

Eternal Assurance - "Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled", Part 4

As we finish up this series on "Eternal Assurance", let's be reminded that what we're seeing in the Word of God are REASONS for a believer to have assurance in his salvation.

According to the Bible, the one who believes in the Lord Jesus as his Savior is changed by God, given a new heart, and as such there are certain evidences that appear in His life by the grace and power of God!

That's what we're looking at in this series... the work of God in and upon the believer... to the glory of God our Father in heaven.

Phil 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

Phil 2:12-13 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

We believers should be encouraged because God promises to complete the good work He started in us. :)

Let's finish up our key points:

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**).

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.*

There we see the struggles that even the apostle Paul had, but please notice what was his "desire" and his "delight" in his "inner being".

The believer's heart has been changed to **desire** the things of God, even as he struggles in this world.

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.*

The believer has been given a new heart by God. Therefore, **he is not indifferent to the things of God!**

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 desire to be right with God, despite their sins and failures.

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

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.

Pretty simply, believers will have a habit of keeping God's commands.

Even though we all fail every day in some way, our pattern is following God.

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."*

1 Th 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, if you remember; 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.***

All this is possible for us because of the following:

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

Again;

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**).

The following points and passages are merely a short list of God's great promises given to believers.

We could go on and on finding more and more scriptures about these subjects, but this serves our purpose for now, as revealed in the Gospel of John.

Eternal Assurance From Jesus Himself

Jn 4:13-14, 5:24, 6:35-40,51,58, 10:27-30, 11:25-26

Here we have amazing passages filled with promises about eternal assurance for believers.

Jn 4:13-14 *Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will **never be thirsty forever**. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

Jn 5:24 *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

Jn 6:35-40 *Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall **never thirst**. 36*

*But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will **never** cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should **lose nothing** of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 **For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**"*

Jn 6:51 *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, **he will live forever.***

Jn 6:58 *This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread **will live forever.**"*

Jn 10:27-29 *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.*

Jn 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet **shall he live**, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall **never** die. Do you believe this?"*

Eternal Assurance of Resurrection for the Believer:

Ps 37:28-29, Jn 5:25-29, 6:39-40,44, Ac 17:30-31, Ro 8:11,29-30, 1Co 6:14, 15:3-8,12-22,49-58, Php 3:20-21, Col 3:3-4, 1Pe 1:3-5, Jude 24-25,

Ps 37:28-29 *For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his saints.*

***They are preserved forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.***
29 *The righteous shall inherit the land
and dwell upon it forever.*

Jn 5:25-29 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

Again look at:

Jn 6:39-40 *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but **raise it up on the last day.** 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, **and I will raise him up on the last day.**"*

Jn 6:44 *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. **And I will raise him up on the last day.***

Ac 17:30-31 *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he*

has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Ro 8:11 *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.*

If believers could lose their salvation, then why would they be promised to be raised from the dead like Jesus?

Ro 8:29-30 *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. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Eternal Assurance of Resurrection for the Believer (cont'd):

1 Co 6:14 *And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.*

1 Co 15:3-8 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me*

1 Co 15:12-22 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 **For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive**

1 Co 15:49-58 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 *"O death, where is your victory?*

O death, where is your sting?"

56 *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

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.*

Col 3:3-4 *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

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.*

Jude 24-25 *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be*

glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

There's an interesting way the Spirit wants to end this series:

What does assurance look like?

What should it look like in we believers?

Since we're talking about having assurance from the resurrection...

When the Lord was on earth, He said the one sign He would give that doubting generation was the sign of Jonah:

Mt 12:38-41 *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." 39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*

Jonah was a type of the TLJC in that way... with the wonderful promise, and proof, that we have in the Lord's resurrection after 3 days.

But Jonah was a type of the Lord in another way too, and it illustrates the believer's assurance to us.

The Believer's Assurance:

Jon 1:4-5 *But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.*

Sound like Someone else you KNOW??? :) (see **Luke 8**)

There we see **the assurance granted to the believer in the Lord.**

He has given us the ability to be at total rest in the midst of the storms of life...

... and to transcend (rise above) our circumstances and to not be touched, even in the midst of our enemies.

This type of peace is another sign we belong to Him.

May we believers REST ASSURED as we should; being in union forever with Christ Jesus our Lord! Because God says so!

Mt 11:28-30 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For*

my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

As we began this series, we should end it:

Jn 14:1-2 *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 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?"*

Hopefully you can see the peace the Lord wants us to have, knowing that we are in His hands forever!