

ASSURANCE: How to Know That You Have Eternal Life

Lesson Eleven • 1John 3:19-24

Blessed Assurance for Doubting Hearts

Watch Out!

One of the primary weapons fired by Satan at believers is DOUBT.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1Peter 5:8

A Father's Love for His Little Children

John wants to REASSURE our doubting hearts that we are God's children.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! 1John 3:1

And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 1John 3:19

Blessed Assurance for Doubting Hearts

1. When Our Hearts CONDEMN Us, Rest On the Basis of Assurance!

And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 1John 3:19-20

Our Condemning Hearts

Doubt often flows from and focuses on SELF-CONDEMNATION.

The Basis of Our Assurance

- Assurance is based on the knowledge of God's GRACE in us.

- Assurance is based on God's greater knowledge of US.

2. When Our Hearts Are CONFIDENT, Enjoy the Blessings of Assurance!

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 1John 3:21

The Blessings of Assurance

- We confidently know that God ANSWERS our prayers.

And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 1John 3:22-23

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." ~Jesus, John 14:13

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him. 1John 5:14-15

- We confidently know that God ABIDES in us by the Spirit.

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. 1John 3:24

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:15-16

Do You Have Blessed Assurance?

It's possible to be saved and yet have doubts. In such instances, we would be wise to take the threefold test in 1 John:

- Belief: *Do I really believe rightly about Jesus Christ?*
- Obedience: *Am I really obeying God as I ought to?*
- Love: *Is my love for one another what it should be?*