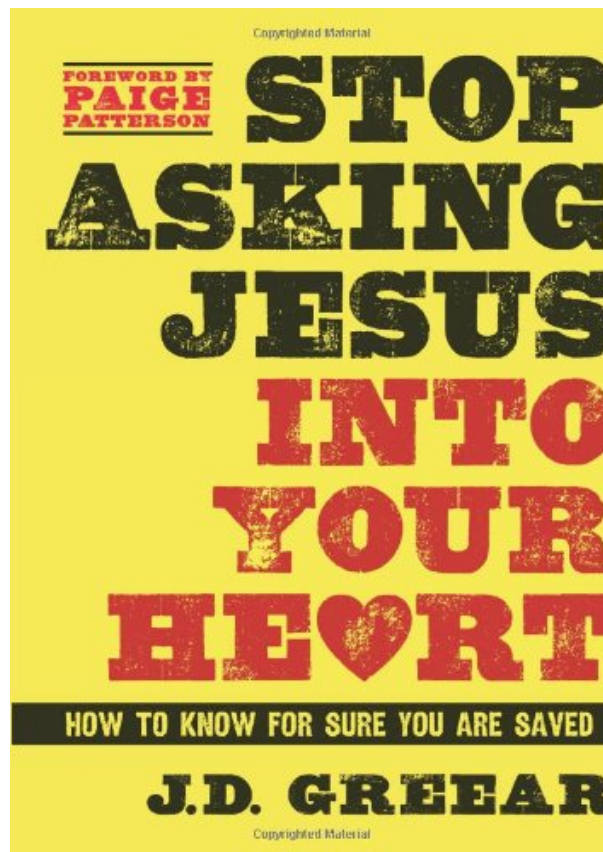
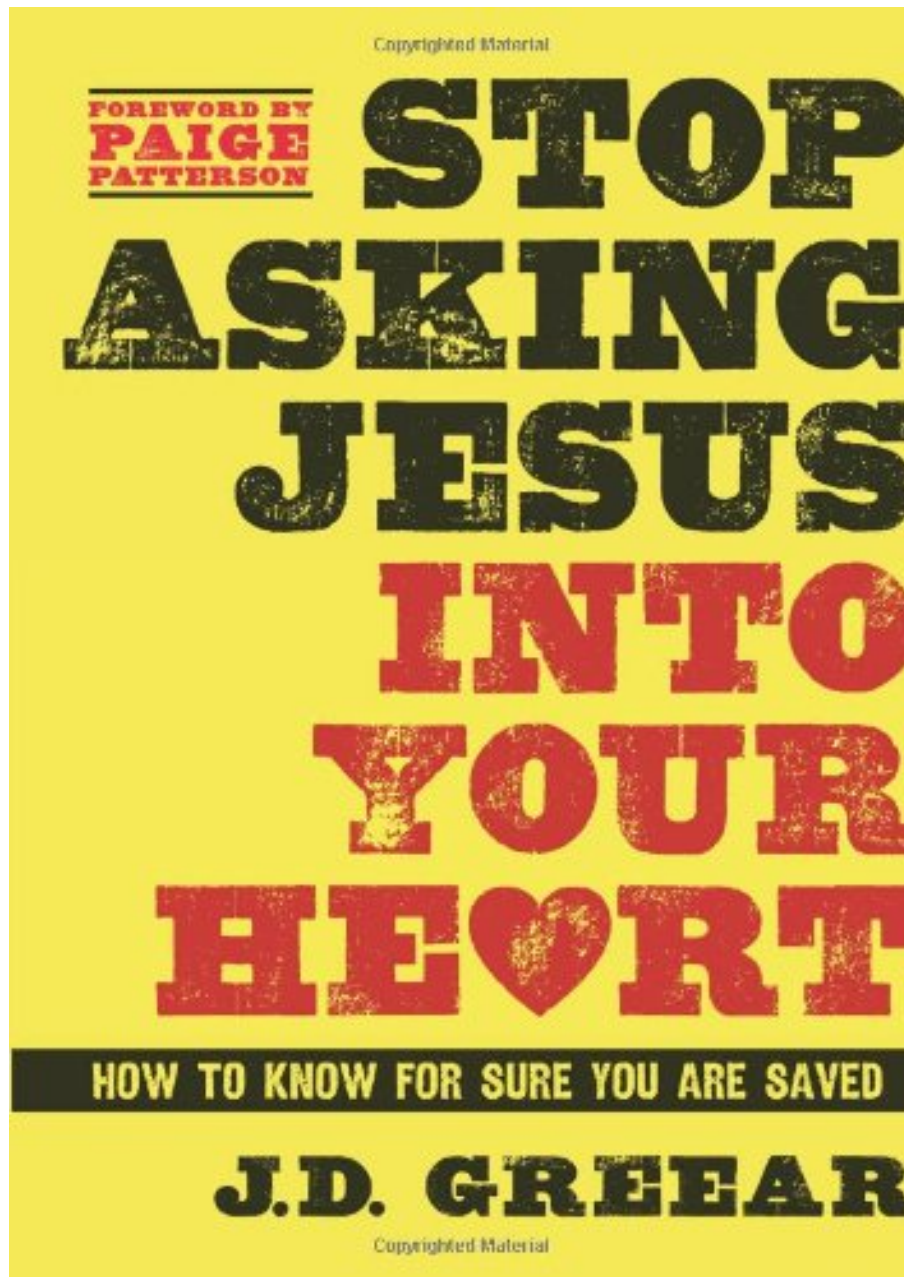


