

Assurance & Security

Insecurity is awful. It's awful if you don't feel safe and secure in your home at night or if you don't feel secure and loved in your family. It is even more unpleasant to not feel safe and secure in who you are before God.

No matter how secure or insecure your life, your childhood, your finances, or your emotional state, God wants all those who are His children through faith in Jesus to know that they are loved and secure.

Sometimes this truth is called 'eternal security' or 'eternal salvation'. Regardless of the terms that are used, the Bible contains wonderful truths that assure the child of God of His love and protection. These truths help us overcome insecurity, fear and doubt.

According to 1 John 5:13, God wants us to know that we have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

God doesn't want us to be in any doubts about our standing before Him. He wants true believers to live lives of confidence, assurance, and security. He also wants to reveal where people have been deceived into false assurances by unsubstantiated lies.

In this study, we are going to look at several Bible passages that explain more about the assurance and security that God wants us to have and what this means for us. In summary, this study will look at the truths that: everyone who believes on Jesus Christ...

- 1) is given the gift of eternal life which can never be taken away.
- 2) cannot be taken out of God's hand by anyone.
- 3) can never be separated from the love of God by anything.
- 4) is kept by the power of God.

KEY VERSE: 1 John 5:13 *'These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.'*

BOOKS TO MEMORISE: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, **Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK: Genesis 37-43

1. JOHN 5:16-24

In John 5, the Jews were trying to kill Jesus because He had healed a lame man on the Sabbath (v.16). They also tried to kill him because He called God His Father and claimed to work in the same way God does (v.17-18).

Jesus made further claims to deity in this passage

He does what He sees His Father do (v.19).

He is shown everything the Father does (v.20).

He can raise the dead just as the Father can (v.21).

He has been given all judgment from the Father (v.22).

He is to be honoured just as men honour the Father (v.23)

Then we come to John 5:24 where we read what Jesus does for those who hear His Word and believe on God who sent the Son:

John 5:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

What does God do for those who hear His Word and believe?

'hath everlasting life' - A PAST FACT

Life that continues forever is immediately given to those who hear Jesus' message and believe.

Notice the word 'hath'. This is a past tense version of *have* or *has* that indicates possession or ownership.

Once we believe, the giving of everlasting life is a 'done deal'.

Everlasting life is not: 1) something we have to work for, or 2) something that we are given if we live good or our good outweighs our bad.

'shall not come into condemnation' - A FUTURE ASSURANCE

There will never be a time that those who believe on Jesus will come into condemnation (judgment).

The idea here is a legal decision that is made the moment we believe on Jesus.

The moment we trust in Christ, we are justified (declared righteous).

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Once we are declared righteous, we will never stand trial again ('come into condemnation').

'is passed from death to life' - A PRESENT REALITY

The present standing of every believer on Christ is that He is already passed from death to life. He is 'dead to sin' and 'alive to God'.

Romans 6:11

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is forever united to Christ and therefore 'seated in heavenly places' in Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

2. John 10:7-13,24-31

In John 10, Jesus is seeking to establish the fact that He is the only way to God and all other ways to God are invalid.

Jesus is the door of the sheep - He is the only way in (v.7). The leaders in Israel who disagreed with Jesus are thieves and robbers, hurting the sheep, leading them astray and destroying them (v.8).

Jesus is the only way to be saved and satisfied (v.9). Jesus - in contrast with the thief (the false shepherd) who desires to steal, kill, and destroy - comes so that we might have life and have it more abundantly (v.10).

The way Jesus saves us is by giving His life for us (v.11). Others, rather than saving the sheep, seek to use the sheep for their own benefit (v.12). This very fact shows they are not true shepherds (v.13).

These statements of Jesus caused controversy and division among the leaders of Israel (v.19-21).

So, they came again and ask him if he is really the Christ, the Messiah, the chosen One of God (v.24)?

To paraphrase Jesus' response, He says, "That is what I have been saying and what all my works have been showing (v.25).

He goes on to tell them that:

Even though I do all these things, you still don't believe because clearly, you are not my sheep in my fold (v.26).

Those who are my sheep hear my voice (they listen to me), and I know them (as a result I know them and bring them into my fold), and they follow me (v.27).

