

Full Assurance of Faith - radio

The scripture for our sermon today is found in the book of Hebrews, chapter 10.

What do you want from God to have full assurance of faith?

“19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 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. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)” (Heb. 10:19-23).

I’ve entitled this sermon, “Full Assurance of Faith.”

1. What God promised before (Heb. 10:16-17; Jer. 31:31-34)
2. That God said He would do all He promised (Ezek. 36:36)
3. That Christ our Mediator, the Son of God, did the will of God (Heb. 10:5-7)
4. That Christ obtained all for His people by what He did (Heb. 9:12,15, 24,26; 10:10,14) and now appears in the presence of God for us as our High Priest.
5. That God says He sees only Christ for His people
6. That God tells us to only look to Christ
7. That God tells us in so looking we are to come boldly into His presence by Jesus’ blood and righteousness, depending on His intercession (Rom. 8:34). To do otherwise is disobedience to the Gospel (Rom. 10:3-4; Gal. 3:1-2; 5:1-7).

What God promised before

The Holy Spirit also is a witness to us

- The Spirit of God knows the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:9-10; Rom. 8:26-27).
- He reveals the deep things of God, His mind, His will. And He breathes out God's will in scripture.

- That will is His covenant of grace. This is what the Spirit of God moved Jeremiah and Ezekiel to write before.
- Thus, our first evidence or reason for assurance, is the recorded will of God. God said beforehand what He would do. My assurance begins here. Unless God said it, I have no basis for assurance. We are exhorted to enter into the holiest boldly with a true heart in full assurance of faith. The first reason given why we ought to have full assurance is what God said before He would do: He spoke His mind by His Spirit and recorded it in scripture long before it came to pass. This serves to remove pride from man, because man could not contribute if he was not present and did not know about until it was finished - Christ seated in glory.
- God has a will. That will is documented in scripture. The Spirit of God spoke by Jeremiah in chapter 31:31-34. He spoke the same covenant by Ezekiel in chapter 36:23-37.
- Notice what He said in Ezekiel 36:36, "I the LORD have spoken it, I will also do it."

Second evidence

- This is the second evidence for assurance: God's New Covenant is a covenant in which He does all that is necessary to fulfill His promise. Two of the promises in that covenant are mentioned here in Heb. 10:16-17. God would write His laws on the hearts of His people, and He would put away their sins so that He would remember their sins no more.
- The covenant that is mentioned here in Heb. 10:16-20 and in Heb. 8:8-12 is therefore the same covenant that the Spirit of God spoke by the mouth of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
- And, it is the same covenant spoken of in the book of Galatians. In Gal. 3:8, Paul says "the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed" (Gal. 3:8).

We know that this is the same covenant for several reasons. First, the promises are the same in both. In Galatians, God promises to justify His people and He promises to give them His Spirit. These are the two promises of Heb. 10:16-17. Justification

occurs because God has removed the sins of His people. The Spirit of God is given in writing God's law on their hearts. That law is all that God required of Christ to fulfill His covenant of grace, and all that Christ did to fulfill it. The Spirit of God writes the Gospel on our hearts and enables us to live by faith. We live by the faith of the Son of God (Gal. 2:20).

We also know that these are the same covenant because in both places, (1) God makes the promise; His promise does not depend in any way on those to whom the promise is made. (2) God does all of the work to fulfill His own promise. All covenants in scripture come down to only two: the covenant of works and the covenant of grace (Gal. 4:24).

In Galatians, God promised to justify, not only those born as Jews, but the heathen also, all those who like Abraham look to Christ as everything in their salvation. Faith in Christ is the law God writes by His Spirit on our hearts (Acts 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; Rom. 1:5; 6:17; 10:16; 16:25-26; 2 Thess. 2:13; Gal. 3:1; 5:5; 2 Cor. 3:18). The law in Exodus through Deuteronomy is to the Old Covenant what the book of Hebrews is to the New Covenant, the Gospel (Rev. 14:6).

Also in Galatians, God promised to give His Spirit to live in those whom He justified. In Gal. 3:13-14 God says how He would accomplish His work to fulfill these two promises. *“Christ **hath** redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”* (Gal. 3:13-14).

See here that:

- The promise God spoke is fulfilled.
- That the promise is fulfilled through Jesus Christ.
- That He fulfilled the promise when He redeemed His people, bearing their sins and the curse for them.
- That the promise of the Spirit **flows** as a result of Christ obtaining redemption.

Now, the other thing to note in Galatians 3 is that this covenant of promise in which God obligates Himself to fulfill the promise, is in contrast to the law of Moses, the ten commandments and all of the laws given by God to Moses. How is it in contrast?