**STOP ASKING JESUS INTO YOUR HEART:
HOW TO KNOW FOR SURE YOU ARE
SAVED BY J.D. GREEAR**



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Review

“Warmly personal. Immensely helpful. Wonderfully practical. Thoroughly biblical. I wholeheartedly recommend this book to every Christian who longs to know, experience, and spread assurance of salvation in Christ.” David Platt

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Birmingham, AL "Salvation is a serious issue. Scripture commands us, on the one hand, to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" and, on the other, paints beautiful pictures of believers walking in great assurance. J.D. helps us see what conversion really is and what it is not. This book will be a help for those who wrestle with their position before God and a wake-up call for those with false confidence. I recommend it highly." Matt Chandler

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President of Lifeway Research “So much emphasis today is on the power of personal persuasion in sharing the gospel. What to say, how to say it. Reasons to believe, proofs for the authority of scripture, methods for gaining credibility blah blah blah. Pick up a copy of my friend, J.D. Greear’s book and learn the marks of a person saved by Jesus Christ. I commend it to you.” Dr. James MacDonald

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Jamesmacdonald.com "A sensitive conscience can be a curse from Satan or a blessing from God. Does your conscience drive you from God, or to Him? In this book, J. D. Greear gets the Gospel right. And the Gospel is the way from conviction to salvation. This book should help you know how to place your conscience in the Lord's hands, where it can be a tool greatly used by God, as it was in Augustine's life, or Martin Luther's." Mark Dever Pastor and author of 9 Marks of the Healthy Church

J.D. tackles an incredibly vital topic in our time, but from the front lines of ministry as one who stands unashamed to call people to follow Christ. Read this book and understand with fresh eyes and a hungry heart the wonder of biblical conversion.

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“If there were a Guinness Book of World Records entry for ‘amount of times having prayed the sinner’s prayer,’ I’m pretty sure I’d be a top contender,” says pastor and author J. D. Greear. He struggled for many years to gain an assurance of salvation and eventually learned he was not alone. “Lack of assurance” is epidemic among evangelical Christians.

In *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart*, J. D. shows that faulty ways of presenting the gospel are a leading source of the confusion. Our presentations may not be heretical, but they are sometimes misleading. The idea of “asking Jesus into your heart” or “giving your life to Jesus” often gives false assurance to those who are not saved—and keeps those who genuinely are saved from fully embracing that reality.