John 10:27-30

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and my Father are one.

What does God do for those who hear Jesus' voice and are a part of His 'fold'?

'I give unto them eternal life' - His gift is life that never ends.

'They shall never perish' - There will never come a time that they will be lost or destroyed.

'Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand'

No one, no matter how strong, forceful, or determined, will steal them away from Christ. They are in His hand; He has them!

'My father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.'

As if to emphasise this point to the greatest degree, Jesus goes on to say about His Father who saves people in the first place, that He is greater than all and no man can pluck them out of His hand.

'I and my Father are one'

To be in Jesus's hand is to be in the Father's hand.

They are united in their commitment to keep us.

(Furthermore, the Holy Spirit also seals us, a description of the Spirit's keeping power.)

Unfortunately, those false shepherds grew angry again at being upstaged by such blatant claims and wanted to kill Him (v.31).

3. Romans 8:1,11-16,30-39

Romans 8 begins by letting us know there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

The theme of this chapter is the work that the Spirit does to help us live out our new lives.

The Spirit of God makes us alive spiritually and will one day make even our dead bodies alive physically (v.11).

The Spirit helps us to put to death the works of the flesh (v.13).

The Spirit leads us and assures us that we are the son of God, letting us know that we can call to our Father (v.14-15).

The Holy Spirit speak to us through the Word of God letting us know we are the children of God (v.16).

After discussing the work the Holy Spirit does to change us, we are reminded that God is going to glorify all whom He justifies (v.30).

God is for us, so no one can be against us (v.31).

His great love is shown in the fact that He did not spare His own Son (v.32).

No one can lay a charge to us, because God is the One who justifies us (v.33).

Satan may accuse us.

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Our sins may accuse us.

1 John 2:1-2

¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Our hearts might condemn us.

1 John 3:19-21

¹⁹ And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. ²⁰ For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

God is greater than all voices of accusation. His voice is the only One that matters. If He justifies us, then certainly He is not going to condemn us or deny us.

He will not go back on His Word.

2 Timothy 2:10–13

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹ It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: ¹² If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: ¹³ If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

He cannot lie. Eternal life is a promise of God. If He takes it away from us, then He has lied and that is something that God cannot do.

Titus 1:1–2

¹ Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; ² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

More promises from Romans 8:

The only One who could condemn us (God) will not, because God the Son, Jesus Christ is the One who died and rose again and is now making intercession for us (v.34).

Nothing and no one will separate us from the love of Christ (v.35-39).

God's love is extended to us through Christ Jesus (v.39).

We are loved in Christ. And in Christ, we are as secure as Christ is secure.

We are forever united to Christ and therefore we will always be accepted and never condemned!

4. 1 Peter 1:1-11

The Apostle Peter wrote to 'strangers' (sojourners, temporary residents) of all the places where they lived (v.1). Clearly, these strangers are believers because they are 'elect' through God's foreknowledge, the Spirit's sanctification, and the blood of Christ (v.2).

After addressing his audience of believers, Peter praises God for mercifully begetting (referring to the new birth) the believer unto a living ('lively') hope by the resurrection of Jesus (v.3).

The fact that Jesus Christ rose again from the dead gives us the confident expectation that what we have is real, that we will rise again, and that nothing, not even death, will thwart God's plan.

In 1 Peter 1:4, we see that our inheritance is certain.

1 Peter 1:4

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

'Incorruptible'

This means it cannot perish. It will not break down, tarnish, or corrupt.

'Incorruptible' is the same word used to describe God who is incorruptible and immortal.

Romans 1:23

And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

1 Timothy 1:17

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

'Undefiled'

This means free from stain or blemish.

It means pure; there is no impurity in our inheritance.

'Fadeth not away'

It will never lose its quality or its beauty.

'Reserved in heaven for you'

This inheritance is ours and it is reserved for us.

Reserved means guarded and kept.

In 1 Peter 1:5, we see that the power that keeps us is not us, but God!

1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The power that keeps us, our inheritance and our salvation is the power of God.

The same God who saves us is the same God who keeps us.

