

Assurance of Salvation

What It Isn't, What It Is, and How You Can Be Certain..

Two Extremely Wrong Views

- ▶ **Lawless Presumption:** “I once prayed a prayer, so now I am saved forever, and I can do whatever I like, no matter how sinful it is, and God has got to forgive me.”
- ▶ **The Truth: Romans 6:1-2** *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? (2) Let it not be! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*
- ▶ **Legalistic Uncertainty:** “You are only as saved as your last act of obedience”. A preacher of this viewpoint once said: “Once I kicked my toe on a rock and nearly lost my salvation...”
- ▶ **The Truth: John 10:27-29** *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (28) And I give to them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*



What Assurance Is NOT.....

- ▶ **Emotional: Our Emotions / Feelings of Certainty**

Luke 18: 9-14 Pharisee thought he was saved but he wasn't, and the Publican thought he was wretched – but he was justified! The false prophets of Matthew 7:15-23 even think they are saved and in the ministry!

- ▶ **Purely Cognitive: Our Knowledge of Theology or the Bible**

The Pharisees searched the Scriptures but were not saved (John 5:38,39). The demons believe there is one God – and tremble! (James 2:19). The Devil knows the Bible (see Matthew 4:1-13) and more about God, Heaven and Jesus than most Christians.

- ▶ **Experiential: Intense Spiritual Experiences** – they can be genuine but can also be found in almost any cult, or false religion. Satan is a spirit being and even occasionally visits Heaven (see Job 1&2) it doesn't mean that he is saved!



What Assurance Is NOT (cont'd)

- ▶ **Affiliational: Our Associations with the Saints** (Luke 13:23-30)
Pharaoh knew Moses, Judas knew Jesus, Demas knew Paul
- ▶ **Positional: Our Place A Christian Organization**
Annas & Caiaphas were high priests, Judas was one of the Twelve
- ▶ **External: Traditions, Religious Places, Rituals and Ceremonies**
(Jeremiah 7:1-16, Micah 6:6-8, Hosea 6:6, Hebrews 10:4)
Sacrifices and Temple ceremonies don't save just by being performed. Just because we go to church it does not mean that we are saved.
- ▶ **Social: Status, Fame, Looks Prosperity, A Good Life**
1 Samuel 16:7 *The Selection of David*
Matthew 19:16-26 *The Rich Young Ruler*
Being young, wealthy, having high social status etc. makes some think they are God's favorites. But it is not a sign that you will go to Heaven for God does not look on the outward appearance but on the heart!



Assurance Is Not: By Works....

- ▶ **Ephesians 2:8-10** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
 - ▶ **Galatians 2:16** *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*
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Assurance of Salvation Is:

The Verifiable Presence Of The New Nature

- ▶ **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- ▶ Once we are a new creation (by grace), we will live in new and better ways. The better beliefs, the better character and the better good deeds are a sure sign that the New Man really exists.
- ▶ Once can see that the New Man, who is Christ is us, the hope of glory exists (Colossians 1:27) then we know that we have eternal life and are saved
- ▶ Can God see His image in us? Can He “know” Christ in us?
- ▶ I John lists seven verifiable signs that the New Creation is truly present. These are seven things that the Devil, or false believers simply cannot produce!



Assurance Is Found In: Faith in Jesus As The Son of God

- ▶ **1 John 5:11-13** *And this is the testimony: that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) He that has the Son has life; he that does not have the Son of God does not have life. (13) These things I write to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.*
 - ▶ **1 John 3:23-24** *And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. (24) And he who keeps His commandment dwells in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He gave to us.*
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Assurance Is Found In: Agape Love

- ▶ **1 John 3:14** *We know that we have passed over from death to life, because we love the brothers. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*
- ▶ **1 John 4:7-8** *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; and everyone that loves has been born of God and knows God.*
- ▶ **1 John 4:16-17** *And we have come to know and believe the love which God has in us. God is love, and he that abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this love has been perfected with us: that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because just as He is, we also are in this world.*



Assurance Is Found In: The Spirit – Fruitful Character

- ▶ **1 Jn 4:13** (*By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*)
- ▶ **1 John 3:24** *And he who keeps His commandment dwells in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He gave to us.*
- ▶ The presence of the Spirit in us is shown by the character fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control... (Galatians 5:22,23)



Assurance Is Found In: The Daily Practice Of Righteousness

- ▶ **I John 2:28-29** *And now, little children, abide in Him, in order that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed due to Him at His coming. (29) If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.*



Assurance Is Found In: Keeping His Commandments

- ▶ **I John 2:3-6** *Now by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. (4) He who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (5) But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. (6) He who claims to abide in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*



Assurance Is Found In: Practical Christian Living In Love

- ▶ **1 John 3:16-24** *By this we have come to know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives in behalf of our brothers. (17) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother having need, and shuts off his compassion towards him, how does the love of God abide in him? (18) My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (19) And in this we know that we are from the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.*
 - ▶ **Golden Rule:** Matthew 7:12
The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
Love of Neighbor: Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 8:4, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:14, 6:2
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Assurance Is Found In:

A Clear Conscience Arising From A Good Life

- ▶ **1 John 3:18-21** *My children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (19) And in this we shall know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him, (20) that if our heart accuses us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. (21) Beloved, if our heart does not accuse us, we have confidence toward God.*



Assurance Is: Verifiable

- ▶ Assurance is not mystical and doubtful
 - ▶ **Verifiable:** ‘By this you may KNOW’
Have confidence on the Day of Judgment
 - ▶ ***You can check your life for:***
Faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Agape Love
The Spirit: The Fruit Of The Spirit
Righteousness
Obedience to God’s Commandments
Practical Christian Living In Love
A Clear Conscience Arising From A Good Life
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Daily Walking Close With Thee...

- ▶ John uses the ‘present continuous tense’ to indicate that this is to be habitual; that we are to ‘walk as He walked’. The tests are about what we are like, in our lifestyle, on a daily basis. Assurance is not about one-off events either good or evil. (Saying a prayer once does not mean you are thereby saved forever and sinning once does not mean that you are lost forever.)
- ▶ One sinful moment does not condemn us, even the best saints sin occasionally – but they recover and get back to living in the light. They acknowledge sin and repent from it! They use God’s grace to “get back on the bicycle heading towards holiness.....”
- ▶ **1 John 1:7-10** *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.*



God's Grace Will Keep You Safe...

- ▶ **I John 5:18** *We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*
 - ▶ **I Peter 1:4-5** *....to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and unfading, reserved in Heaven for you by the power of God, having been kept through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time;*
 - ▶ **John 10:27-29** *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give to them eternal life, and they shall never ever perish, and not anyone shall pluck them out of My hand. My Father who gave them to me is greater than all, and no one is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand.*
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