Greear unpacks the doctrine of assurance, showing that salvation is a posture we take to the promise of God in Christ, a posture that begins at a certain point and is maintained for the rest of our lives. He also answers the tough questions about assurance: What exactly is faith? What is repentance? Why are there so many warnings that seem to imply we can lose our salvation?

Such issues are handled with respect to the theological rigors they require, but Greear never loses his pastoral sensitivity or a communication technique that makes this message teachable to a wide audience from teens to adults.

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101 of 107 people found the following review helpful.

Read It, Then Pass It On!

By Tim Challies

If there were a Guinness Book of World Records record for "amount of times having asked Jesus into your heart," J.D. Greear is pretty sure he would hold it. Like so many church kids he asked Jesus into his heart when he was very young, and then again when he was slightly older, and then again every time he wondered if he really loved Jesus, and then again whenever he felt the guilt of sin. For years he wrestled with assurance and fought for an answer to this question: How can anyone know, beyond all doubt, that they are saved?

It is a question most Christians ask at one time or another; it is a question every pastor faces on a regular basis. Greear's new book *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart* tackles this question head-on and does so very effectively. Greear sets out to accomplish two things: to help the Christian find assurance that he has been saved, and to help the unbeliever resting on a false assurance see his danger and to turn to Christ. "My prayer is that by the time we're done, you'll know exactly where you stand with God. I hope to show you how to base your assurance on a promise God gave once for all in Christ and not on the fleeting memory of a prayer you once prayed." What Greear teaches is consistent with what the best theologians have been drawing from Scripture for so long, that "what saves the sinner is a posture of repentance and faith toward Christ, that and that alone. Any 'sinner's prayer' is only good insofar as it expresses that posture."

"Salvation does indeed happen in a moment, and once you are saved you are always saved. The mark, however, of someone who is saved is that they maintain their confession of faith until the end of their lives. Salvation is not a prayer you pray in a one-time ceremony and then move on from; salvation is a posture of repentance and faith that you begin in a moment and maintain for the rest of your life."

Greear begins with his own story of praying the sinner's prayer a thousand times and being baptized four times, using it to illustrate the importance of finding assurance. He then proceeds to show that God wants us to have assurance, saying that God "changes, encourages, and motivates us not by the uncertainty of fear, but by the security of love. That is one of the things that makes the gospel absolutely distinct from all other religious messages in the world." With that in place he reminds the reader of the gospel and explains both belief and repentance. One chapter answers this question: If "once saved always saved," why does the Bible seem to warn us so often about losing our salvation? Along the way he offers three bases for assurance: a present posture of faith and repentance; perseverance in the faith; and evidences of eternal life in our heart--a love for God and a love for others, particularly other believers.

Yet even then some will wrestle with assurance and to those Christians he offers wise and simple counsel.

"Am I really saved? How could I be, and still have feelings like this? What do you do in that moment? Pray 'the sinner's prayer' again? ... The answer is relatively simple in that moment: keep believing the gospel. Keep your hand on the head of the Lord Jesus Christ. No matter how you feel at any given moment, how encouraged or discouraged you feel about your spiritual progress, how hot or cold your love for Jesus, what you should be doing is always the same--resting in the gospel. Rest in His finished work. That's all you can do. It's all you need to do. It's all God has commanded you to do."

I have just been in the South, so I can give a loud "Amen!" to that!

Two appendices round out the book and carry it to around 120 pages. The first asks who should be re-baptized and under what circumstances while the second looks at the indispensable link between assurance and the doctrine of justification by faith alone.

We have an enemy who is identified as the Deceiver. He loves to deceive Christians into thinking that they cannot possibly have been delivered from condemnation, and he loves to deceive unbelievers into complacency, making them believe that they have been forgiven even without true faith and repentance. Some of his most effective work is in removing assurance from those who ought to have it, and in giving assurance to those who should not have it. This book will comfort the Christian and challenge the deceived unbeliever. Full of useful illustrations, powerful insights and, best of all, gospel hope, it is exactly the book I will recommend to anyone who struggles with assurance. In fact, I am going to buy a few and keep them close at-hand; I know I will be reading it with someone soon enough.

