

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED
[ASSURANCE OF SALVATION – POSSIBLE, ATTAINABLE]



ASSURANCE IS POSSIBLE.

The clear teaching of Scripture is that all true believers may have the *Assurance of their salvation* in this life. **1 John 2:3** ~ *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.* John is saying that we can know that we know God. To know that we know God is to have *assurance*.

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.* John did not say "We think so, we hope so" but we know. There is a note of certainty in John's statement.

1 John 3:18,19 ~ *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.* Can John be more explicit than this?



ASSURANCE IS ATTAINABLE.

Every Christian may know for certain, without fear of being mistaken, that he is a Christian. In fact, if you are a Christian, you will never be satisfied unless you come to know that you do have eternal life.

It can be attained, *firstly*, **BY CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISE IN CHRIST.**

God has promised to forgive sins. He has promised to save sinners. These promises are found in the Bible and the promises of God are 'Yes' and 'Amen' in Jesus Christ. What this means is that only those who believe Christ will have their sins forgiven and be saved. In other words, if you believed in Jesus Christ, then according to the Bible, your sins are forgiven. According to God's promises, which cannot be broken, the one who believes in Jesus Christ has eternal life. You can be assured of this because God has said so.

So, the first thing we turn to, in seeking to attain *assurance*, is the Bible. In the Bible, we read that God promised eternal life to all who believes in His Son. I ask myself -- Have I believed? If I can answer honestly and sincerely, 'Yes I have', then on the basis of God's Word, I can know that I have eternal life.

Assurance of salvation can also be attained, *secondly*, by EXAMINING YOUR LIFE FOR CHRISTIAN GRACES.

The presence of Christian Graces in our lives is a means of assuring us that we do indeed belong to Christ. Only Christ's people will manifest Christian graces. The Bible teaches us that we can know that we have eternal life *if we have kept and still seek to keep God's commandment; that we have passed from death into life, if we love the brethren, love them in deed and truth, and are still desiring to do so.*

Allow me to remind you of **2 Peter 1:10** ~ *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; Peter calls us to be urgent, to make haste, to be serious, to make it our main business to make our calling and election sure.*

Assurance is not something you can attain by being lazy and sluggish. No, it is something so precious that God will only give to those who are diligent. Only those who are all diligent in adding to their faith *virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love*, as mentioned here in this passage, will obtain *assurance*. If you want gold, you must dig deep. Similarly, if you want *assurance*, you must be diligent.

Thirdly, Assurance of salvation can be attained through THE TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH OUR SPIRIT.

Romans 8 : 15,16 say, *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

Our spirit tell us that we are Christians.

In addition, the Holy Spirit who dwells in us will bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. We need the testimony of the Holy Spirit because our heart is still deceitful and it could very well deceive us in this area. We need the Holy Spirit to bear witness together with our spirit, so that by the mouth of two witnesses, the matter is confirmed.

Each of these means of attaining *assurance of salvation* is crucial and should be employed together. Use them, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, use them today that you may know that you are truly Christ's!