

Eternal Assurance - "Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled"

This series is to remind us **it really is all about Jesus**, our Best Friend, our Master and our Savior.

Do you see Jesus in the following passage?

Php 4:8 *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Do you see Jesus?? Is He not PERFECTLY all these things?!

We rightly say He's **the only Person** that fills up these qualities!

And because He became human like us, we've "seen" Him, as John said...

... He has **shown** us and revealed to us **in a Person** what God is like....

Jn 1:17-18 *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

Jesus said in **Jn 14:9** *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*

And so we have **Php 4:8**, a treasure chest description of our Lord,

the only perfect Person to ever live.

And a continued point the Spirit has been making: **Focus on Him and you will be satisfied.**

Jer 23:6 *"In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;
And this is His name by which He will be called,
'The Lord our righteousness.'*

Mt 5:6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Col 3:1-4 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

There we see the solution to the misery of focusing on self!

Focusing on our perfect Lord and Savior sets us free from bondage and gives us joy. It's really that simple.

And that last verse is a little teaser for this series, as well.

I recently read a quote from D.L. Moody and a thought similar to Php 4:8 was expressed by him about what heaven will be like, and if you think about it, **Heaven is all about Jesus in every way:**

D.L.Moody:

The light of heaven is the face of Jesus
The joy of heaven is the presence of Jesus
The melody of heaven is the name of Jesus
The harmony of heaven is the praise of Jesus
The theme of heaven is the work of Jesus
The employment of heaven is the service of Jesus
The duration of heaven is the eternity of Jesus
The fullness of heaven is Jesus Himself!

Life itself is really all about Jesus, and THAT'S why Life is Good.

He's the Rock Who never changes. He's the only One who has made life good for us believers.

And we can rightly and confidently say "life is good" because of the new life Jesus has purchased for us... The Lord is truly our Confidence.

We'll see if the Spirit ends this series on Eternal Assurance with a similar theme.

As a continued introduction to this series on Eternal Assurance, I've been led to also share some things about **the love of God**.

If God is love (**1Jn 4:8,16**), and if Jesus is God in the flesh (**Jn 1:1,14, 8:58, 2Co 4:4**), then we can conclude that Jesus IS love, correct??

Therefore, we can conclude that Love became manifest to us in

the Person of Jesus Christ!

Love Manifest: God's Love came alive to us, as the God-Man reached across the chasm between us and God, to DO something about our problems of sin and death.

Love is what made eternal life possible for us, AND eternal assurance a reality for we believers.... that's why it's called "eternal" life that we've been given; it's eternal, lasting forever! **Jn 3:16**

And it's clear in Holy Scripture that it was God's great love that motivated Him to come and save us from our sins.

***Eph 2:4-5** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved.*

Without God's Love acting on our behalf, we simply wouldn't be here, but we'd all be in the lake of fire, and deservedly so!

And so, the Spirit had me dwelling upon this, and upon our church family as well.

Love Manifest in the Person of Jesus Christ : If God's love reached across the chasm to cover our sins and transgressions, shouldn't we do the same for one another?? 1Pe 4:8

The Apostle Peter wrote through the Holy Spirit:

1 Pe 4:8 *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers*

a multitude of sins.

If God loved us in such a way as to cover your shame and guilt, should we not be **eager** to cross the chasm between ourselves and others with the same forgiving love that we've been shown??!

I was speaking to a member of our church family and we were talking about **resentment**....

... which manifests itself in **holding onto things** in our hearts... one of the worst things we can do to ourselves...

... holding onto grudges and basically a lack of forgiveness towards someone that we think wronged us or slighted us.

And... they may truly have done so! And they may have truly hurt us!

But what does God's love say about that? What did God's love DO about that? (we've sinned against God FAR MORE than anyone has sinned against us)

Love COVERS a multitude of transgressions.

Think about that mental attitude, which God's love carries with it.

It's like if someone just got sick and threw up all over the floor,...

... instead of holding it against them, or telling everyone else to look, you kindly go up with a towel and COVER their mess.

Sorry it's not a perfect analogy, but I hope you get the point.

Love's first instinct is to COVER; that's the love of Christ... to especially cover another's guilt and failures.

Think of Peter, the one whom the Lord covered and forgave after he denied the Lord 3 times...

... this same Peter, whom the Lord immediately forgave and covered, tells us to *keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*

Peter learned this truth from the Lord firsthand, and he passed on this wisdom to us.

If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God covered YOUR sins! - In light of this, how can you hold back doing so for others, especially for those in the family of God??!