- In the law, God made a covenant with Israel. He gave the requirements of the covenant to Moses, who gave them to Israel. Those requirements were documented on stone tables and in the book of the law. They placed conditions on each individual in Israel that made their life and blessings dependent upon their own personal obedience. If they failed to keep the conditions, God's curse came upon them. It was a covenant between God and the people. The people agreed to be bound (Ex. 24:3,7) by those laws. The covenant was not merely a list of rules, but the principle of personal blessing for personal obedience and cursing for personal disobedience.
- This covenant is called "the law" in Galatians and in Hebrews. It is a covenant of works, because God places requirements on man that he must keep. Life and blessings from God all depend on our own personal obedience.

In contrast, the covenant spoken of in Heb. 10:16-17 is a covenant of grace, because it is based on God alone. In the covenant of grace, God promises, and God does all that He promised.

As we look for reasons for assurance in Hebrews, therefore, the **first** basis for assurance is, **The Spirit of God tells us God's mind, His will, beforehand.** And the **second** reason for assurance is that **God said that He will do all that He promised.** No promise in that covenant depends in any way on those to whom the promises are made.

What Christ did

The **third** thing in Hebrews that gives us assurance is what Jesus Christ did. Now, notice, in the OT, God gave His will to Moses, and the people were required to do that will. Moses was the mediator of the covenant between God and Israel. The

mediator gave the covenant conditions to the people from God and returned their agreement to keep that covenant.

But in the New Covenant, Christ is the Mediator. He does not give the requirements to the people, the beneficiaries of the promises, but He Himself is the One who performs all things for them “*I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me*” (Ps. 57:2).

In the covenant of grace, God acts alone. The Son of God, in the covenant of grace performs all of the will of God.

“*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us*” (2 Cor. 1:20). He is the “*Seed*” in the covenant God made with Abraham, the One to whom all promises were made. The promises are made to Christ on condition that He fulfill the conditions. For Him, it is a covenant of works. But as Mediator in the covenant of grace, those promises are made to His people “*in Him.*” The promises are sure because they are made to Him and He fulfills the conditions. On fulfillment of all conditions, God gives the blessings promised.

Now, the conditions of the New Covenant are summarized as “*the will of God*” that Christ came to do. The Spirit of God prophesied what the Lord Jesus Christ would say when He came to fulfill this covenant. “*When he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God*” (Heb. 10:5-7). It would be correct to say that the entire reason why our Lord Jesus came into the world was to do the will of God. And that will was to fulfill the conditions of the covenant God made with Him for His people so that the promised blessings might be given to them. God required the Lord Jesus to make atonement for the sins of the people. God’s justice was never satisfied with all of the sacrifices made under the OT. Satisfaction to His justice was never the goal of that covenant. It served a different purpose. It was given to reveal the universal sinfulness of man.

It was given to shut men up to their utter helplessness under the guilt of their sin and bondage to their sin nature. For some 1,500 years, the law made this point abundantly clear. All are guilty before God (Rom. 3:19). Man's best is nauseating, disgusting to God (Isa. 64:6). Man is utterly enslaved to sin. He is positively opposed to God. His mind is enmity against God (Rom. 8:7). The law makes this clear. It finds man guilty. It shows his very nature to be sin. It locks him up under a covenant that he cannot fulfill. And it shows that he has fallen short of the glory of God. He will not glorify God. He is under the curse of the law. The law of Moses required the people to offer sacrifices. It required a priesthood. It required a tabernacle. It required endless offerings to be made. All of this foreshadowed what Christ would do. Hebrews 10 says that the sacrifices never ended because sin was never put away. The law never perfected one thing. And this was the purpose of God in giving the law: to shut man up to his sin so that when God fulfilled His covenant of promise, the covenant of grace, there could be no doubt but that it was all God's doing, all in spite of my sin, all because of His grace alone. Man can take NO credit! God must have all the glory!

To do the will of God is why Jesus came into the world. He must give Himself a ransom for many. To do so, He must take on flesh and blood. "*There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*" (1 Tim. 2:5). Therefore, when coming into the world, He says, "*a body hast thou prepared me*" (Heb. 10:5).