29 of 31 people found the following review helpful.

Great answers to questions on Assurance of Salvation

By Christopher Evans

I really enjoyed JD's last book *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary* and was eager to read his next. *Stop Asking* is a great companion to his earlier work. From the beginning of this book, it's clear that JD has written it because of the agonizing uncertainty about his salvation he experienced at a younger age. He shares his story that time and time again, when he listened to a pastor invite him to ask Jesus into his heart, his nagging doubts about whether he was repentant enough the last time he accepted Christ would drive him to respond to the alter call again.

This book is really written for two audiences. The first are Christians who need to stop worrying about whether their own conversion was "good enough". JD guides them to see that since their salvation is comes from Jesus' work, not their own, it will always be sufficient. As in his previous book, he also shows how the Gospel is not a milestone in their faith, but the cornerstone. You never get past it because it defines you as a believer.

The second group are people who may behave like Christians from time to time (or have done so in the past) and are under the false impression that the sinner's prayer alone will get them to heaven -- even if their life since shows no signs of redemption. Here JD carefully examines the difference between the backsliding and failings all Christians experience and the signs that you have not, in fact, been saved.

I liked that the book is short and to the point, and how JD is able to use some great stories to help clarify some difficult theological concepts. The only thing I wish he'd done differently is the book's title, which I think can give the impression that the book is a diatribe to other pastors and church leaders when it's really an intimate book to believers who want to stop struggling with their own assurance of salvation.

Disclosure: I attend JD's church and purchased a pre-sale copy of this book from the church resource table.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

You won't find a more concise better value book on assurance

By Mathew Sims

J. D.'s personal testimony drew me immediately to *Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart*. He recounts asking Jesus into his hearts thousands of times and getting baptized multiple times. If you've read my testimony you know I was baptized as an infant in the Roman Catholic Church, baptized again around four years old, baptized again in junior high, and then again at the end of high school. Throughout my childhood until college I struggled deeply with my own salvation. I was particularly susceptible to the manipulation present in many of the messages preached at summer camp by evangelists. Many of these were filled with guilt and

condemnation instead of grace and hope. The gospel was sadly absent.

I would sin, weep, and repent and then do well. I would then sin, weep, and repent and then do well. My life followed the pattern of Israel in Judges. I spent many nights up late night searching in Romans seeking God asking him why I couldn't overcome my sin.

It wasn't until God brought a handful of people into my life that loved the gospel and explained it in all its beauty and power that I discovered I was accepted by God and the same Spirit which changed my heart would empower me to live a life pleasing unto God (p. 18). J. D. went through a similar struggle and I believe with him that many Christians are experiencing this same cycle of sin, praying a prayer, baptism, and infinitum.

Throughout this book J. D.'s exposition and application is balanced and straightforward. He doesn't cover the gospel. He unleashes it. He mines down to the roots of the mountain to find the source of our confusion. For example, J. D. explains how belief and repentance are connected:

The biblical summation of a saving response toward Christ is "repentance" and "belief" in the gospel (p. 7). Repentance and faith are heart postures you take toward the finished work of Christ. You might express the beginning of that posture in a prayer. The sinner's prayer is not a magic incantation or a recipe you follow to get a salvation cake. The real stuff--the stuff that matters--is the posture of repentance and faith behind the words you speak. The prayer is good only insofar as it verbalizes the posture (p. 8)

J. D. makes the connection between belief and repentance unmistakable. "Repentance is belief in action. . . . Biblical belief is the assumption of a new posture toward the Lordship of Christ and His finished work on the cross" (p. 40). Repenting is the shoes to belief's feet.

The strength of this book is the focus on Christ and his finished work ("base your assurance on a promise God gave once for all in Christ" p. 12; see also pp. 11, 16-17, 27, 31, 32, 40, 118). Weaved throughout the entire message of hope and assurance in Christ is the foundation of Christ's finished work. It's this foundation which provides assurance because God's faithful to his promises in Christ. I wish someone had shared this book with me in middle school or junior high. It may have saved me years of doubts and confusion. It certainly would've driven me to the foot of the cross. This is a book you can share with believers at any level. As someone who reads a lot I found meat in the promises of God in Christ and yet there was an approachability that the newest of believers could grasp. You won't find a better value book for new believers on this topic.