Love Manifest: We're talking about either living in resentment,... OR casting it behind our back and reaching out with love and forgiveness to the one who offended us. - Which one do we think the Lord Jesus wants us to do???

Cast Satan's lies behind your back, his lies that tempt you to stay bitter and resentful,...

... and cast that desire to stay in the flesh, and to stay in self-pity, BEHIND you,...

... and REACH OUT across the chasm **with the power of Christ's love** for your brother or sister...

... overlooking and covering their transgressions and choosing to love them anyway, as Christ did for you.

Amen?

And this comes up related to our series on Eternal Assurance because **it's this love of God that not only saved we believers, but also keeps us saved.**

His steadfast love is one reason we have eternal assurance!

It's the faithfulness and stability of God's perfect love that keeps us saved! (as we will see)

First, let's do a brief survey in Holy Scripture of love covering transgressions...

Love Manifest: Love COVERS a multitude of transgressions. Pr 10:12, 12:16, 17:9,17, 1Pe 4:8

Pr 10:12 *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.*

Pr 12:16 *The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.*

Pr 17:9 *Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.*

Pr 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

We might say to our brother in Christ: *Cover for me, man! I'm weak at times, I know I offend you sometimes. But please, cover for me, man! Don't expose me and my failures, as a friend, please hide them and protect me when I fail.*

Sounds like David's conversations with the Lord in the Psalms, doesn't it? (just read the Psalms and see for yourself :)

God's love motivates us to cover one another's sins, as He did for us.

Let's see how the Word of God describes God's Love... which is one main reason God's children (Believers) can have ASSURANCE of eternity in their hearts.

1 Co 13:4-8 *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is **not** irritable or **resentful**; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

Love never ends... this is another reason we have eternal assurance if we are "in Christ Jesus".

1 Co 13:13 *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

The perfect faithfulness of God's love holds it all together for we believers, forever!

Lam 3:22-23 *The steadfast love of the Lord **never ceases**; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; **great is your faithfulness.***

If you're a believer in TLJC as your Savior, the Bible says He won't let you go!!

Jn 10:27-30 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will 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 the Father's hand.** 30 I and the Father are one."*

Rom 8:38-39 *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Can you get any greater assurance than that?!! - The all-powerful God of the universe and the Savior of the world says He won't let His believers go!

Now compare what we just read about **God's faithful love** to this verse:

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Notice how **love comes first, and it encompasses the other parts of the fruit of the Spirit...** immediately we see **patience and kindness** in both 1Co 13:4 and Gal 5:22, for example.

The Spirit's point is, and has been:

Love Manifest: We believers need to abide in the sphere of God, which IS the sphere of love because "God is love" (1Jn 4:8,16)... the same sphere of God's love that saved us and keeps us saved!

Stay there, abide there, live there, each and every day... and you watch how much more peace you have in your soul...

... and also, watch how much less Satan and his servants can take advantage of you and your family.

As believers, we can live each day in the power of God's love!

In other words, LOVE FIRST..... and watch resentment and bitterness melt away...

... because you **choose** to abide in God's sphere of love; you

choose to love others, covering a multitude of sins, as He did for us.

He purchased eternal life for us by His own blood, and He has also given us eternal assurances of what's to come.

And to bring it full circle; **that's why life is good!**

And we're going to see more of what Jesus Himself said to us.

Life Is Good: Since God is good AND God is eternal life, then the life that God has is good. And this is the same life we believers are given at salvation; it's called "eternal life", and WOW, it's good! :)

This my friends, is HOW we are able to overlook transgressions committed against us by others.

This is HOW we can go forward LOVING someone who has hurt us or slighted us.

But please remember, the power of the love of God comes from living in the truth of His Word.

This is HOW we can transcend (rise above) the circumstances of life, both good and bad ones!

This is HOW we can say "Life Is Good!"

Eternal life is so far beyond, and so far better, than the

transactions we look to in this life, that it's not even worthy of comparison!... So, let's transcend our circumstances!

And it IS worthwhile to overlook these transactions that we wrongly rely upon for happiness...

... just as we overlook transgressions against us, all to the glory of God "who loved me and gave himself up for me". **Gal 2:20**

That's the power of God's love in action. :)

The Spirit also told us that **eternal life is a fact**, according to the words of our Lord Jesus in **Jn 6:40**.

This is ALSO coming up later in this series.

I love to watch the Spirit do His prep work :)

Because God knows, we all get too familiar at times.

But instead, **Live In Eternal Life: Let's choose to be grateful and abide in the sphere of God's love.**

Amen?

