

ETERNAL SECURITY & ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

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C. H. Spurgeon is quoted as saying that he was so sure of his salvation that he could grab on to a cornstalk and swing out over the fires of hell, look into the face of the devil, and sing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!"

- **SCRIPTURAL assurance is related to Bible facts and is based upon the:**

- **Penalty that was paid** (Rom. 6:23 – “the wages of sin” with Gal. 3:13 – “being made a curse for us”; 1 Cor. 15:3 – “Christ died for our sins”; Matt. 1:21; Isa. 53:3, 10; John 19:30 - “It is finished” – *the penalty was paid, the redemptive price is accepted by God, which means I can do nothing to secure my salvation - Jesus paid it all!*),
- **Pardon of God** (Eph. 1:7 – “the forgiveness of sins”; 4:32, Col. 1:14; 2:13; 1 John 2:12; Micah 7:19 – “and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” - *with a sign that reads: “No fishing!”*),
- **Promise of eternal life, salvation, and redemption** (John 3:16; 6:47 – “everlasting life”; 10:28; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-12; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 1:2 – “hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”; Heb. 5:9 – “eternal salvation”; Heb. 9:12 – “eternal redemption”) – “*Once saved, always saved!*”),
- **Personal faith in Christ** (Eph. 2:8-9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith”; Gal. 3:26 – “children of God by faith in Jesus Christ”; Rom. 10:13; Acts 16:31; Heb. 10:22 – “full assurance of faith”),
- **Purpose of God’s sovereignty** (Rom. 8:28-30 – “the called according to his purpose”; John 17:12; Eph. 1:3-14; 2 Tim. 1:9 – *In God’s mind, we have been predestinated, called, justified, and glorified before the earth was ever formed!*),
- **Position in Christ** (Eph. 1:3 – “hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”; Eph. 1:6 – “accepted in the beloved”; 2:5, 13; Rom. 8:1; Heb. 10:14; 1 Cor. 1:2; 30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:3, 9 – “found in him”; Col. 1:21-22; 3:3; Gal. 2:4; 2 Tim. 1:9; 2:10; 3:15; Jude 1 – “preserved in Jesus Christ”),
- **Protected legally through justification** (Rom. 3:22-28 – “justified by faith”; 4:1-8; 5:25; 5:1, 9, 16; 8:30; Gal. 2:16, 24; Titus 3:7 – “justified by grace” Rom. 8:33 - “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? *It is God that justifieth*”),
- **Peace and acceptance before God** (Rom. 5:1 – “we have peace with God”, Rom. 5:10 – “reconciled to God”; Col. 1:20 – “having made peace through the blood of his cross”; Eph. 2:13 – *God accepts us!*),

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- **Propitiation of God** (1 John 2:2 – “propitiation for our sins”; Isa. 53:11 - *God is satisfied with the sacrifice of Christ*),
- **Power of God** (1 Pet. 1:5 – “kept by the power of God”; John 10:27-28 – “neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand”; 17:12 – “those that thou gavest me I have kept and none of them is lost”; 1 Pet. 2:25 – Bishop of your souls” – *Safe am I, in the hollow of His hand*),
- **Priestly work of Christ** (Hebrews 7:25 – “able to save them to the uttermost ... seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them”; Heb. 9:4 – “to appear in the presence of God for us”; Rom. 5:10 – “saved by his life;” Rom. 8:33-39 – “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” – *Christ maintains our salvation before God!*),
- **Past tense of our salvation experience** (1 Pet. 3:24 – “by his stripes ye were healed”; Eph. 2:1 - “who were dead in trespasses and sins” and Eph. 2:5 – “were dead in sins”; Rom. 5:10 - “were reconciled”; 1 Pet. 1:18 – “were ... redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ” Titus 3:5 and 2 Tim. 1:9 - “he saved us”),
- **Presence of God** (Heb. 13:5 – “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”; Matt. 28:20 – “I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” – *When we sin against Him, it does annul the promise that He gave us!*),
- **Parental relationship with God** (John 1:12 – “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God”; Galatians 4:6 - “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”; 1 John 3:1, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” – *A son can never lose his biological relationship with his father, the analogy is the same from a spiritual perspective – “Once a son of God, always a son of God!”*),
- **Permanent seal of God** (Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30 – “sealed unto the day or redemption” – *Our salvation is signed, sealed, and delivered!*),
- **Preservation of our name in the Book of Life** (Rev. 3:5 – “I will not blot his name out of the book of life”; Luke 10:20 – “your names are written in heaven”),
- **Perpetual birth of God** (John 3:7 – “born again”; 1 John 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Pet. 1:3 – “begotten us again unto a living hope” – *What is true biologically is also true spiritually – “You can’t be unborn!”*),
- **Persistent love of God** (Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” – *God loves you with an everlasting and unchanging love!*),

