
INTRODUCTION: ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE (*Westminster Confession,18; Larger Catechism,80-81; Shorter Catechism,36; Heidelberg Catechism,1; see 2010 WFN in 1st John; also reformedvoice.com*)

I. WHAT IS ASSURANCE?

A. OBJECTIVE ASSURANCE THAT GOD'S SAVING WORD IS *TRUTH* (Jn.20:31)

1. ground that faith is rooted in (*cognizance, conviction, commitment*; Heb6:11f,17f /Ps119:160; Jn17:17; Ro3:4)
2. testimony of multiple, credible witnesses (Dt.19:15; Lk.1:1f; Acts 1:1f; Jn.20:31)
3. supporting evidence of miracles (Ex.4:1f; 28f; Dt.18:21f; Jn.10:25f; 14:11; Heb.2:4; see 1Cor.11:24f)
4. sum: assurance that God saves *sinner*s (Jn20:31; 1Jn3:5 /Ex20:1f; Lev16:21; Jn3:16; Acts2:38; 2Co.5:21)

B. SUBJECTIVE ASSURANCE THAT GOD'S SAVING TRUTH IS *MINE* (1Jn.2:13, *etc.*; see WFNs!)

1. know for certain that God is *your* Father (Rom.8:15f; see Lk.11:2f,11f,13)
2. know for certain that God has chosen and called *you* to salvation (2Pt.1:10)
3. know for certain that *you* have eternal life (1Jn.5:13; see 1Cor.10:16; Jn.6:54)
4. sum: assurance that God saves *this* sinner! (Jn.20:31 with 1Jn.5:13)

C. A CLOSELY RELATED PAIR (Heb.6:17,18; see Jn.20:31; 1Jn.5:13)

II. HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?

A. A GIFT FROM GOD (Rom.5:5; 8:15,16; 1Cor.2:12; 1Jn.3:24; 4:13; 2Pt.1:3,4; see Lk.11:13; see Eph.2:5-8)

B. THE INTERNAL WORD OF THE SPIRIT (Rom.8:16; Gal.4:6)

C. THE EXTERNAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT

1. keep commandments (1Jn.2:3,5,29; 3:18,19,24; 5:18f; 2Pt.1:10,5f; see Ex.20:1f)
2. keep the great commandment (1Jn.3:14; 5:2; see Mt.22:37,39)
3. summary: assured of life by fruit (Mt.12:32f; Lk.6:43f; Gal.4:6 with 5:22f/19f; 2Pt.1:8; Eph.2:5-10)

III. WHAT NOW?!

A. BE ASSURED OF TRUTH TO BE SAVED! (Jn.20:31; see Acts 2:38; 17:31; Rom.4:21; Col.2:2; 2Tm.3:14; Heb.6:11; 10:22)

B. BE ASSURED OF YOUR SALVATION TO PERSEVERE! (Rom8:14-25; Hb6:11; 2Pt1:1-11; 1Jn2:18; 3:2)

C. ASK FOR THE GIFTS OF SALVATION AND ASSURANCE! (Eph.2:5-8; Lk.11:13; Rom.5:5; 8:15f)

D. PRODUCE THE FRUIT OF ASSURANCE! (Lk.6:43f; Eph.2:5f,10; Gal.4:6 w/5:22f)

E. BEWARE OF FALSE ASSURANCE! (1Jn.4:1 w/1:6,7; 3:5,15; 5:18(3:4f); Mt.7:23)

F. GUARD YOUR GIFT OF ASSURANCE! (Eph.4:30,25f /Ps.51:11 /Ps.22:1f; 77:7f; Job 13:15; Mic.7:7f)

G. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AND MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THAT YOU LOVE THEM! (see Rom.5:5; 8:15f; Lk.11:1-11; Mt.22:37,39; Eph.5:22ff)