One other key statement I'm pressed to share with you:

Pastor Collins: Some people know facts about God without being moved or motivated by them.

Let's choose to be moved by the truths we learn.

But make no mistake; this requires humility and submission. Let's surrender our hearts in such a way that we allow God's Word to change us.

Eph 3:19 *and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Do you see here there's a divine purpose to knowing the love of Christ.

It's not just facts written on a page, but a truth that God has given us to set us free!

So again; **Let's choose to be moved by the truths we learn.**

Now on to our topic: *Eternal Assurance - "Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled"*

What type of confidence do we have in the Lord's salvation?

I'm not talking about us saying what we know to be the right biblical answer.

I'm talking about what kind of confidence do we walk around with on a daily basis?

I'll be totally honest with you, my confidence was shaken at times with some of the challenging lessons we've had over the years.

We've often been led to examine our faith, making sure we're of the faith and not playing religion with God...

... which is a very good self-examination the Bible tells us to undergo.

But... when you come out the other side, convinced by the Spirit within you that you ARE saved... that you ARE a believer in the Lord Jesus... by the grace of God...

... it is then you can and should claim all the wonderful promises and evidences about the ASSURANCE we have "in Christ".

And that also includes all the evidences, all the "fruits", that the Spirit has been producing in you.

The Bible reveals that's a form of assurance, also, which we will get to in this series.

What did the apostle Paul write in **Rom 8:38**?? "I am sure...", he was **sure** of God's love being unbreakable and unchangeable towards those He has elected and called and justified and glorified (see **Rom 8:28-39**)

Again, regarding God leading me to share this subject of Eternal Assurance, **the Spirit used an under the radar source** for me to

confirm this subject for us,...

... as I was browsing through the church website one day. (you might consider doing that when you're looking for something good to do/learn, and see what the Spirit leads you to)

Our faithful secretary Monica not only has an important job as secretary, but is also busy with other responsibilities in the church, one of which is running the prep school. (not a small task!)

As part of this, she's in charge of preparing lessons, and also writing a monthly blog for the children, called "Kids' Corner", among other things.

Here's a recent excerpt:

KIDS' CORNER: Religion(2-1-20) - *So, how do the religions of the world differ from Christianity? Worldly religions teach people that salvation must be earned and kept by their good works. These good works, then, are motivated by fear of losing that salvation. The power source for their works is self, giving glory to self. This all resulting in a **life of insecurity** as people strive to remain "good enough". How awful!*

Well said, right?

KIDS' CORNER: Religion(2-1-20)

As "today's verse" tells us, God promises Christians a life of peace as we trust in Him for all things. Thank you, God, for your love and grace as

*you offer us **eternal security** through the saving work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!*

We'll get to "today's verse" in a moment, but let's dwell on this point.

Notice she wrote "you offer us eternal security **THROUGH** the saving work of Jesus Christ."

My friends; our salvation and our security are all found when we trust in Christ and HIS work on the Cross!!

In other words, it's **THROUGH HIM** we are granted all these grace gifts.

In other words, our salvation **AND OUR SECURITY** are based fully upon His accomplishments, and we receive such blessings **by grace through faith!**

All of this was motivated by His amazing love.

If salvation depended upon us and our goodness and our faithfulness, we would all come up short of God's perfect requirements.

But, we can have **Eternal Assurance "in Christ"**; because salvation depends upon God and Christ and HIS loving sacrifice and HIS faithfulness,... therefore we believers can have **ASSURANCE**, because His work and His power are perfect!

Assurance is something in the soul that we believers can hold onto and experience every day because of HIS faithfulness.

1 Cor 1:4-9 *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 **who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.** 9 **God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.***

WHO will sustain us? - our Lord!

WHO is faithful? - our Lord!

We are not always faithful, but thank God that HE IS!

So... we're not only talking about the statements in the Bible about eternal security,...

... but we're also talking about the ability to walk around with assurance in our souls... the assurance of possessing eternal life in Christ.

And here was "today's verse":

KIDS' CORNER: Religion(2-1-20) - Jn 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***

Ask yourself this question: Why would Jesus Himself tell us believers to not be afraid if we actually had something to be afraid of??

Of course, HE WOULDN'T! - He's good and honest in every way!

Remember **Php 4:8**?

Shouldn't we take Jesus at His Word, embracing His words as 100% trustworthy?!

Amen we should! - look at it again!

It's scriptures like this that should give us such peace and assurance, that we believers are embraced by His perfect loving arms forever.

"Today's verse" reminded me of something earlier in the same chapter: just gotta love this!

Jn 14:1-2 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

We believers really need to ask ourselves why we are insecure, if we are in our hearts.

