

ASSURANCE NOTES

## Lesson 6

(Teacher Helps, pages 10-13)

Page 10 should be passed out to the students for them all to look at. We are now beginning a new section in the notes. We have just finished JUSTIFICATION and now we are considering the work of the Holy Spirit in giving the child of God assurance of salvation, and His work in sealing the believer (being the Seal) unto the day of redemption.

As the students hold page 10, ask them, "What's wrong with this picture?" (this is a good illustration for this world series time of the year) What's missing? Why is the person cheering? Should he be cheering? There is a baseball field but there are no players, there are no baseball teams, there is no action, there is nothing taking place. It would be like trying to have a world series without the Red Sox and the Mets (without the two teams that are supposed to be playing in it). You are not supposed to cheer until something happens. Then you can cry out and shout for your favorite team!

The spiritual application is found in Romans 8:15. (and compare Galatians 4:6). Before a person is saved there is nothing to cheer about! Nothing has happened. The Holy Spirit has not come into the person's life. The person is unsaved, "dead in sin" (Eph. 2:1). But when God saves a person, something has happened and there is something to cry out and shout about and cheer about!

Has anything happened to you (ask the students this)? What has happened? Is there anything to cheer about in your life? What has God done? Has God done anything for you? Has He forgiven your sin? Has He justified you (you can use this to review the previous weeks)? Has He given you eternal life? Has the Holy Spirit come in to your life to live in your heart?

Before you leave Romans 8:15 it might be good to help the students to learn about the Holy Spirit and His important ministry of "CONVINCING" people. When a person is unsaved the Holy Spirit's ministry is to convince people about sin--especially the great sin of unbelief (John 16:9). Before a person can be saved he must realize

that he is lost, that he is a guilty, lost, sinner who deserves death. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convince people of this fact. When a person is saved the Holy Spirit has another "CONVINCING" ministry. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convince believers that they are the children of God. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. He assures us that this is so. The Bible says, "Every person who believes in Jesus Christ and receives Him as Saviour is a child of God!" The believer says in his heart, "Amen! I believe what God says! I have believed in Jesus Christ and I have received Him as my personal Saviour and God says that I am a child of God! Hurray! I know I'm a child of God because God says so!" The Spirit of God adds His silent witness, "Amen! Yes you are God's child. God's Word is true! You are God's child because you have received Jesus Christ by faith. It's a fact! Just believe it! Don't ever doubt it! God said it and that settles it! You are a member of God's family."

HOLY  
SPIRIT



Helps me to see  
what I really am:

A LOST  
SINNER WHO  
NEEDS TO BE  
SAVED



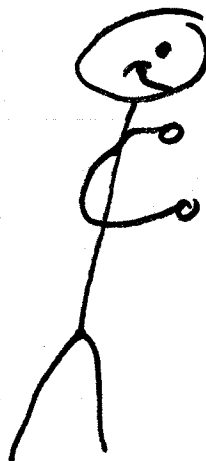
UNSAVED PERSON  
"I need Christ!"

HOLY  
SPIRIT



Helps me to see  
what I really am:

A  
CHILD  
OF  
GOD



SAVED PERSON  
"I have Christ!"

Page 11 is the page with the train tracks on it, and with Ephesians 1:13 A given at the top.

Have the students look up this verse and fill in the blanks.

Quiz them on the order of events that must take place when a person is saved. What event must come first? What is the first thing that must happen if a person is to be saved? (he must HEAR the word of truth, he must hear the gospel-see 1 Cor. 15:3-4)

What is the second thing that happens? (or that needs to happen if the person is to be saved) He must TRUST CHRIST, that is, he must believe the facts of the gospel which he has heard. Faith must fix itself down on the facts. The facts are found in God's Word the Bible. The facts have to do with the good news about Jesus Christ. The facts never change! You can count on them! You can believe them! You can fix your faith on them!

What is the next thing that happens? What happens to the person who hears the gospel and believes in Christ? ANSWER: HE IS SAVED AND HE IS SEALED WITH THAT HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE (which we will explain later in our studies)

GOD NEVER SAYS "FEEL". GOD SAYS, PUT YOUR FAITH IN HIS WORD (FACTS). (see bottom of page 11)

Don't go by FEELING but God by FACT. Don't go by how you feel but go by WHAT GOD HAS SAID. Martin Luther once said:

Someone asked Luther, "Do you feel that you have been forgiven?" He answered, "No, but I'm as sure as there's a God in heaven. For feelings come and feelings go, and feelings are deceiving; My warrant is the Word of God, naught (nothing) else is worth believing" Though all my heart should feel condemned for want of one sweet token, There is one greater than my heart, whose Word cannot be broken. I'll trust in His unchanging love, Till soul and body sever; For though all else shall pass away, His Word shall stand forever."

