

*Eternal Assurance - "Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled",
Part 3*

The Spirit has had us talking a lot about the LORD being our confidence...

Get your fingers ready to turn in your Bibles...

Eternal Assurance: Jesus purchased eternal life for us by His blood, and He has also given us eternal assurances of what's to come!

We believers should confidently claim all the wonderful promises and evidences about the eternal assurance we have "in Christ".

And that includes all the evidences of eternal life that the Bible tells us true believers will possess.

Eternal Assurance "in Christ": Because salvation depends upon God and Christ and HIS love and faithfulness, we believers can have ASSURANCE, because His work and His power are perfect.

Assurance is something God wants us to experience every day.

And 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.

Jesus Tells We Believers To Be Assured!

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?"*

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 not to be afraid if we actually had something to be afraid of??

He would never do that! He has perfect character and integrity.

He wouldn't lead us into a false sense of security, like sinners often do.

This is why we can REST upon statements like this.

Besides these two wonderful scriptures in **John 14**, we used **Romans 8** as a platform for these lessons, which we will quote from in our message today.

In Ro 8, we saw some confidence-building questions for we believers.

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,...

Eternal Assurance: Contextual biblical teaching from the pulpit, along with daily reading our Bibles, protect us from **the lies of insecurity**.

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

And as you'll see, the Spirit has given us some wonderful scenic "rest stops" to pause at and consider 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 assure us?!

Amen?

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

Eternal Assurance in Christ: If appreciation for these truths is going on in your heart, that's a sign you belong to Him. It's that simple and pure. That's good fruit; fruit of His Spirit within you.

In other words, you're NOT INDIFFERENT, like some church-goers are who are there for selfish reasons of some kind.

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

... or should I say you know SOMEONE?

Born Again and Saved: True believers KNOW the Lord, they know Who He is and His love and faithfulness and forgiveness, Jn 10:14-16,27-28,17:3, 2Ti 2:19; as opposed to those "lawless" ones to whom Jesus said "I never KNEW you". Mt 7:23,25:12

This is one of those scenic "rest stops" the Spirit has granted us in the midst of this series on eternal assurance...

... so let's stop and smell the roses...

Jn 10:14-16 *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

Jn 10:27-28 *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.*

Jn 17:1-3 *When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And **this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.***

2 Ti 2:19 *But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."*

If you actually care about avoiding iniquity, or lawless living...

... if you desire to do the right thing like Paul did in Ro 7...

... then **that heart is a sign you belong to God**, despite your failures.

In your heart, you desire to bring Him honor and glory, and your overall lifestyle reveals that.

That's what a true believer looks like.

Again;

Born Again and Saved: True believers KNOW the Lord, they

know Who He is and His love and faithfulness and forgiveness, Jn 10:14-16,27-28,17:3, 2Ti 2:19; as opposed to those "lawless" ones to whom Jesus said "I never KNEW you". Mt 7:23,25:12

Our next point from the blog:

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**).

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

God loves orphans, remember :)

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, to hug him and love him and bless him, with great eagerness and joy...

That's a picture of God our Father!

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. 21 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.'* 22 *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. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 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 knowing He was going to save us!

Might we say that Jesus possessed the joy of the Father?

The Joy of the Father: Let's remember... the child Jesus is also called "Eternal Father" in Is 9:6. And, Jesus and the Father "are one" in Jn 10:30. And, Jesus said "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" in Jn 14:9.

What can we then conclude about Jesus and the Father's joy??!

He is one with, and therefore possesses, the same heart as the Father!

And we know **for the joy** set before Him, Jesus endured the Cross. **Heb 12:2**

Heb 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

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

Again;

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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. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God**, 6 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.*

And since we're in the neighborhood, look at:

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.*

There's more reason for our assurance as believers.

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are given new abilities to learn from the Word of God, for sanctification's sake (**1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27**).

1 Cor 2:9-14 *But, as it is written,*

*"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,*

what God has prepared for those who love him" —

*10 these things **God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

*11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 **Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*

But again, look at vs. 12.

If you're reading your Bible and gradually seeing and understanding spiritual things, that's a supernatural sign of His Spirit within you.

I know some of you who struggled when first reading your own Bibles, but now you actually enjoy it and rejoice because God Himself is giving you understanding.

Rejoice! That's a sign that you are in Christ Jesus!

Rest assured!

Because, as we just read, ONLY HIS SPIRIT can teach us such things about God.

Only He can help us "get it".

The Spirit is truly the One who teaches us, all things even...

1 Jn 2:20 *But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.*

1 Jn 2:24-27 *Let what you heard from the beginning **abide** in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And **this is the promise that he made to us — eternal life.***

*26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. **But as his anointing***

teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him.

Rest in Him; in His Spirit He has given you.

