

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED
[ASSURANCE OF SALVATION – CAN BE LOST, SHOULD BE FULL]



ASSURANCE CAN
BE LOST! ☹️



Assurance is the sweetest thing that a Christian can attain on earth. To have *assurance* is to have *heaven here on earth*. Yet sadly, we can lose our *assurance*! Losing our *assurance* is, of course, not losing our *salvation*. We cannot lose our *salvation*, but we can lose our *assurance of salvation*.

Our *assurance* can be lost through *careless living*.

If we live a spiritually careless life and are insensitive to sins in our lives, we will grieve the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit is Someone who will assure us of our interest in Christ, to grieve Him will lead us to lose our *assurance*. Similarly, since the presence of Christian Graces is what gives us *assurance*, to live a careless life will also lead us to lose our *assurance*.

Our *assurance* can be lost through *terrible neglect*.

Our *assurance* grows as we attend to the means of grace. Therefore, if we neglect the means of grace, our *assurance* will start to diminish.

Our *assurance* can be lost through *resurrection of old sins*.

There may be sins in our life which we have battled long and hard, and finally conquered. Sometimes, these old sins which we have conquered long ago and buried can come back alive! Their “resurrection” will bring much heartaches to us, and may even cause us to doubt our salvation. If this is your case today, despair not! Rather stand up and fight those old sins again. Get up and kill those resurrected sins, and through such actions, regain your *assurance of salvation* once more!

Our *assurance* can be lost through *God's withdrawal*.

God does withdraw Himself from us when we sin. But sometimes, in the wisdom of God, He hides His face from us and causes a dark cloud to come over us. The reason for this hiding of God's face may not due to sins in our life. In the lives of some believers, God deems it sees fit to cause them to walk in darkness for a period of their life, even to go without *assurance* for a long time. Not every Christian goes through such experiences, but some Christians do.

If you happen to belong to such a category, then **Isaiah 50:10** is the word of God for you today: *Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walk sin darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the Name of the LORD and rely upon his God.* Even in such times, you should trust the Lord, continue the cling on to Him and not despair. The Lord is merciful, and He may yet grant you sweet *assurance* before long.

1 John 5:13 says this: *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

This verse clearly differentiates between believing in the Son of God (*faith*) and knowing that one has eternal life (*assurance*). There can be a time gap between the moment one believes and the time when he *knows* that he believes. Men may repent, believe and go away rejoicing, knowing with great certainty that they have been saved. But this is not necessarily the experience of all believers. Some may wait long, and undergo great conflicts in their soul before they attain this assurance. In fact, a Christian can actually be without *assurance* for a long time.

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

The author of **Hebrews** speaks of obtaining *full assurance*, suggesting that there is an *assurance* which is not *full assurance*. When we first believed, there is implicit in our faith a very basic *assurance*. As we attend to the means of grace - *prayer, the study of the Word, corporate worship, preaching, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Christian fellowship* -- our assurance will also grow proportionately.

Just as our *assurance* can be lost, so it can also grow! Make it your aim to have a growing *assurance*, to be contented with nothing other than *full assurance*!!

