

How does love teach us about assurance?

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Introduction: How can one be sure that another is serious about a transaction?

- A. God wants us to know that He is trustworthy and merciful. **(Micah 7:18-20)**
 - 1. Because men have not looked carefully at the character of God they have failed to see the strongest assurance possible of the salvation God gives.
 - 2. When men do not trust in God then their salvation becomes some form of trusting and boasting in men. **(Eph 2:8-9)**
- B. Many who have been raised in religious homes do not have this assurance.
 - 1. Let us learn to think as God does. How can we know that we are saved?
 - 2. We are saved by a living faith that works! **(1 Jn 5:11-13)**
 - 3. When we stand before God on what basis will He let us in?

I. The Cross of Christ gives assurance

- A. What is “salvation?” - salvation, deliverance; (1) physically, as rescue from danger *deliverance, preservation, safety* (HE 11.7); (2) as a religious technical term *safety of the soul* in a spiritual sense *salvation* (2C 7.10); (3) of the messianic deliverance at the end of the present age *salvation* (RO 13.11)
 - 1. Why did Jesus have to shed His blood? **(1 Pt 1:18-19; 2 Cor 5:20-21)**
 - 2. We must understand that salvation comes through the sacrifice of Christ.
- B. The love of God is extended to us unconditionally. **(Rom 5:6-8)**
 - 1. How much further away from God can you get than being an enemy?
 - 2. The love of God is also individual, He died for me.
 - 3. Much of the efforts Satan makes are in the area of distorting God’s character or distorting God’s plan. How many have turned away from God because they had too bad of a past?
 - 4. Paul often tells others the vivid example of his salvation and the implications this has for all men. **(1 Tim 1:12-16)**
- C. Would God do these things and then make it impossible for men to be saved?
 - 1. When people come up with hypotheticals, doubts about the transmission of the Bible, questions about division in the religious world to create doubt in you, think again of the message of the cross. **(Rom 8:31-35)**
 - 2. Please do not think that others or even God *has more to do* before you can be saved. **(Rom 10:6-10; Acts 22:16)**

II. God has given Christians the “earnest” of the Spirit for our assurance

- A. There are actions God takes after we are saved that give us assurance. **(Eph 1:13-14; 2 Cor 1:21-22)**
 - 1. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is described as an “earnest” (guarantee –NKJ).
 - 2. **Earnest** - transliterated from the Hebrew; literally, as a legal and commercial technical term, an advance transaction that guarantees the validity of a contract or a full purchase price *down payment, first installment, pledge*; figuratively in the NT, of the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers (2C 1.22)
 - 3. What is “earnest money” compared to the full value? **(Eph 3:20-21)**

- B. The longer you serve God the more you will see His promises blessing your life.
 - 1. As we see this we are reminded that this is simply a small taste of heaven.
 - 2. We as Christians should be the most thankful, optimistic people on earth.
 - 3. As we abound in this thanksgiving we are motivated to serve. **(Phil 2:1-4)**
- C. These blessings from the Spirit come from the sword of the spirit. **(Eph 6:17)**
 - 1. The covenant we have from God gives us great privileges and most of all the presence and care of God Himself.
 - 2. It is so important that we understand the exceedingly great promises of God. **(2 Pt 1:3-4)**

III. We have a purifying hope that comes from the love of God. (1 John 3:1-4)

- A. “What manner of love,” this is something we will never fully comprehend. God does want us to often meditate on this. **(Eph 3:17-19)**
 - 1. **Manner** - an adjective referring to quality of *what sort* or *kind*? (LU 7.39); *what sort of people* (2P 3.11); in exclamations expressing admiration *how great, how wonderful* (1J 3.1) – Freiberg Lexicon
 - 2. We are “children of God.” What does this mean?
- B. What is the Christian’s hope?
 - 1. **Hope** - (1) as an expected and awaited good *hope, expectation, prospect* (AC 27.20)... (3) as expectation of a divinely provided future (*the hope*(CO 1.27); (4) as a Christian attitude of patient waiting... *hope* (1C 13.13); (5) ...*in (the) expectation of something* (RO 5.2); - Freiberg
 - 2. What are some motivations that God gives us to resist sin? Consider the actions of one engaged to be with the one he loves! **(2 Cor 11:2-4)**

IV. Some basic truths about assurance

- A. God’s conditional promises and God’s character is the basis of all assurance.
 - 1. I simply trust God in the promises that *He has given*. **(Rom 8:14-17)**
 - 2. I do not have to figure out every scenario or possible dilemma. Abraham thought he knew what God would do concerning Isaac. **(Heb 11:17-19)**
 - 3. I know that I do not have a perfect knowledge or a perfect obedience. I do know *the character of the God* that I serve and know that *I will be tested* as I seek Him and grow in my knowledge of His way
 - 4. I dare not proclaim another right with God on the basis of a “right attitude” or sincerity *alone*. I will address issues of understanding, or of right and wrong with all *who will open the scriptures with me*. God is the judge! **(1 Cor 4:3-4)**
- B. Jesus knew the character of God and let that be His assurance. **(Ps 22:3-5)**
- C. Others will see this assurance and be encouraged by it.
 - 1. How do you think Solomon viewed the last words of his father David? **(1 Chron 28:9)**
 - 2. Our children will know when we mean it. Also we can reflect God’s glory in our lives for the great benefit of our children.

Conclusion: We have great assurance before our God on the basis of a living faith!