

ASSURANCE: The Security of Knowing

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There is joy running all through my mind as I am trying to determine in my heart how to begin this study. I assure you it is joy, which I am experiencing, and I want to share that joy with you. It is the reward of studying God word...that is what it is. In addition, this is my method of leading up to, or getting into the lesson and filling-up our plates with some of the great blessings of knowledge.

Note the lesson title, the short statement, "The Security of Knowing". It is used, not as a definition of assurance, although that could be a part of it, but there is more to defining assurance, and that is where I am beginning.

There are many thought provoking and defining words which can and do tune my heart and cause me to realize the strength provided by God's word in any study, but especially in the study of assurance. Permit me to list some of the defining words and expressions that cause me to be joyfully rewarded.

Assurance defined: a positive declaration intended to give confidence; confidence or certainty in "_____" (you fill in the blank); something said or done to inspire confidence, as a promise, positive statement, etc; "The Security of Knowledge".

Assurance is produced by faith.

Look with me into God's word in Hebrews 10: 19-39. These scriptures are dedicated to "The Full Assurance of Faith." Verses 21-23 counsels us by saying, *"...since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from the 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."*

Christ has become our High Priest, and we are members of the house of God over which He rules. Because Christ is our High Priest, we approach God with full assurance. Our approach must be with a heart that is sincere and with faith that trusts Christ's provision to cleanse us from sinful actions. From Him we draw strength to live the "Christian Life." Hold fast...that the endurance in our hope and we can be sure that if faithful we shall receive eternal life provided in Christ. God is faithful to fulfill His promise. See Hebrews 3:2 and 6:20. Good Study!

Assurance is made full by hope.

Hebrews 6:11,12 says, *"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to full assurance of hope until the end, and that you do not become 'sluggish', but imitate those who through faith and patients inherit the promises."*

Christians are always in danger of not continuing to trust fully in the hope they have in Christ. We must keep this commitment to the end. Faith is obedience because we are sure that God will do what HE has promised. Patients are continuing in faith even under difficulties.)

Hebrews 6:19-20 tells us, *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the Vail, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedeck.”* (Our hope of entry into God’s presence is an anchor of the soul. Does that cause you to remember a song? It is assurance because Jesus our High Priest has already entered there. As our forerunner, He has made the way for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension. See John 14:2; Hebrews 4:14.)

Assurance is confirmed by love.

“We believe that”! Study 1 John 3:11-24, it is dedicated to the great duty to “Love One Another” or “Love as God Loves.” But cited here are a couple of verses to motivate us in this study. 1 John 3:14 and 1 John 4:18, they read, *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. Whoever does not love abides in death. There is no fear in love, but perfect love cast out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”*

The sinful world persecutes Christians because it envies them. Such persecution is a sign that believers have passed from death to life. The absence of love is hate. If you hate your brother you are in danger of judgment, see Matthew 5:21, 22. We must love! It is commanded! Love expressed in practical ways gives us confidence before God. Works do not save us, but neither are we saved without good deeds. 1 John 4:10 tells us, *“In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* If that is not blessed assurance, pray tell what is! Do these beautiful thoughts remind you of a couple of songs? If that is not love, the oceans are dry!

Assurance is the effect of righteousness.

There is another great and wonderful law that we must note in the study of the effect of righteousness. 1 John 3:7 says, *“Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, just as He (God) is righteous.”* This is the assured way of freedom from sin and the way to destroy the works of the devil, and a way to avoid those who try to deceive you.

What a blessing and assurance are the words of Isaiah 32:17 as it says, *“The work (effect) of righteousness will be peace, and the effect (results) of righteousness quietness and assurance (trust) forever.” “Great peace has they which love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble”* (Psalm 119:165).

God’s law of faith and commitment is worth remembering and keeping. James 3:18 tells us that, *“... the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”* (This is the echo of our Lord’s teaching on peacemakers in Matthew 5:9) Hear the words of Romans 14:17, *“The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* Are we being blessed with the joy that comes from responding as the Holy Spirit guides our conduct? Truly assurance is the effect of righteousness.

Assurance is abundant in the understanding of the Gospel.

Apostle Paul, in his prayer to a group in Laodicea whom he had never seen had this to say in Colossians 2:2-3. *"...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

Paul's concern was that their hearts be encouraged, established in the faith. This was to be accomplished by their obtaining a full knowledge of the revealed truth of salvation in Christ.

