

# Wasted Faith Discussion Guide

Chapter 9

## What Must I Do?

[Leader: To be prepared for this lesson, you will need to provide a copy of this page plus a copy of the “Personal Evaluation” for each person. If you plan to distribute The Unrepenting Repenter, you will need copies of this also.]

1. Begin by praying diligently for yourself and for each of your family members *by name* that neither you nor they would be deceived about the issue of salvation. [Leader: This may be done either as a whole group or in small groups.]

2. This final section is a summary and a personal application of all that has gone before. Read chapter 9 in **Wasted Faith** aloud: “What Must I Do?” (pp. 51-57). Listen for any statements that are not clear to you, or about which you wish to have further discussion. Take some time now to ask questions and to discuss any of the items brought up by the group.

3. Take a few minutes of quiet time alone to evaluate yourself in the light of the truths we have learned, using the “Personal Evaluation.” Remember the words of 2 Corinthians 13:5—“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.” Please do not evaluate yourself on the basis of whether you have prayed a prayer, walked an aisle, been told you were a believer, been baptized, and/or participated in the activity of a church. Go much deeper. Your eternal state is too important to take this lightly.

4. Since your group has been together these several times, you can be honest with each other without any fears. Divide into small groups to discuss areas in the “Personal Evaluation” that reveal your lack of full, biblical confidence of salvation. [Leader: Groups of 3-5 would be best here. In some cases, due to sensitive issues, it might be best to separate men from women, if possible.] Listen carefully to each other. Talk about the nature of any problems, and about what can be done to gain full assurance. Refer to the section you just read (chapter 9) for any additional practical advice as you counsel each other. At the end of your discussion, answer these questions in your group:

- If you were to discover you were not a true believer, what would your family say? What would the members of your church say?
- If you were to discover that you were not a believer, what should you do next?

5. Read this aloud: The Bible says that everyone must put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. You have come to see that salvation is from the Lord and that the faith required is a gift of God. What can you do if you do not have full assurance? I suggest the following:

- a. Repent and trust in Christ as *much as you can*. Talk with the Lord about this repeatedly. You are looking for genuine faith. If your faith is real, you will see the fruit of it and will gain assurance.
- b. Remember that the crucial question is, “Do I have life from God?”
- c. Read the Bible as often and as seriously as possible. God reveals Himself and saves through His Word. No one can have valid assurance apart from understanding the truths in God’s Word.
- d. Cry out for the mercy of God. God alone can save a soul. Our sins bring us to hell, but Christ’s mercy is relief and deliverance. And interestingly, your crying out for mercy, the deep and continuing concern you have for your soul, may in itself be one of the best indications of God’s work within. Christ came for the sick, not the well, meaning He did not come for those who think they are without need. Brokenness over sin may indicate that God is convicting you, or it may mean that He is already in you.
- e. Carefully review the numbered sections in chapter 9 of **Wasted Faith** for help in determining the correct view of yourself. I would never say that discerning our spiritual condition is easy, but the assurance that comes from a careful examination may mean the difference between life and death, or at least confident Christian living and tentative Christian living.

There is a place of assurance for the believer. Some have such assurance immediately. Others struggle for it. This is a true representation of what happens. The study you have been through and the “Personal Evaluation” were written for making sure that you are His, or, if you are already confident, for placing your assurance on even firmer footing.

6. Finally, discuss the value of these past few weeks together. What have you learned about yourself and/or about the nature of salvation? How will this study make a difference in your life or in the lives of others?

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Prayerfully consider ways to introduce others to **Wasted Faith**.

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