Here's a little more assurance from our Lord's own lips:

Jn 14:15-18 *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.***

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Jn 14:25-27 *"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.** 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.*

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are given new abilities to learn from the Word of God, for sanctification's sake (**1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27**).

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We **enjoy** the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

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.*

What's the vector in your life? Which direction are you heading in?

Are these things gradually increasing in your life??

How about this, do you have a **desire** for these things to increase in your life? (like Paul in Ro 7)

If so, you are "enjoying" the fruit of the Spirit; or at least you "crave" more of His fruit in you?

If so, that's another sign you should be **assured** of your salvation.

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We enjoy the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

Next!

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We have an abiding love and eagerness for Christ that unbelievers do not have (**1 Corinthians 16:22; Philippians 3:20-**

21; 1 John 3:1-3).

1 Co 16:22 *If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!*

There we see, the unbeliever doesn't love the Lord, but the believer eagerly awaits His return!

Php 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

1 Jn 3:1-3 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

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As true believers:

- We have an abiding love and eagerness for Christ that unbelievers do not have (**1 Corinthians 16:22; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3**).

Next!

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are given spiritual discernment (**1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 2:11-13; 6:3-6; 2 Peter 3:14-16; 1 John 2:12-19, 4:1-6**).

1 Ti 2:11-13 *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.*

Believers can discern, from the Word and the Spirit, the divine order of things. This doesn't mean men are better than women, but that there's a divine order of authority.

We accept it because it's part of the Word of God, and we objectively know it's true.

1 Ti 6:3-6 *If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. 6 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment.*

God gives we believers the ability to discern truth from lies.

1 Th 5:21 *but test everything; hold fast what is good.*

2 Pe 3:14-16 *Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these (the new heaven and new earth), be diligent to be found by him without*

spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are given spiritual discernment (**1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 2:11-13; 6:3-6; 2 Peter 3:14-16; 1 John 2:12-19, 4:1-6**).

1 Jn 2:12-20 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you **know** him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you **know** the Father.14 I write to you, fathers, because you **know** him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

15 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions — is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

18 *Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is*

coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20 **But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.**

1 Jn 4:1-6 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 **By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. **By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

God gives His Spirit to every born-again believer, so we can understand His Word and discern good from evil.

Our next point:

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- We are acutely aware of God's holiness and the presence/power of sin and we are grateful for the God-given ability to confess/repent from it (**Romans 7:14-25; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 1**).

True believers have an inner desire to confess, agree with God; and to be at peace with God.

Ro 7:14-25 *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I **want**, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.*

*17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I **have the desire to do what is right**, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do **the good I want**, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

*20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 **For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,***

*23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*

Believers will never be perfect in this life, but they have a DESIRE to follow God and to please Him. That's what we just saw from the Apostle Paul.

2 Co 7:10-11 *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.*

Again;

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As true believers:

- We are acutely aware of God's holiness and the presence/power of sin and we are grateful for the God-given ability to confess/repent from it (**Romans 7:14-25; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 1**).

1 Jn 1 *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— 2 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— 3 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.*

4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say 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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Believers have a inner desire to be right with God, despite their daily failures.

And they are grateful for the privilege of repenting and confessing to a Holy and Loving Father!

Thank God!!

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- As patterns of sin decrease, patterns of obedience increase (**John 8:31; 1 John 2:1-7**).

Jn 8:31 *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*

1 Jn 2:1-7 *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*

*4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (sound familiar? Mt 7 "I never knew you"?) 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. **By this we may be sure that we are in him:** 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

Keeping His commands (obedience) is evidence that we know Him!

((On this point, do you remember the capstones we saw recently in the book of Romans?(**Ro 1:5, 16:26**)

Ro 1:5 *(Jesus Christ our Lord) 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about **the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations*

Ro 16:25-27 *Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of*

*the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith**— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.)))*

True faith from God results in a habit of obedience in the believer, over time.

Again;

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- As patterns of sin decrease, patterns of obedience increase (**John 8:31; 1 John 2:1-7**).

Assurance of Salvation Is By Grace Through Faith.

As true believers:

- “*But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love*” (**1 Corinthians 13:13**). We love God and others with a love previously unknown to us (**John 13:35; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:16-19; 4:19**).

Jn 13:35 *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

1Th 4:9 *Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been **taught by God to love one another,***

There's an interesting passage related to how the Spirit began this series; that God's love in us covers a multitude of transgressions.

1 Jn 2:9-11 *Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

1 Jn 3:16-19 *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

19 *By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him.*

Again;

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As true believers:

- *“But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).* We love God and others with a love previously unknown to us (**John 13:35; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:16-19; 4:19**).

1 Jn 4:19 *We love because he first loved us.*

As believers, we've come to realize the only reason we love is because He first loved us!!

Because He forgave us of all our sins, we now can love and forgive others in the same way. :)