Now the third reason for our assurance comes into view. God not only said what He would do, God not only placed all obligations to fulfill the conditions of His promise on Himself, but the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the One in the Godhead who actually fulfilled all covenant obligations! "*I come to do Thy will O God!*" Throughout the NT Jesus repeats this claim over and over again. "I must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49). "*My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish His work*" (John 4:34). "*The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me*" (John 5:36). "**38 I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And *this is the Father's will which hath sent***

me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day” (John 6:38-39). “***17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again...This commandment have I received of my Father” (John 10:17-18). “*Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour*” (John 12:27). “*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. **32** And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me*” (John 12:31-32). “*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do*” (John 17:4). “*Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. **29** Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost*” (John 19:30).*

Which brings us to our text in Hebrews 10. As He was coming into the world He said, “*I come to do thy will O God.*” Now, listen carefully. **Every condition required in God’s covenant of grace is fulfilled in what Jesus did here!!** Every condition is fulfilled (Matt. 5:17)! **Our assurance rests upon the fact that God willed to do, God promised what He would do, God obligated Himself alone to do and now the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God here takes on a human body and soul that He might do the everlasting will of God!!** Listen to what Jesus told His disciples in “*This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*” Matt. 26:28)! What is our Lord saying here in Hebrews 10 and in Matt. 26?! He is saying that when He poured out His soul to death, He fulfilled the everlasting will of God in order that He might save, justify, sanctify, perfect and bring His people to God! These are the promised blessings of the NT! Hebrews 13 calls tells us that the blood Jesus shed to do the will of God is “*the blood of the everlasting covenant*” (Heb. 13:20)! Revelation 14:6 says God sent His messenger to “*preach the everlasting gospel*” to every kindred, tongue, people and nation on the earth. The Gospel is the telling out of the NT in Christ’s blood! It declares God’s everlasting will to save His people by the doing and dying of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:11)! The New Covenant, the covenant of grace, which is the Gospel, is not called “new” because God

established it after the Old Covenant. It is everlasting. But the Gospel of God's everlasting grace was not revealed until after it was completed (Isa. 52:15; Eph. 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:10-11) (except to a very limited extent)! It is new because it is newly fulfilled. And it is new because it is newly revealed. In this way, all pride is kept back from man, because man could not contribute to it if he did not know. In fact, because he did not know it, man only served to carry out the will of God by crucifying the Lord of Glory (Acts 3:15; 1 Cor. 2:8)! Man's contribution was to kill the Son of God! Not until Christ was seated on His throne did He send His preachers to preach this everlasting Gospel!

Now, our assurance is based on the fact that **first, our great God tells us what He promised before it is done** (Heb. 10:16-17). **Second, He tells us that He would do all that He promised** (Ezek. 36:36). Nothing would be left to sinful man! And **third, He tells us that He did what all that He said by His Son**. Christ fulfilled the law and the prophets (Matt. 5:17)! These are the greatest reasons for assurance! But to go further, **the fourth reason for our assurance is that the Spirit of God now tells us in Hebrews what Christ actually obtained by His work!** Jesus actually obtained what God promised! He actually obtained eternal salvation for all of His people!

He not only gave Himself a ransom, but He **obtained eternal redemption** (Heb. 9:12). He not only gave Himself for our sins, but He delivered us from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4). He actually redeemed His people from all of their transgressions, those sins under the covenant of works, in order that they might receive the promise of **eternal inheritance** (Heb. 9:15). Listen to the proclamation of this everlasting Gospel very carefully, “**8** *When he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9* *Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11* *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12* *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, **sat down on the right hand of God;** 13*

From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified' (Heb. 10:8-14).

Can you see it? Christ offered Himself to God for the sins of His people. He offered Himself once only! He gave all. He held nothing back! When God gave His Son, when Christ gave Himself, He gave the wealth of heaven! **God acted alone!** Man only contributed his sin! Christ took away the first covenant! He did away with that principle by which men come to God on the basis of what they do! The best that Old Covenant could do was foreshadow what Christ would actually accomplish! By His one offering, Jesus Christ forever made His people holy to God; He sanctified them forever! He perfected them! Nothing can be added to what He has done to make them one whit more pleasing, more righteous, more acceptable to God! Throw down all evil thoughts of coming to God in any other way! Eternal redemption has been obtained! By Himself He purged our sins (Heb. 1:3)! On that day our great High Priest made atonement for His people, cleansing them from all their sins, according to the ancient promise. *“For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD”* (Lev. 16:30)! Everlasting righteousness is established in His obedience to the will of God (Dan. 9:24)! God Himself tells us what Christ did and what He obtained by what He did! **This is the fourth reason for our utmost assurance! All has been obtained by our Savior!!**