Why are we thinking like doubting Thomas when we have such clear statements like this given us from the lips of our Lord?

So... besides these two wonderful scriptures in **John 14**, we're going to use **Romans 8** as a platform, or springboard, for these lessons on Eternal Assurance.

And there's nothing quite like reading the Bible in context, right?!
:)

So let's enjoy the journey and see what the Spirit of Jesus says to we believers as His adopted family...

Ro 8 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.* (if you're a believer, take that to heart! let not your hearts be troubled!)

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, **but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"***

(as a side note, Who animates us or enables us to cry out to God as Father, or as our Dad?? It's His Spirit inside of you! - "*by whom we cry*" - dwell on that)

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

*For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain **the freedom of the glory of the children of God.***

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified **he also glorified.***

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that,

*who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** (Remember, the love that covers??) *Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."**

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to **separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

There we see some good, confidence-building questions for we believers...

... similar to the questions Jesus posed to us in **Jn 14**, when He also said "let not your hearts be troubled".

We sometimes can be too hard on ourselves, as one of Pastor Collin's recent blogs addressed.

Eternal Assurance: Do we forget that, by grace through faith, we **believers are co-victors with Jesus Christ, "more than conquerors through him who loved us"?** - Ro 8:37

This is another reason we **NEED** the Word of God daily,...

... to wash away the grime and doubts in our souls that we pick up from life in the devil's world, or the devil's age.

We NEED these wonderful reminders **daily** because of our 3 enemies (the kingdom of darkness, our sin natures, and the world's system) constantly hen-pecking at us.

This type of teaching from the pulpit, along with daily reading your Bible, are **the protection from the lies of insecurity**.

True believers are destined to have assurance in their hearts every day they're on earth!

Pastor Collins wrote another blog almost a year ago now...

... it was an excellent summary **of our assurance in Christ**. (so much so, I asked Pastor if we could put a link to it on the Christ Saves website)

I'd highly recommend reading it in conjunction with this series.

If you do so, it will most likely result in a peace and assurance in your soul greater than you've ever had.

Blog from 3/1/19: Assurance Of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith

In this series, we are going to use some summary points from this blog, but I'd recommend to anyone struggling in this area to go back and read it with your Bible and a cup of tea.

In other words, **make a meal out of it**.

Sit down at your table and feast on it, looking up all the scriptures for yourself along the way.

And watch how satisfied you become... not by the food of this world, but the food of the Word will sustain you.

So, in this series **I'm not going to try and reinvent the wheel.**

We'll use some of this blog as an outline to go through Holy Scripture on the subject of **assurance**.

And we'll see where the Spirit leads us to expand on certain truths.

All the glory be to God for revealing to us the things He will reveal, by grace through faith.

And how about thanking God that He has even given us scriptures to re-assure us?!

Amen?

He didn't have to... but that's what His perfect love does.

Here's the first point from the blog, which also can be found on our website:

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We enjoy fellowship with God the Father and the Son through the Spirit (**1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:3; cp Galatians 2:20; 1 John 5:1**).

1 Co 1:9 *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

If you enjoy reading this verse, and this is a reality in your life, then that's a fruit of your salvation and a reason for assurance in Christ.

1 Jn 1:1-3 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **the life was made manifest**, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.***

There we see that new life in Christ includes fellowship with the Father and the Son.

1 Jn 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.*

And a fruit or an evidence of this is **love for the Father and love**

for those born of Him. (and we remember; love covers a multitude of transgressions)

There we see the simple truth of being born again, or born of God... whoever has placed their trust in Christ has been granted saving faith by God; believers are those whom He caused to be born again!

What do we mean "He caused" the new birth??

1 Pe 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has **caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you, 5** who **by God's power are being guarded through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Notice regarding the believer's assurance: we are being **guarded by God's power**, through faith, which faith the Lord provides to us also. :)

Being a born-again believer means you've been made new by the Spirit of the living God and you are now HIS possession, FOREVER!

Salvation is really a miracle of God in our lives... He converted us from desperate, helpless sinners into children of God!

Here's an example of the supernatural ways of God's converting us:

Jn 3:8 *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Can any of us explain how the wind works?? Can we control the wind, or grab in our hands?!

This is why we say salvation is a supernatural work of God on our behalf!

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We enjoy fellowship with God the Father and the Son through the Spirit (**1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:3; cp Galatians 2:20; 1 John 5:1**).

Now here's a verse that really humbles me every time I read it, and simplifies life for me...

