

# Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

## Understanding Salvation (Part Six): Assurance

**Assurance of Salvation: Is it Possible?**      Laying the Foundation for Assurance

**Warm Up:** When you think of assurance what comes to mind?

**Main Idea:** The full assurance of faith, the full assurance of understanding and the full assurance of hope rest entirely in the eternal decree of God as revealed in His Word of truth.

**Common Issues regarding Assurance:**

1. How can someone know that they are a Christian?
2. How can I know my faith is real?
3. Is there evidence of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my life?
4. Do I have to earn assurance?
5. How can someone know that they will continue to be a Christian?
6. Where is assurance in the midst of loss, grief, trial, suffering, discouragement, despair, etc.?
7. Is the lack of assurance an indication of God rejecting me?

1. **The Foundation of "Full Assurance" Rests in a Doctrinally Sound Theology.** Jer 9:23-24; Is 64:8
2. **The Problem: Our Theology has been perverted as a result of the fall and rests in suppressing the truth about God.** Rm 1:18-23; Is 45:9-10; Rm 8:6-8

a. **Worship of Self/Make God in our Image** Ps 50:21

When the order of God's eternal decree is reversed, we are suppressing the truth about God through denial, rationalization, intellectualism and so on while we pile on the self-adulations, self-loathing's self-righteousness, self-love or whatever our fallen nature needs to maintain its distance from God's truth.

b. **The Core of our Fallen Self-Esteem** Is 14:13-14

3. **The solution:**

a. **Restored Thinking** Rm 12:3; 1Cor 2:14-16

For carnal man to have a sound Theology he must have God's divine intervention of regeneration to restore his thinking and understanding to be in line with and under the authority of God's spoken Word.

b. **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself**

Brief overview of The Odor Salutis (The biblical logical order/application of salvation.)

A. The eternal decree of God- "He first calls me." Predestination 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2-3

1. Election
  - a. Outward call: General call to all people John 6:44
  - b. Effectual call: The Holy Spirit awakens the elect and enlivens them in Christ John 3:3:1-8
2. Conversion: 3 components occurring simultaneously
  - a. Regeneration: 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
  - b. Saving Faith: Ephesians 2:8-9; Phil 1:29
  - c. Repentance: 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
3. Four Phases of Salvation
  - a. Justification: Romans 8:1
  - b. Adoption: John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:5
  - c. Sanctification: 1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 10:14
  - d. Glorification: Revelations 21:4-5; Philippians 3:20-21

#### 4. What is assurance? Heb11:1-3

“Assurance is the soul's apprehension (grasping on to) of its complete emancipation from the power of evil and from consequent judgment, through the atoning grace of Christ. It is the exact opposite of self-confidence, being a joyous appropriation and experience of the fullness of Christ—a glad sense of security, freedom and eternal life in Him. This doctrine is of immeasurable importance to the life of the church and of the individual believer, as a life of spiritual doubt and uncertainty contradicts the ideal of liberty in Christ Jesus which is the natural and necessary fruitage of "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit shed on us abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour." (2 Tim 1:12; Col 2:1-10) *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia- Assurance*; Orr, James, M.A., D.D. General Editor. "International Standard Bible Encyclopedia". 1915.

Dwight M. Pratt Copyright Statement These files are public domain.

#### 5. How is assurance different from faith?

Faith is getting in the wheel barrow, assurance is enjoying the ride!

Assurance is not of the essence of saving faith. It is the result of faith, and posterior to it in the order of nature, and so frequently also in the order of time. True believers may be destitute of it. Trust itself is something different from the evidence that we do trust... .. This assurance may in various ways be shaken, diminished, and intermitted, but the principle out of which it springs can never be lost." *Easton's Bible Dictionary* These dictionary topics are from M.G. Easton M.A., D.D., Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Third Edition, published by Thomas Nelson, 1897. Public Domain, copy freely.

#### 6. The Basis for Assurance: The Authority of His Word: The insurance that backs His assurance.

##### a. "The Oath" Heb 6:13-20

- For when God made the promise to Abraham
- He swore by Himself since He could swear by no one greater saying, "I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you."
- Desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose
- Interposed with an oath with them- an oath is given as confirmation is an end of every dispute.
- So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie the word of His promise and the oath which confirms that promise
- We who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

##### b. The Oath and Promise fulfilled Heb 10:19-23

- since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,
- by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- since *we have* a great priest over the house of God
- let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful

#### 7. Conclusions on Assurance

- Assurance comes from faith in the promises of God and the righteousness of Christ. Heb 6:13-20; 10:19-22
- Assurance comes from the testimony of the Holy Spirit testifying to our spirits that we are children of God. Romans 8:16
- Assurance comes from "a serious and holy pursuit of a clear conscience and of good works" Hebrews 2:1; 2 Peter 2:5-8 (Canons of Dort 5.10).  
*Canons of Dort* © Copyright 2010 Chapel Library: annotations. Published in the USA. Permission is expressly granted to reproduce this material by any means, provided 1. you do not charge beyond a nominal sum for cost of duplication 2. this copyright notice and all the text on this page are included.

**Practical Steps to Anchor Assurance:** Next 3 bible Classes