To help in understanding of the gospel lets read and study more scriptures. It is most important to have understanding. Understanding is to know, and to know we must let the gospel have its intended purpose in our life that we may grow and live thereby.

It has been said, and I believe it, "The most important message of Scripture is summarized in the word gospel, meaning Good News." In analyzing, to study, we can say, "The gospel is both word and person." Taught for (acceptance) the word details the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). *"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scripture."* The gospel is also a person, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1-2), *"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the Prophets."*

To alter this gospel in any way is to subject us to a curse from God. Galatians 1:8-9 says, *"...even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."*

To be saved one must believe the gospel. This requires that you receive and accept the person of Christ as Savior (Revelation 3:20) note also (John 14:23), and trust in His death, burial, and resurrection to save one from sin (Romans 10:9-10). The great blessing to every one who, from the time of obedience until death, are responsible to remain faithful, and are responsible for sharing the "Good News" with others. Let us read again Matthew 28:19, letting it echo in our heart, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost."* And--- Amen!

Assurance, steps in the security of knowing that one's name is written in heaven.

Believing God's word is a must. In 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2 Paul reminds them of their conduct in their lives as results of believing in God's word. And how, even they, had suffered for their faith. Paul reminded them of the fact that it was truth of God and not of man. Think about it, it is also true today. It's true also that only God's word can effectively work in us who believe...truly believe. Who are true believers? Answer: "The believers that do God's will!" For that word to be effective, we must receive it as the word of God, and that is what it is; and that is the truth.

Accepting Christ as Savior; Romans 10:9-10 has been referenced before, and in this study. It is used and used...but it's not worn out and never will be. I will use it yet

again here as we think-on and discuss accepting Christ as Savior. Here now is the scripture, "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved! For with your heart, (your mind), one believes into righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

There is great beauty and blessings in that scripture, and I will receive joy and hope you will too as we analyze and discuss it. Let us do some word study and remember again how much the Lord does love us. It is true in my heart and I just love to study and talk about God's word. It's motivating and love developing and that's good for us. We need to talk (discuss) about every aspect of what is involved in the scriptures.

When we really believe the gospel of Christ we are eager to make known, as was the apostle Paul, the power of God, not only in our lives but also in the lives of others. God's power raised our Lord, His Son, from the dead. The above-cited scripture said that. God's power delivers us. Salvation delivers us from the judgment of God and the power of sin. Christ's atonement, (His death on the cross), makes salvation available to everyone who will accept His offer. That is a promise that He will keep. Here's the rest, the best of the story, be a believer, accept the revealed truth about Jesus, and act accordingly.

The scripture (Romans 10:9-10), in full text above, says one is to believe unto righteousness...righteousness of God. One makes confession unto salvation, and salvation delivers us from sin and its consequences. We all need it! Amen!

To define righteousness in the most easily understood way would be to say, "Being and doing right in the sight of God." Here is the way it is with God. God is righteous because He is right. He always acts in accordance with His holy character and His promise to people, and this is because He is righteous.

God condemns sin and judges sinners (Romans 1:18). Because of that same rightness God has provided through Christ forgiveness for all who believe (justification Romans 3:21; 5:21) and power of living a holy life in right relationship to Himself (sanctification; Romans 6:1; 8:39).

God's righteousness shows itself in His faithful keeping of His promise to the Jews (Romans 9:1; 11:36), and in His careful instructions for the Christian's daily work of holiness (Romans 12:1; 15:13).

Christian life begins with faith and is maintained through faith. The only way we can be in the right relationship with God is through faith... *"The just shall live by faith"* (Romans 1:17).

Assurance: standing upon the promises.

The doctrine of eternal security teaches that God is able to complete the good work of eternal life that He has begun in every believer (Philippians 1:6). The person and work of God guarantee the eternal security of the believer. He is true and just, and cannot deny Himself therefore anyone who has eternal life, has it forever. Study John 10:28-30 as they are words spoken by our Lord Jesus himself. Study also 2 Corinthians 6:17.

Assurance: by desiring spiritual things.

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:2-3). That is a great

and needed principle, but note how that principle is connected to 1 Peter 1:23 as it says, *"...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever..."*

We can grow spiritually! We must grow spiritually! We can and will indeed because we, (children of God), have tasted, thus we know. The person who has experienced God's Grace in Christ will want to grow in it. Purity and love are impossible without being *"born of the Spirit"* (John 3:16) and thus given eternal life.