Jude 24-25

²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

When we believe on God, He keeps us unto salvation (deliverance) that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

The blessing of God's keeping power (1 Peter 1:6-11).

The keeping power of God should give us great joy, even though we go through many serious trials and troubles (v.6).

One day, Jesus is going to return and we will realise it was worth it all (v.7).

We should trust in this salvation that ultimately takes us out of this world and into God's presence forever (v.8-11).

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US?

1. The salvation God provides is eternal.

God gave Jesus so that those who believe on Him will never perish.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. Those who believe on Jesus are born into God's family which is an irreversible position and change.

John 1:12-13

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Those who come to Christ will never be cast out.

John 6:37-39 KJV 1900

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ³⁸ For 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.

He who started the work in us will complete it.

Philippians 1:6

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:

3. Our security is not based on our performance or our perfect living but upon the following:

a. The sure promises of God to save all who believe on Jesus.

Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

b. The work God does when He redeems us.

He justified us (declares us righteous).

He redeems us (sets us free by paying the price).

He is the propitiation for us (satisfies God's righteous demands for our sins)

He reconciles us (no longer enemies of God).

c. The terms of our salvation - faith alone.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

d. The changes that salvation makes.

There are real changes that come when we believe on Christ.

Look at **John 5:1-13**.

v.13 The things that are written are...

so that those who believe may know that they have eternal life, and
so that they would keep believing and have greater faith (assurance) in the
name of the Son of God.

What are these things that are written that assure us?

- 1) All that is necessary for salvation is to believe Jesus is the Christ, the chosen one of God, the Saviour (v.1).
- 2) Those who have believed will love God (v.1).
- 3) They will also love the children of God (v.2).
- 4) They will have a new desire, power, and delight in the commands of God (v.2-3).
- 5) They have met the one requirement - faith in God's chosen one, Jesus (v.4-5).
- 6) They have the Spirit bearing witness in their heart - changing them, stirring them up, speaking to them (v.6).
- 7) The message the Spirit gives us is found in God's Word (v.7-12).

This message is greater than any of man's messages.

This message is the truth that: God gave His Son. In the Son, we have eternal life. If we have the Son, we have life. If we have not the Son, we have not life.

Questions to consider:

Have you believed on Jesus as the Christ, the chosen one of God, sent into this world to die for you and who rose again?

Do you love God and do you love Jesus?

Do you love the children of God, the people of God, other Christians?

Do you desire to do and delight in the commands of God?

Do you have the Spirit in you, changing you and empowering you?

Have you obeyed the message of God?

Then, rest in that assurance.

Find the joy that comes from full assurance.

Rest in the security that you have, not because you are good person, but because

Christ is good. Christ has saved you. God has promised.

And the Holy Spirit is changing you.

If you have not believed...

If you don't see a change...

If you don't exhibit any characteristics of being in God's family...

Then believe on Christ today!

The only way to get in the family is to believe on Jesus.

Trust in Him completely, and He will save you, change you, and give you everlasting life. And you will have the assurance of eternal life as well.

BUILT TO STAND

P.L. Tan tells the following story in his *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*:

George W. Boschke was the famous engineer who built the gigantic sea wall to protect Galveston, Texas, from the horrible floods which had brought disaster to the city. He built his sea wall with a sure confidence of a thoroughgoing engineer and master workman.

From Galveston he went to Oregon to build railroads in an undeveloped section of the state. Boschke was in a camp forty miles away from the nearest railroad when an exhausted messenger rode in and handed a telegram to his assistant. The message said that the Galveston sea wall had been washed away by a second furious hurricane. The assistant was in consternation and dreaded to hand the telegram to his chief. Boschke read the telegram, smiled, handed it back and said, "This telegram is a black lie. I built that wall to stand."

He turned away and went about his work. It turned out that the message was based on a false report. True, there had been a hurricane as severe as that which had flooded the city before, but Boschke's sea wall had not been moved. It stood firm. "I built that wall to stand," said Boschke and went smiling about his work amid rumours of disaster.

The salvation of God has been built to stand and built to last.

Rumours of disaster might fill our hearts, but God is greater than our hearts.

We can trust His love, His Word, and His power!