Now, there is yet more! **There is yet a fifth reason for full assurance of faith!** Not only did God say before what He would do. Not only did He say that He would do all by Himself. Not only did He tell us that He would do all and finished all of His will by His Son. And not only does He tell us what Christ accomplished. But **the fifth reason for our utmost assurance is that God tells us that we are to only consider what He Himself considers for His people.** We are to reckon as true all that He sees in Christ for His people! God tells us that He looks only to Christ, and He tells us that we are to only look to Christ (Isa. 45:22)! This is what “full assurance of faith” means! It means we see what God sees. We are to see that the truth of the Gospel, the eternal truth of God, that will that was in His heart from eternity, which He gave to His Son to fulfill before the world began, which Christ

accomplished, is the whole truth about the way things are between me and God (2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:18-20; Rev. 13:8; Heb. 13:20; Eph. 1:3-7)! Our great God and Father tells us to look upon Christ and see in Him all that He requires of sinners, all that we as sinners must have to boldly come to Him! Everything God says that Christ obtained by His death is declared by God because He received all He required for His people from Christ! Sins are no more remembered because full remission has been received! Eternal redemption is obtained because full ransom has been paid! Everlasting righteousness is established because all has been fulfilled (Rom. 10:4). Eternal inheritance is given because God has received from Christ all He required for His people! God looks only on His Son and declares to His people that He sees them as Christ, by His offering, by fulfilling His will, has made them. *“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve”* (Jer. 50:20). *“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel”* (Num. 23:21). *“Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: **31** That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord”* (1 Cor. 1:30). *“In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him”* (Col. 2:9-10). Do you see what God sees? How do we know that God received all from Christ? Because He exalted Him to His throne! *“What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour”* (Esther 6:6)?! This is what. *“**8** being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Ph. 2:9)! Do you see what God sees?! He says, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased! Hear ye Him”* (Matt. 17:5)! Look upon Him! See Him exalted, having accomplished all, and having obtained all for His people, all by Himself (Heb. 1:3)! He alone was found worthy to take the book of God’s everlasting covenant, fulfill it, reveal it, and give the promised blessings and eternal inheritance promised in it (Rev. 5)! Our Lord Jesus did not do what He did

for Himself. He acted to God for His people. He came to serve God and them by giving Himself for His people. But He did have a reward in view! His reward is His people! Nothing so delighted our Lord than to do the will of God, because it was in His Father's heart from eternity. But He did have a reward in mind. That reward was His people. He gave Himself for us that He might have His people for Himself! Our great God and Savior is so selfless in His heart that His greatest crown of rejoicing (Luke 15; Zep. 3:17) is to have His people, to bring them and present them to Himself without spot or wrinkle, in love! Nothing more greatly endears our Savior to us than that His greatest joy is to have His people as His own Bride, and that for us, He would give Himself for our sins! *"25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"* (Eph. 5:25-27)! And He tells us what He sees because of what He has done. *"Thou art all fair, my love! I see no spot in thee"* (Song 4:7)!

Now, we must come to the final point. It is because our Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled and obtained every blessing from God that He promised for His people in that everlasting covenant of grace that He now tells us how to come! When we see and are persuaded that Christ has obtained all in fulfillment of God's everlasting promise to His people, on the grounds of Christ only, the Spirit of God says, *"Having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having a High Priest over the house of God; 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. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised"* (Heb. 10:19-23)! How are we to come? We are to come looking only to Christ, fully persuaded that all God promised, the Lord Jesus obtained for us by Himself! It is done! We are therefore to come boldly looking to Christ alone, as God Himself sees Him as our all and tells us to come seeing Him as our all! His blood, His broken body, His High Priestly appearing in the presence of God for us is all of our

assurance in coming! Assurance of faith is not being assured I am saved. It is not looking for evidence in myself for God's work in me. It is looking away to Christ crucified, and coming and living on Him alone! A true heart is a heart that sees that every law of the New Covenant, all that God requires of me, He has laid on His Son, and Christ has fulfilled all. It is seeing that Christ actually obtained my eternal salvation by Himself, and is now seated on the throne of glory! A true heart does not look for improvements in myself as the basis for assurance. I cannot remove one sin from my evil heart! I cannot take away the guilt of one sin! The law proves that I am a slave of sin in my nature, that I cannot do one thing of all that God requires! I am therefore shut up to Christ alone! Now, the everlasting Gospel declares that Christ has obtained everlasting salvation for His people! by His one offering, He actually perfected forever all those God gave to Him! God Himself tells me to come to Him by this blood and righteousness alone! To fail to submit to this Gospel, to fail to trust Christ as my all (Rom. 10:3-4) is refusal to submit to God's righteousness! It is to presume to make the death of Christ worthless! O, sinner! It is to imagine there is something I can add to what Christ did, and what God said He only could do! Dear brother and sister in Christ! You have but one basis for full assurance before God! It is that Christ has finished your everlasting salvation by Himself, His blood, His broken body!