Live by the counsel of 1 Corinthians 14:20 as it gives advice to not be children in understanding, but babes only in malice. We must understand and desire spiritual things. Be not conformed to worldliness. Worldliness desires are not and do not have place with spiritual things. Amen!

Assurance; Growing in grace.

The thought of growing has already been introduced in this study. We are not to always be babes or young children. There is strong guidance given us in (2 Peter 3:17-18). Its warning and an exhortation which says, *"...beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the err of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Should we fall from God's grace and lose our salvation? Would that not be the most devastating tragedy of all of life? The prevention is growing in grace. We are, as taught by God's word, to desire growth (1 Pet 2:2). We are to exercise love, kindness, and good will in our life. Growth is manifested in our life as we emulate God in our doing His will and doing to or for others.

How do we do that? We are given warning to grow up in all things in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-3). To help us do that, study the "Christian Graces" as set forth in Matthew 5:3-12). The blessings of those 10 verses are referred to as the Beatitudes, which is a Latin word meaning blessed. Blessed has been interpreted to be "happy; fortunate." Not to emphasize one Beatitude over the other, but notice 5:6 as we are admonished thereby to, *"hunger and thirst for righteousness."* A reference scripture (Matthew 6:33) to be considered gives us cause to realize that our life long duty of reward it to, *"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* It was by the grace of God that everything we have received or will receive in the future, however long that will be, came from Him. To Him be glory forever, and Amen!

Knowing and growing we should look to Romans 5:1-4 which reads thus, *"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulations produce perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."* How beautiful God's word!

Romans Chapter 5 continues with such beautiful inspired words, (graces), please go ahead and read the rest of the chapter!

In our growth process we must realize the need of the growth attributes as set forth in (2 Peter 1:5-9) as it says to us, *"...give all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity, (love).*

For if these things be in you, and abound they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”

A thought provoking analysis or summary of this study of assurance is the below outline that I am using in hopes that it will serve us well. May these scriptures admonish us and have place in our hearts as we do His will.

Assurance is produced by faith: (Note these scriptures).

Ephesians 3:12; 2, “...according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”

Timothy 1:12; Heb. 10:22, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

Hebrews 10:22, “...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Assurance is made full by hope: (Please note these scriptures on hope)

Hebrews 6:11, “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end...”

Hebrews 6:19, “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the vial...”

Assurance is confirmed by love: (Love; what are we without it?)

1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”

1 John 3:19, “And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him.”

1 John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love cast our fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

Assurance is the effect of righteousness: (Note this scripture).

Isaiah 32:17, “The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.” [Forever...that is a long time!]

Assurance is abundant in the understanding of the gospel.

(Note) Colossians 2:2, “...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ...” “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake” (1 Thessalonians 1:5) Assurance eliminates doubt and fear: (Note this scripture). Deuteronomy 28:66, “Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.”

Assurance is an affirmation that Christ will come again and judge the world: Please note, Acts 17:31, "...because he has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

My 'O my, hasn't this has been a great study! I have enjoyed and gained much. I appreciate you having studied with me. May God bless us all as we study to know His will, and strengthen us in doing His will!

The scriptures and commentary that have been set forth in this lesson have been prepared to help all of us. Scriptures and principles cited, and the thought presented and discussions were to motivate true and honest hearts to gain knowledge and to help us grow and be stronger in the faith and love. It is my prayer that by you reading and studying this lesson will accept the truth presented herein, and that it will be a conscience server (a helper) to you as it has me.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we expose or subject to our mind. With confidence I say that you studied this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be love and faith growing.

With confidence I say that it is your desire to gain more knowledge, which is associated with responsibilities. This creates a desire to seek, to search more diligently, and to accept when found, and associate with and be an active part of abiding faithfully in the Lord's Church.

The church of which I am speaking cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom—His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church of the Bible. You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in His Body, (His Church), and it is the church, the only Church that you read about in the New Testament. This is the truth—it is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view other writings on my Website, www.geocities.com/dubbyt. There are several writings posted on the Website. I recommend, and I am sure you will want to view the writing, titled, "The Church of the Bible, Christ's Church"; it has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, "What Must I Do to Be Saved." Please study both of these with an honest and receptive heart for truth and obedience. The study of them will bring you blessings! God bless you for reading and studying this lesson. God loves you!

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