The students can then cut out the parts of the train that are found on page 11 A (labeled feeling, faith and fact). Have them paste these parts of the train onto page 11 on the tracks in the right order. Explain to them that the tracks represent my journey through time (from first grade to second grade to third grade, etc.).

Why must FACT come first? Why must FACT be the engine?  
 Why must a person be LED by facts? Where are the facts to be found?  
 (IN THE WORD OF GOD)

Why must faith be second? (faith must follow and fix itself on the facts) Why can't faith be first? (if faith came first then it would have no facts to fix itself upon. Romans 10:17--Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. If you don't have the Word of God then you can't have faith.

Why must FEELINGS follow and come last? Why should feelings not come first? Why should feelings not move us? On Monday morning you may not feel like going to school, but should this feeling be what makes the decision? Should this feeling be the leader? Should you live according to feeling or according to fact? When we do what the facts of God's Word tells us to do (we obey God by faith), then good feelings will usually follow.

What if someone says, "BUT I DON'T FEEL SAVED!" How would you answer this? Did God ever tell us that we need to FEEL SAVED? A person needs to BE SAVED, not FEEL SAVED (Acts 16:30-31). According to the FACTS of God's Word, what must a person DO to BE SAVED (Acts 16:31)? \_\_\_\_\_ If a person does this, then is he saved? \_\_\_\_\_ If a person does this, is he saved whether he feels like it or not? \_\_\_\_\_ Is a person saved because GOD SAYS SO or because HE FEELS SO?

You may wake up tomorrow and feel great and feel like everything in the whole universe is doing fine and there is not a dark cloud in the entire sky. You may wake up the next day and feel terrible and feel like life is one big disaster. Feelings come and feelings go and they change. But there is something that never changes. Whether you wake up feeling great or feeling terrible, the Bible is always the same and never changes (the facts of God never change). No matter how you feel, John 3:16 will always be John 3:16 and it will always say the same thing. One hundred years from now it will still say the same thing. Fix your faith down upon the facts: I BELIEVE IT BECAUSE GOD SAID IT! I KNOW SO BECAUSE GOD SAID SO! I SAY AMEN! TO THUS SAITH THE LORD! I BELIEVE THE FACTS WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN TO ME IN HIS WORD! GOD CANNOT LIE! GOD'S WORD CANNOT CHANGE! I AM RESTING ON WHAT GOD HAS SAID.

You can think of these circles as bubbles that blow in the wind and pop! Certainly nothing that you should count on! Nothing that you should hang on to!

