



## **God's Answers to Good Questions**

Lesson 14 - Can I Be Sure that I Am a Christian?



## PREPARE

- Please read the following passages:
  - Romans 8:9
  - Romans 8:16-17
  - 1 Corinthians 2:12
  - James 4:8-10
  - 1 John 2:3-6
  - 1 John 4:13
  - 1 John 5:13
  - 1 John 5:19-20
- Watch the video lesson and complete the Study Guide while watching

## STUDY GUIDE

### I. What Is Assurance and Is It Attainable?

- A. John Murray: *"When we speak of the assurance of faith we mean the assurance entertained by a believer that he is in a state of grace and salvation, the knowledge that he has been saved, has passed from death unto life, has become a possessor of eternal life and is an heir to glory."*
- B. Joel Beeke: *"The Holy Spirit alone can produce an inward confidence that you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to you, resulting in spiritual joy, peace, humility, love, longing for His presence, and desire to do His will. Spiritual assurance is not just a belief that you will be in heaven; it is heaven already begun in you. It is relying on what Christ did for you two thousand years ago and realizing what Christ is doing in your life today."* (Faith Seeking Assurance, 2015, Preface)
- C. Definition
1. It is that \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ where we are His and He is ours ... we \_\_\_\_\_ the first fruits of Heaven
  2. It's an \_\_\_\_\_, a certainty that we have been saved from our sins, and that we are heirs of eternal glory

D. Is such a thing attainable?

1. 1 John 5:13 – *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*
2. 1 John 5:19-20 – *“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”*
3. Over and over the Apostle John says, “We know certain things, we know that we are of God, that we belong to God, that He is ours, and we belong to Him.”
4. We can have a certain \_\_\_\_\_ of these things ... it's not just projection or possibility or conjecture ... it is a certain knowledge, a confidence, a conviction

E. What is assurance?

1. Assurance is that belief, that confidence, that conviction that we are indeed in a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Assurance is that belief that we are \_\_\_\_\_ people, that we are going to \_\_\_\_\_
3. Assurance is that inward confidence that we \_\_\_\_\_ to God and He belongs to us

II. Is All Assurance Valid?

A. No!

B. Seven types of false assurance:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and cults - Islam, Mormonism, etc.
  - a. They \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as the incarnate Son of God

- b. They might assure themselves that they are going to go to \_\_\_\_\_ when they die, but that doesn't mean it's true
2. \_\_\_\_\_ who have fond hopes of a vaguely " \_\_\_\_\_ " where "good people" go after death
  - a. They don't have much of a concrete idea of what this actually is, but there's a \_\_\_\_\_ place
  - b. Where is that better place ... how do you get there ... \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_, who reject the Bible, deny the gospel, and deny the person and work of Christ, still think that \_\_\_\_\_ church members go to heaven
  - a. That's not grounded in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture
  - b. That's \_\_\_\_\_, which loads up church membership or church attendance with freight it cannot carry
4. \_\_\_\_\_, who have responded emotionally to religion in order to meet their felt needs, and yet have \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins and put their faith in Christ
  - a. That doesn't give you real assurance - it just tells you that you've got a group of \_\_\_\_\_ that you can meet with, that you can rely upon
  - b. Having religious friends is not the same as having \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ " who follow the teachings of their false teachers
  - a. Health & Wealth Christianity is not \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity
  - b. Those who have followed the health and wealth teachers are not following the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ and have no claim to \_\_\_\_\_

6. People who trust in correct \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge as a substitute for \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ unto life
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_, even good theology, is no substitute for faith in Jesus Christ or for repentance unto life
  - b. If you don't have a \_\_\_\_\_ with the Savior of the world, you cannot think that your knowledge is going to get you a \_\_\_\_\_ into heaven
  
7. People who trust in their \_\_\_\_\_ or their \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Have you repented of your sins? Have you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ?
  - b. Those are \_\_\_\_\_ questions, not "Do you have a baptism certificate you can show us?"

### III. How Does One Gain Assurance?

- A. You gain that by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit who \_\_\_\_\_ believers
  1. Romans 8:9 - *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*
  2. 1 Corinthians 2:12 - *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."*
  3. 1 John 4:13 - *"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."*
  4. Romans 8:16-17 - *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."*
  5. The Spirit of God who \_\_\_\_\_ us testifies with our spirits that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of God - this is assurance

6. It's an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit who is saying you are, in fact, a \_\_\_\_\_

B. You gain that through \_\_\_\_\_ to God's commands

1. 1 John 2:3-6 - *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."*

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord's commandments gives us that \_\_\_\_\_ that we are in Him

3. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ faithful obedience to the commandments of the Lord is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ indications that the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in us, that we \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ, and that we have a \_\_\_\_\_ on heaven

IV. Does Assurance Remain Steady?

A. Westminster Confession of Faith 18.4: *"True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light: (Cant. 5:2, 3, 6, Ps. 51:8, 12, 14, Eph. 4:30, 31, Ps. 77:1-10, Matt. 26:69-72, Ps. 31:22, Ps. 88, Isa. 50:10) yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; (1 John 3:9, Luke 22:32, Job 13:15, Ps. 73:15, Ps. 51:8, 12, Isa. 50:10) and be the which, in the mean time, they are supported from utter despair. (Micah 7:7-9, Jer. 32:40, Isa. 54:7-10, Ps. 22:1, Ps. 88)"*

B. Sometimes our assurance of salvation \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes it is \_\_\_\_\_ - it can be \_\_\_\_\_, there can be an intermittence where it seems to be gone

C. Reasons:

1. Sometimes we are just \_\_\_\_\_ at preserving our assurance ... we're not paying much attention to it, and it dips because we're ignoring it
2. Sometimes we fall into some special \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ our conscience and \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit
3. Sometimes we are confronted with a sudden and vehement \_\_\_\_\_, and we are just wondering what is going on here
4. Sometimes God \_\_\_\_\_ the light of His countenance, and He \_\_\_\_\_ even those who fear Him to walk in darkness for a time
5. Sometimes we get \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ not in God but in ourselves, and we need to be reminded that we are dust and ashes

D. As we go through these crises, we \_\_\_\_\_ lose our salvation, but we may, for a time, lose the \_\_\_\_\_ of our salvation

#### V. How Can I Regain Lost Assurance?

A. James 4:8-10 - *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."*

B. Give yourself once again, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to \_\_\_\_\_

C. This is not in order to \_\_\_\_\_ salvation or \_\_\_\_\_ lost salvation ... you're saved, and now you want to show your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God by saying, "Lord, help me once again to obey your Word."

D. As you begin again, \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word, that is going to be part of the building up of your assurance