

"FULL ASSURANCE IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO SATISFACTION. MAY YOU GET IT; MAY YOU GET IT AT ONCE. MAY YOU NEVER BE SATISFIED TO LIVE WITHOUT IT."

— C. H. Spurgeon

What Assurance Is

J. Miley

Assurance is the persuasion or confidence which a Christian has, that he is a child of God. It is the nature of faith. Faith not in the act of it, but in the confidence which accompanies or follows it. Our consciousness plainly distinguishes between our act of faith, and the consequent persuasion which we feel of the truth of what we believe; the confidence with which we rest in it truth. Assurance is a confidence of faith.

He Was Sure, and Had Peace

Author Unknown

Martyr Donald Cargill, on the hangman's scaffold on July 28th 1681 handed his well-used Bible to one of his friends that stood nearby. He gave this testimony to his friend:

"I bless the Lord that these thirty years and more, I have been at peace with God, and was never shaken loose of it. Now I am as sure of my interest in Christ, and peace with God, as all within this

Bible and the Spirit of God can make me. I am no more terrified at death, nor afraid of hell, because of my sin, than if I never had sin. For all my sins are freely pardoned, and washed thoroughly away, through the precious blood and intercession of Jesus Christ."

For We Know

R. E. Neighbour, D. D.

"... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." II Timothy 1:12

What wondrous blessings overflow,

When we can truly say, "I know."

I know whom I have believed,
I know the One I have received,
I know His Blood avails for me,
I know that I was blind, but now see,


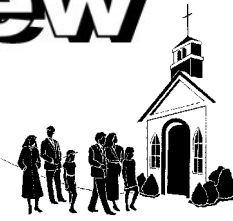
I know that my Redeemer lives,
I know the gift He freely gives,
I know He'll keep me to the end,
I know He's my unfailing Friend,
I know He's coming in the sky,
I know the time is drawing nigh.

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How to Know If You Are Saved

Bill Brinkworth

After one is saved, it is often questioned, "Am I really saved? How can I know for sure?" I John 3 helps answer some of those questions and doubts.

★ The first proof is "Whosoever abideth in him [Jesus] sinneth not ..." (vs. 6). A normal reaction after reading that verse would be one of panic, "Oh no, I have sinned since I have been saved, therefore I must not be saved." That is not what is being addressed here. It has been established all throughout the New Testament that even after we're saved, we can still sin (Romans 3:10, 23). In I John 2:1 Christians are commanded not to sin, but if they do, they have an advocate (a person who defends one's case in a court of law) in Christ. Why



would we need an advocate, if we did not sin?

There also is a long list of righteous men that sinned, including: Moses, Lot, David, and Peter. The soul may be saved; but the flesh they were born with still sins, if it is not controlled by the spirit.

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Other Assurances We Can Have

Bill Brinkworth

In I John 3, five proofs of one's salvation were revealed. John made it quite clear that one can know for sure, if one is saved or not. There are other assurances John also wanted Christians to know. In John 5 he used the word "know" four times (vss. 2, 13, 15), to let us be aware that there are other things we can also be assured of. They are:

The assurance that we can overcome (vss. 4, 5) the world's enticements, entanglements, and encouragements to live sinfully. We may be living in this world,

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In verse 6, the word “sinneth” refers to a continuance in sin. It is implying a continuing practice of committing sin. When people are saved, they may sin, but they do not want to. If they do, they feel miserable until they get it right. The new ruling Spirit (the Holy Spirit) in their spiritual hearts does not want to sin. Sometimes the flesh lets that Spirit down, but a saved person will not want to sin!

- ★ Another proof is that a child of God will love the new family he is adopted into; he will love his Christian brothers and sisters (vs. 14). *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.” I John 3:14*
- ★ A compassionate heart (vss. 17-19, 23) is another proof of one’s salvation. The indwelling Spirit of God attempts to take our minds off of ourselves and put them on the needs and concerns of others. He gives us the desire to help others.

“... That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.” I John 3:23

- ★ A child of God has the ability to ask the Lord for help, and he will receive it (vs. 22); an unsaved person does not have that opportunity. *“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”*

I John 3:22

- ★ One that is saved will want to keep God’s commandments (vs. 24). It will trouble him, if he does not. Those that think one can be saved and do whatever he wants, most likely has never experienced the conviction of the Holy Spirit. *“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”*

I John 3:24

Salvation is not an “I think I am”, “I hope so” experience. According to the scriptures it is a know-so conviction in one’s

heart (I John 3:19, 24).

“... you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” I John 5:13

Other Assurances We ...

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but no longer do we have to be led by our fleshly urges to do what the flesh desires and lusts after. We are new creatures in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). Our faith in Christ as author of our salvation, and faith that He will help us through life can give us the victory in this life (vs. 4). We are on the winning side. We may have difficulties and battles, but we do not have to be defeated! *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” I John 5:4-5*

- ★ The assurance that God will hear us and that we can have our requests answered (vss. 15). Not only do we have the promise of eternal life (vs. 11), but He loves us so much that He will help meet our needs, if we ask Him. Our prayers will go far past the farthest planet and stars of

this universe, and arrive in the throne room of God instantly. A child of God can have an audience with the King. What an honor; what a privilege! Do we take advantage of what God is making available to us?

“And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” I John 5:15

- ★ The assurance that the enemy cannot harm us (vs. 18). In this world a Christian is in the middle of an unseen, spiritual battle (Eph. 6), but we are not alone in the conflict. As children of God we can have His protection. If we prepare for the battle as we should (Eph. 6:11-18), and draw close to His protection, we cannot be defeated.

“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not (See How to Know If You Are Saved, proof #1); but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

I John 5:18

Too many Christians live a life with no joy, and appreciation of what they have. How sad to be an heir of eternity, loved by Almighty God, and have His personal guidance through this life; yet not assured of what he has. Reading God’s Word will show us the things we can “know” confidently.

“I know not when I go or where from this familiar scene; but He is here and He is there, and all the way between; and when I leave this life, I know, for that dim vast unknown, though late I stay, or soon I go, I shall not go alone.”