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“Warmly personal. Immensely helpful. Wonderfully practical. Thoroughly biblical. I wholeheartedly recommend this book to every Christian who longs to know, experience, and spread assurance of salvation in Christ.” David Platt

Senior Pastor, The Church at Brook Hills

Birmingham, AL "Salvation is a serious issue. Scripture commands us, on the one hand, to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" and, on the other, paints beautiful pictures of believers walking in great assurance. J.D. helps us see what conversion really is and what it is not. This book will be a help for those who wrestle with their position before God and a wake-up call for those with false confidence. I recommend it highly." Matt Chandler

Lead Pastor, The Village Church

President, Acts 29 Church Planting Network "Outstanding! This is a truly useful book. It's readable, engaging and packed with scriptural insight. It not only gives hope to Christians struggling with assurance of salvation, it will equip any Christian to better share the gospel and guide others toward genuine repentance and faith in Jesus." Joshua Harris

Senior Pastor, Covenant Life Church “Every Christian struggles with doubt about salvation. The comforting passages of Scripture, assuring believers of their hope in salvation, were written to build up faith in the face of doubt. **Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart** guides readers through both assurance and perseverance in a life-altering way. Greear’s work is both an affront to easy-believism and a spotlight on the promises of God’s Word. A comforting wakeup call.” Ed Stetzer

President of Lifeway Research “So much emphasis today is on the power of personal persuasion in sharing the gospel. What to say, how to say it. Reasons to believe, proofs for the authority of scripture, methods for gaining credibility blah blah blah. Pick up a copy of my friend, J.D. Greear’s book and learn the marks of a person saved by Jesus Christ. I commend it to you.” Dr. James MacDonald

Senior Pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel and author of VerticalChurch

Jamesmacdonald.com "A sensitive conscience can be a curse from Satan or a blessing from God. Does your conscience drive you from God, or to Him? In this book, J. D. Greear gets the Gospel right. And the Gospel is the way from conviction to salvation. This book should help you know how to place your conscience in the Lord's hands, where it can be a tool greatly used by God, as it was in Augustine's life, or Martin Luther's." Mark Dever Pastor and author of 9 Marks of the Healthy Church

J.D. tackles an incredibly vital topic in our time, but from the front lines of ministry as one who stands unashamed to call people to follow Christ. Read this book and understand with fresh eyes and a hungry heart

the wonder of biblical conversion.

Alvin Reid, Ph.D.

Professor of Evangelism & Student Ministry/Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary “I wore out 2 Sharpies worth of ink writing “Amen & WOW” in the margins of this new book. Chapter after chapter I was encouraged, rebuked, disciplined, and compelled to be a better minister of the Gospel. Thank you J.D. for this gift to the church.” David Nasser

Pastor/Author/Evangelist “I have to admit the title of this book made me uncomfortable. It sounded to me like a tract against the so-called ‘sinner’s prayer,’ and I find it biblical to cry out ‘Lord have mercy on me, a sinner!’ But as I read this book I found that is not what it is about at all. In this volume, J. D. Greear, one of the most dynamic and brilliant pastors in evangelical life today, addresses a common problem among Christians: the sense that we can never get assured enough that Jesus hears our sinners prayer and receives us, just as we are. This book throws the spotlight on Jesus as a welcoming, merciful Savior who joyously receives all who come to him. This book could help free you, or someone you love, from the nagging fear that Jesus is trying to keep you out of his kingdom.” Russell D. Moore

Dean, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Author, *Tempted and Tried: Temptation and Triumph of Christ* When I first read the title, I was caught off guard—because I am an evangelist who continually urges hearers to repent and ask Jesus into their heart. Once I began to read, however, I began to understand the big idea—praying a prayer of repentance and salvation ought only to mark the beginning of a lifetime of repentance and faith. J.D. wrestles with a tough subject here and does a tremendous job of helping the church come to grips with a salvation not anchored in a one-time prayer but the finished work of Christ.

