind of outline form. This helps the speaker organize his thoughts. As you take notes, try to outline the major points of the message. However, don't be so engrossed in trying to "get the outline" that you miss the message that is being preached. Listening to a message from God's Word should not degenerate into just an academic exercise. Listen with an open heart and an open mind; then jot down a few thoughts to help you reflect back on the sermon.

Psychologists tell us that after 72 hours we normally remember:

- ✓ Only about 10% of what we hear.
- ✓ Only about 30% of what we read.
- ✓ About 50% of what we hear and read.
- ✓ About 90% of what we hear, read, and do!

* Study conducted by the United States Air Force.



Applying God's Word is the most important principle in living the Christian life. Toward the end of the sermon ask yourself these questions:

- (1) "How does this message apply to me?"
- (2) "What should I do in response to this message?"
- (3) "When can I get started?"

You will usually find it necessary to write out *specific steps* to put your application into immediate practice.

Your applications need to be: **PERSONAL** — Select an activity you can do. **SPECIFIC** — Be detailed and realistic. **MEASURABLE** — Give yourself a time limit.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on
____ / ____ / ____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You

**This is a
sample of
the
“Discipler
Report
Back” page
that you
removed
from the
back of your
Timothy’s
lesson.**

**Return that
sheet to the
Hospitality
Booth in the
church foyer.**