

Full Assurance of Salvation: Introduction

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Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church
Hebrews 6:9-11 & 10:19-25

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*“But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 **And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end...** 10:19 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;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

We spent the last 14 sermons speaking on Blessed Assurance in Salvation and I would like to follow that up with a new series entitled Full Assurance of Salvation. I will be addressing those who are saved, but if you are outside Christ this morning, may our Great God allow some of the crumbs to fall into your lap so that you can experience both the grace of salvation and the joy of assurance. This morning's sermon is the introduction to our new series. There are 4 things I would like to present to you:

I. Assurance is Found in God's Provision.

A. Christ's Finished Work. (John 19:30, "...It is finished...")

B. Christ's Final Work. (Once for all Heb.10:10)

C. Christ's Fulfilled Work. (Satisfaction/Substitution Isa.53:11)

D. Christ's Faithful Work. (Mediator as a Faithful High Priest Heb.2:17)

II. Assurance is Found in God's Permanence.

III. Assurance is Found in God's Promises.

IV. Assurance is Found in God's Power.

Now, it's one thing to experience salvation, that is, to be saved or born again, but it is another thing to experience the essence of a full assurance of that salvation which at times can be challenging and or difficult. The subject of assurance is critical, essential and necessary to our everyday walk because lack of assurance will affect and influence our walk before God and before men. Therefore this is a most important subject that should be embedded in our souls and hearts to help us in our pilgrimage walk, knowing that one day assurance will become a reality because when we die we shall evermore be with our Lord.

Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:6 & 21, “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” When a Christian dies, that is a bona-fide Christian, not a professing Christian, but a ‘true possessing of Christ’ Christian, when he or she dies, death is GAIN! This is the assurance we need to live by that when we die, that is, when a true Christian dies they are transferred to heaven’s abode. This is why the writer of Solomon says in, Ecclesiastes 7:1, “*A good name is better than precious ointment; and **the day of death (is better) than the day of one's birth.***” Why? Well because the day of our birth we are born into this world in sin, born into this world lost and without God and without hope, but in the day of a true Christian’s death we are save and delivered from sin and death and ushered into the glory of glories of HEAVEN! Again, “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” This is our hope, our LIVING HOPE; this hope is a catalyst for our assurance. Titus 1:2 & 3:7, “*In **hope of eternal life**, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to **the hope of eternal life.***” When we have great assurance of salvation, we have that good hope through grace which is the HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE which results in great JOY!

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in John 10:10, “*...I am come that they might have life, and **that they might have it more abundantly.***” In Isa 61:10 we are also comforted with these words, “***I will greatly rejoice** in the LORD, **my soul shall be joyful in my God**; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” One of the blessings and benefits of salvation is the blessing of joy, being joyful even in the midst of trials and circumstances, knowing that going through these things or anything else will not change our standing with God. This is why the word of God abounds with verses of JOY:*

- Neh 8:10, “*...**for the joy of the LORD is your strength.***”
- Isaiah 51:11, “*Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: **they shall obtain gladness and joy**; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.”*
- Isaiah 52:9, “***Break forth into joy**, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.”*
- Isaiah 55:12, “***For ye shall go out with joy**, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”*
- John 15:11, “*These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and **that your joy might be full.***”
- John 17:13, “*And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that **they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.***”

- Romans 5:11, “And not only so, **but we also joy in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”
- Romans 14:17, “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, **and joy in the Holy Ghost.**”
- Romans 15:13, “Now **the God of hope fill you with all joy** and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”
- 1 Peter 4:13, “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, **ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**”
- 1 John 1:4, “And these things write we unto you, **that your joy may be full.**”

Joy is associated with assurance, because to possess a full assurance of salvation, it constitutes and creates such a blessing to the soul that it results in great joy, that we can say again with Isaiah “**I will greatly rejoice** in the LORD, **my soul shall be joyful in my God;** for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” What blessing is the joy of assurance! Now, we also need to understand that in like manner assurance is a most needful element in our physical lives, that is, husbands need assurance from their wives and vice versa, also children, on our jobs, finances etc., we are creatures of emotions. We are not like animals; we have feelings and emotions that are very vital to our everyday lives. How can a person function fully if lack assurance in some of those important aspects of our lives? There is no difference in the spiritual realm; lack of assurance will affect our walk and faith.

Therefore, when we lack assurance it will affect us and sometimes it causes us to be lethargic and languishing, and at times cold and ineffective for our LORD Jesus Christ which results in lack of joy. Therefore instead of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ we are declining and sinking into despondency. William Plummer says, “True believers may have the assurance of their salvation shaken divers ways, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin, which wounds the conscience and grieves the Spirit, by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and allowing even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light...this assurance may in due time be revived, and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.” When David fell into sin and lack assurance, it robbed him of the joy of salvation and let him into severe depression and dejection which is the reason he wrote Psalm 51. Turn there quickly and let look at this blessed Psalm. This is what happens when we lack assurance, not that we lost salvation as some foolishly teach but that we have lost the JOY OF SALVATION as David says in verse 12, “Restore unto me **the joy of thy salvation;** and uphold me

with thy free spirit." Thus, when we lack assurance we can lose the joy of salvation. What are some of reasons why we might lose the joy of assurance or lack assurance in our lives?

There are at least 7 reasons why we sometimes lack assurance and or the joy of salvation:

1. Sin. 2. The Flesh. 3. The World. 4. Satan. 5. Temptation. 6. Unbelief 7. Being unfaithful!

These 7 are just some of the few things that can cause a child of God to live without assurance which again will affect our spiritual walk and growth. I believe God wants us to have assurance and therefore the problem is not with God but with us. This is our responsibility to seek assurance before God and only can give us assurance. If we do not have assurance it's hard to have abundant life, not saying that you don't have life, but not abundantly. How sad that we vacillate back and forth, but with God's grace, may He grace to live in assurance. We must look to Christ alone for assurance, Heb. 12:2, "**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Jesus Christ is the only complete all sufficient Savior that helps weary heavy laden saints. He says to us, come to me and I will give you rest. Christ is the only person that can give us rest and peace. May He be pleased to grace you with rest and peace this morning, may He be pleased to bless you with assurance if you are lacking it this morning, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

"The greatest thing that we can desire—next to the glory of God—is our own salvation; and the sweetest thing we can desire, **is the assurance of our salvation**. In this life we cannot get higher, than to be assured of that which in the next life is to be enjoyed. All saints shall enjoy a heaven when they leave this earth; some saints enjoy a heaven while they are here on earth. That saints might enjoy **two heavens...**"
Joseph Caryl.

Col 2:2, "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of **the full assurance of understanding**."

Let us pray.

Let us sing either Ps.51:10-13 or Isaiah 61:10