The thoughts and opinions of men

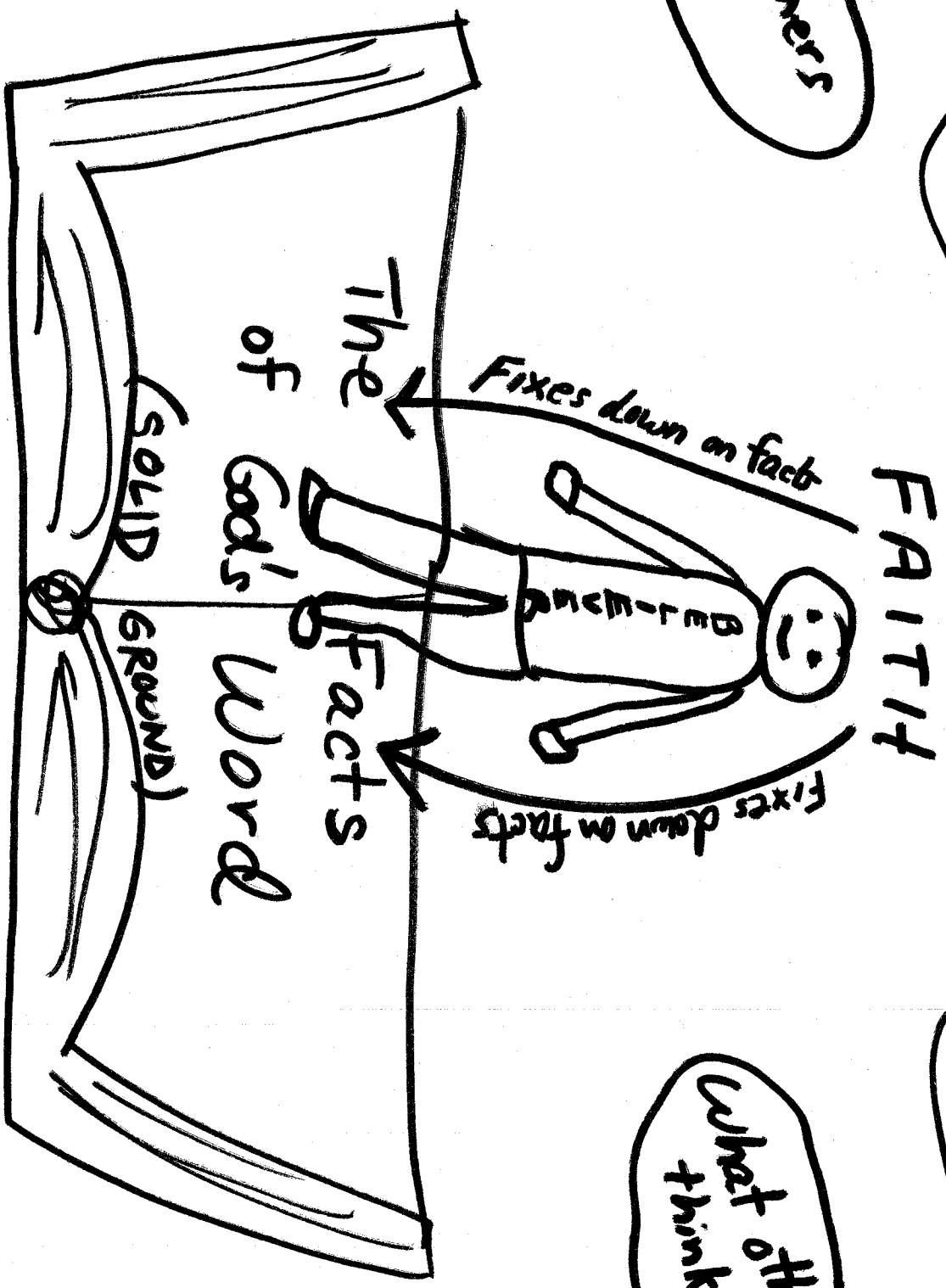
How I feel

What others believe

What others say

What others think

5



Page 6 is self explanatory. The students need to follow the different shapes to unscramble the 5 sentences. When they are done doing this, ask them questions about what they have done, using Eph. 1:13-14 as the basis.

What happened to you the moment you were saved?

Who is the Seal?

What does the seal mean (God owns me)

How long does this seal last?

etc.

Page 12a illustrates this in a different way, using cattle and branding. A brand is a mark of ownership that ranchers use to distinguish cows. God has a mark of ownership which is placed in the heart of every believer (see 2 Timothy 2:19). The only difference is that God's seal is invisible (unlike the seal or brand on cattle that can be seen). I can go up to a cow and see a brand on its hide. I can't go up to a person and see the seal of the Holy Spirit. It is invisible and it is in the heart (see 2 Cor. 1:22--"IN OUR HEARTS").

Can you look at someone and see the HOLY SPIRIT? (NO) Can you see THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Gal. 5:22-23)? (YES) Fruit is something that is outward and visible. You cannot see the Holy Spirit but you can see the LOVE that the Spirit produces, and in this way people will know who really belongs to God (see John 13:35).

Page 12b is also self explanatory and some of these things we have already touched upon in these teacher helps (such as the order of salvation).

Discuss the picture on page 13. You can't see the hearts of these young people, but what can you see? Does the outward often tell us something about the inside of a person? (the outward is how we dress, how we act, how we speak, etc.) For example, according to Matthew 12:34, what comes out of the mouth tells you much about what is in the heart. A dirty mouth reveals a dirty heart, etc.

Discuss 1 John 3:10 (the two families). How can we tell which family a person belongs to? How can a child of the devil become a child of God (John 1:12--this might be a good salvation appeal to end the class with).