

## **What if I'm not sure when I accepted Christ?** **by Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church**

“Do you have to know when you accepted the Lord to be sure you are a Christian?” The answer is no. It is important for a person to know a few essential truths in order for true conversion to have taken place. One of which is not the awareness of the specific point in time that God's Spirit made His home in our heart.

1. That a person is not born a Christian. It is clear in John 3 that after one's physical birth, one has to be “born again” (born spiritually) into God's family.
2. The Bible also makes it clear that when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Rom. 10:9-10) we are ‘saved’ or adopted into God's family.
3. The Bible is also clear that there is a specific time when God's Spirit makes his home in our heart although some are not sure when that specific moment was. In Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5, Paul describes that we were sealed with the Holy Spirit which guarantees our eternal relationship with God the moment we accepted Christ. And in Romans 8:9, Paul says that if we don't have the Holy Spirit in our lives, we do not belong to Christ. No one has ever become part of God's family slowly (over a period of time) when the Holy Spirit begins to reside in our heart, he doesn't come in half way or “ooze in” over a period of time.
4. Lastly, the Bible does not say it is essential for one to know the specific time. In 1 John 5:11-13, it is important to note that it doesn't say ... ‘Those who know the specific time of when they accepted Christ ... have eternal life.’ It simply says, ‘those who have the son have life and those who don't ... don't.

So, it is important for us to know that we have accepted Christ into our lives to forgive us and to lead us and not as important to know when that specific moment happened. I know many solid Christians who are aware that during a specific period of their life (i.e. between 12 and 13 or during their teen years, or sometime last year) they made that decision without being able to pin it down. They know that because they know at some point they had made the decision. They are assured of their relationship with Christ because they know what it entails, they are presently counting on what Jesus Christ has done on their behalf to assure them a ticket to heaven, and they are seeing God begin to change their lives.

To have a solid assurance of being in the family of God is something God wants all of his children to enjoy whether or not they know the exact place and time.