Gal 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Again, if you read this verse and enjoy this truth... if you embrace the fact that you now live for Christ, and that Jesus loved you and gave Himself up for you,... **that right there, my friends, is reason for to have assurance of your eternal salvation!**

That's a sign that your heart has been changed by God...

... and that you are now "in Christ Jesus" forevermore, because God says so, and HE is faithful!

Eternal Assurance in Christ: If your soul enjoys the truths in these scriptures, you apparently possess some supernaturally-granted love and affection for Christ...which a sinner can only receive as a gift from God, by grace through faith! Eph 2:8-9

I hope you see the point.... and if not, ask God to show you the point.

Our Heavenly Father wants we believers to live a life of assurance. (i.e. - what earthly father doesn't want that for his children??!)

If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus as your Savior, listen to what He said: *"Let not your hearts be troubled."* (**Joh 14**)

Here's the next main point from the blog:

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are personally comforted/assured by the God of all grace (**Psalm 34:8; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:10**).

Ps 34:8 *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

Is that you? Do you habitually "take refuge in him"?

Do you seek your heavenly Father's protection; to get under the cover of His omnipotent wings?

If so, **that's another good sign** that your heart has been changed by God and you belong to Him.

Unbelievers do not have these types of affectionate thoughts for God and His Son...

... so if you have these types of affectionate, grateful thoughts towards the Lord, you should be assured! - "*Let not your hearts be troubled*". :)

As we've learned in the last year or so, true believers have an **affection** for the Lord Jesus. And this is a good fruit in the life of a born-again believer.

Do we struggle sometimes, even with our faith?

Yes, we all do, and that WILL happen at times, until the day we leave these wretched, fleshly bodies.

But, if you're a believer, **the Lord is your confidence.**

WE are not our own confidence. THE LORD is our confidence. So says Holy Scripture.

Do you see the point??

We are saved THROUGH CHRIST and HIS power, not because of our own power.

Not even our human willpower can get us there. (see **Rom 9**)

Remember this old friend?

Jn 1:12-13 *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.***

GOD is the One who elects or calls any of us to His salvation, by His grace.

Rom 9:15-16 *For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

And if you're a believer in the Lord Jesus and you have a certain affection for Him, then you can **rest assured** He called you and elected you.

If you were indifferent towards God and Jesus, then you might question if you ever received saving faith from God.

But John tells us we believers are *born of God*. (**1Jn 5:1**)

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are personally comforted/assured by the God of all grace (Psalm 34:8; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:10).

2 Co 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Are you **grateful** like this?? - If so, then **be at rest in your soul**, and **be assured** of your **eternal** relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you see a theme yet? :)

Eternal Assurance in Christ: If appreciation for these truths is going on in your heart right now, that's a sign that you belong to Him!

It's that simple and pure... that's good fruit; evidence of His Spirit within you.

In other words, if you're a true believer you're NOT indifferent... like some church-goers are who are in church for selfish reasons.

You WILL slip and fall into sin at times, but as a believer you repent and come back to Him, because you KNOW something...

or should we say you know SOMEONE?

Php 4:19-20 *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

God reassures us, by grace.

Heb 4:16 *Let us then **with confidence**(with assurance)draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1Pe 5:10-11 *And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ (WOW!!)**, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We enjoy being made new in Christ Jesus, freed from a fearful spirit of slavery. (**Romans 8:15; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, 5:17**).

Ro 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, **by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"***

I was once an orphan in this world, and a slave to sin... but the Lord reached down to me and saved me and adopted me!

God loves orphans, remember :)

We were all spiritual orphans, born slaves of sin! But by grace, He reached down and crossed the chasm for us!

Crossing The Chasm: It gives our loving God immense joy to rescue those who humbly turn to Him. Lk 15:7,11-32

Just a friendly reminder of God's heart for us:

Lk 15:7 *Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

Think of the father of the prodigal son, running out to meet the returning son with great eagerness and joy, to hug him and love him and bless him.

Lk 15:20-24 *And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*

And think of the joy Jesus had in His heart, knowing He was going to save us.

Remember in **Is 9:6**, Jesus is also called "Eternal Father"...

... He is equal with, and possesses, the same heart as the Father.

And we know for the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the Cross.

Heb 12:2

WE were the joy set before Him.

He rejoiced at the opportunity to save our fallen, helpless souls.

He rejoiced at the opportunity to cover our sins, once for all.

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We enjoy being made new, freed from a fearful spirit of slavery, in Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:15; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, 5:17**).

2 Co 3:4-6 *Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God**, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

2 Co 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

2 Co 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that*

in him we might become the righteousness of God.