Clayton King

Teaching Pastor, NewSpring Church

Campus Pastor, Liberty University This book is similar to John Stott's *Basic Christianity* in that it lays out with clarity and reasoned arguments the path to Christian belief. *Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart* is especially helpful in answering many follow-on questions, too. Faith seekers and faith sharers alike will benefit from J. D. Greear's clear thinking on what effectuates and evidences true salvation in Christ. David A. Spence

David A. Spence

An Executor of Dr. Stott's Literary Estate

“Improper methodology and sloppy theology have paralyzed at worst and confused at best many of our churches today when it comes to evangelism. J.D.’s book is not only timely but crucial. Mike Calhoun

Executive Assistant to the President

Word of Life Fellowship Inc

Author of *Where Was God When: Real Answers to Hard Questions* “This is a very helpful and needed book. Untold numbers of people are thinking of themselves as true Christians when really theirs is a false assurance; while others are true Christians but lack a solid assurance. The book spells out how to teach the Gospel in such a way as to help avoid these tragic results and how to help deliver those who are experiencing them. The emphasis on clear presentation of the meaning and evidence of repentance and faith is exactly what is needed. Also the difference a genuine assurance of salvation can make in one’s life is brought out. I highly recommend this book!” Frank Barker

Pastor Emeritus

Briarwood Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, AL “Don’t let the provocative first half of the title scare you away from reading this important book! Emanating from his own personal and pastoral experience, yet with feet firmly planted in the sufficiency of Scripture, Greear is far more interested in helping us have genuine biblical assurance of salvation than anything else. He rightly reminds us we must emphasize the absolute indispensability of

repentance and faith as necessary for salvation. Though I might quibble over a few things I would express differently, the vast majority of J. D.'s book I wholeheartedly endorse. Timely, engagingly written, and thoroughly practical, it deserves a place on every pastor's shelf. Buy it! Apply it!" David L. Allen, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Theology

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "This is a book I wish was available when I turned 20 and had a terrible season of doubting my salvation. By God's grace and the truth of the gospel I was able to settle the issue. I have lived in the full assurance of my salvation in Jesus ever since. God wants us to experience the joyful truth that we are eternally secure in Jesus. This book can help take you there. I will be recommending this book often!" Daniel L. Akin

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary "As someone who works with young people, I often see the pitfall that my friend J.D. Greear explores in *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart; How To Know for Sure You are Saved*. I have sat with many 18-24 year olds that say they had no clue what they were doing when they repeated a prayer with someone as a young person. As next generation leaders, we have to focus on true life-change, really direction change rather than just a spiritual transaction. I am thankful that J.D. was willing to take on the hard discussions related to salvation and discipleship in this new book." J. Roger Davis, President, Student Life "Stop Asking Jesus into your heart" by J.D. Greear is a biblical clarification for the assurance of salvation to the Christian based upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. The invitation to eternal life is more than a prayer! It is a living, breathing, real, relevant, relationship with God through Jesus Christ while being sealed by the Holy Spirit. The Gospel saves and Sustains! Read, Reflect and Rejoice in the ability to know of the assurance of your salvation!" Ed Newton

Bible Communicator

Memphis, TN

About the Author

J. D. Greear is lead pastor of The Summit Church, a multi-site congregation in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. He holds an M.Div. in International Church Planting and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Greear also lived and worked among Muslims in Southeast Asia for two years and wrote *Breaking the Islam Code*. He and his wife have four children.

Checking out guide *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart: How To Know For Sure You Are Saved* By J.D. Greear by on the internet could be additionally done quickly every where you are. It appears that hesitating the bus on the shelter, waiting the checklist for line, or other places feasible. This [Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart: How To Know For Sure You Are Saved](#) By J.D. Greear can accompany you in that time. It will not make you feel bored. Besides, by doing this will certainly also boost your life top quality.