

- I. Introduction: The “Dangerous” Doctrine of Assurance of Salvation
 - A. The Danger of Presumption (Matt 3:7-10; Rom 2:1-4)
 - B. The Danger of Antinomianism/Lawlessness (2:1)
- II. Assurance through the Mark of Faith in God's Testimony (5:11-13; John 14:6)
- III. Assurance through The Mark of Obedience (2:1; 2:3; 3:24)
- IV. Assurance through The Mark of Love (3:14, 18-19; 4:16)
- V. Assurance through the Spirit's Presence and Internal Testimony (4:13; Rom 8:15-16; Eph 1:13-14; 2 Cor 1:21-22)

WCF: CHAPTER 18. Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.
2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.

Westminster Larger Catechism Q 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation? A. Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him, may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made, and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. Have you struggled to grow in your assurance of salvation?
2. How would Pastor-Elder-Apostle John counsel you to grow in your assurance?
3. Does assurance of salvation inevitably lead to presumption or lawlessness? How does a mature assurance guard against these things?