- **Planned reservation for God's children** - 1 Pet. 1:4 – “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”),
- **Particular work of God** (John 1:13 - “born ... of God”; *“It is God that justifieth”* - Rom. 8:33; Jonah 2:9 – “Salvation is of the LORD” – *Salvation is what Christ has done for us – not what we do for Christ!*),
- **Path to Heaven** (John 14:6 – “I am the way”; 1 Pet. 3:18 – “For Christ has suffered for sins ... that he might bring us to God”; Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other” – *Christ is the way to Heaven – not you!*),
- **Proclamation of the grace of God** (the *undeserved, unmerited, unending* kindness and favor of God – Eph. 2:8 - “by grace are ye saved”; 2 Tim. 1:9 – “saved us ... according to his own purpose of grace”; Acts 15:11 – “through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved”; Rom. 3:24 – “justified freely by his grace”; Eph. 1:7 - “the riches of his grace”; Rom. 6:14-15 - “ye are not under law, but under grace”) **GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense!**),
- **Preaching against law or legalism** (Eph. 2:8-9 – “that not of yourselves” and “not of works”; Titus 3:5 - “not by works of righteousness which we have done”; 2 Tim. 1:9 - “not according to our works”; Rom. 4:3 - “imputeth righteousness without works”; Rom. 6:14-15 - “ye are not under law, but under grace”; Rom. 3:21 - “without the law”; “Rom. 3:28 – “without the deeds of the law” – *Legalism is obtaining or keeping our salvation based upon human merit or works*),
- **Presentation of the mercy of God** (Titus 3:5 - “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us”; Eph. 2:4-5 - “God, who is rich in mercy ... hath quickened us”; 1 Tim. 1:13, 16 – “but I obtained mercy”; 1 Pet. 1:3 – “according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us” - **Mercy there was great and grace was free!*
- **Precious gift from God** (Rom. 6:23 - “the gift of God is eternal life”; Eph. 2:8 - “It (salvation) is the gift of God”; Rom. 5:15 - “the free gift” = righteousness; 2 Cor. 9:15 - “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” - *A gift cannot be earned!*),
- **Partaking of a free grace and Gospel message** (Rev. 22:17 - “take the water of life freely”; Rom. 8:32 - “freely give us all things”; Rom. 3:24 - justified freely by his grace”; Matt. 10:8 - “freely ye have received, freely give”; Isa. 55:1 – “and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” – *Salvation from start to finish is absolutely free!*),
- **Pronouncement of our liberty in Christ** (Gal. 5:1 – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” – *Don't be enslaved to a law/works system that condemns you for sin and failure (Rom. 3:19; 2 Cor. 3:6-7), which causes you to doubt your salvation, and to live in the fear of God's wrath and*

judgment). *Don't live "in bondage" (Gal. 4:9) to a works system that condemns you but can't save you, one that causes you to doubt your acceptance and salvation before God, a system that creates the fear of hell in your heart and keeps God's condemnation hanging over your head.

Liberty stems from our security in Christ. It liberates us from the fear of condemnation, God's wrath, hell, the burden and weight of sin, and not knowing we are saved. **Be free!** Salvation is free; God is not against you; He is your Father; He no longer condemns you; He accepts and loves you unconditionally and forever since "He that believeth on him (Christ) is not condemned" (John 3:18).

"I'm free from the fear of tomorrow,
I'm free from the guilt of the past,
For I've traded all my shackles for a glorious song,
I'm free, praise the Lord free at last."

SUBJECTIVE assurance is related to man's ideas, feelings, moods and is:

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- **Based upon human works or performance** ("we will do" - Ex. 19:8; Luke 18:18; Rom. 9:32; Gal. 2:16; 3:10) – **LEGALISM**,
- **Boasting of man's goodness** (Luke 18:21 – "All these have I kept from my youth up"; Rom. 3:12, 23, 27; Eph. 2:9) – **PRIDE**,
- **Bargaining with God** ("What good thing shall I do" - Matt. 19:16) – **LORDSHIP SALVATION**,
- **Blindly comparing oneself with other sinners** (Luke 18:11) – **JUDGMENTALISM**,
- **Believing Christian or church heritage saves** (John 8:33; John 1:13) - **AFFILIATION**,
- **Baptism and rituals instead of Christ** (Acts 15:1; Col. 2:8) - **SACRAMENTALISM**,
- **Being able to confess all known sins before death** (Luke 7:47) – **CONFESSION**.

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Confession and Christians: Confession of sin in 1 John 1:9 is for Christians ("My little children" – 1 John 2:1) – not the unsaved. Confession of sin is the basis for restored fellowship with God (Ps. 51:12) – not salvation and justification before God. Belief is the basis for justification (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16). There is a forgiveness related to our salvation and justification before God (IT OCCURS ONLY ONCE – 1 John 2:12; Rom. 3:24-27; 4:5-8) and a forgiveness necessary in the Christian life because of our son relationship with the Father (IT OCCURS MANY TIMES – 1 John 1:9).

Jesus did NOT give a promise of eternal life (John 3:16; 6:47) that was based upon confession of all our known sins throughout our existence on earth. The free gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23) was based upon belief (faith) and not the confession of our sins. This is because confession of sins does NOT save or resave us. Faith in Christ is what saves us (Acts 16:31; Gal. 3:26) eternally.

As the sons of God (John 1:12), our FAMILY FORGIVENESS (1 John 1:9) restores our fellowship, communion, and walk with our heavenly Father so we might “have fellowship one with another” (1John 1:7) – the believer with God. God applies the forgiveness, acceptance, and justification we ALREADY possess in Christ (Rom. 3:24) to the Christian’s daily experience, allowing the saint to restore his communion with God, without restoring his position of acceptance before God which eternal and unchanging. Blessed noontide truth!