

**COMMUNITY ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
**REASONS FOR OUR HOPE**  
**Lesson Five**

**THE FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH**

**Introduction.** No one appreciated the heavenly design more than the writer to the Hebrews:

*"Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." (Heb. 10: 19-22)*

Assurance is the confidence we have in the eventual outcome of our faith-commitment to God. Assurance, an old English word, is closely related to the idea of insurance or guarantee of our present reconciliation to God. We have been strengthened in our faith to the point of assurance in three ways: from the promises of God, from proofs of Christ's atonement and resurrection, and from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Paul referred to the Holy Spirit as *God's escrow deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the final redemption of those who are God's possession.* (Eph. 1:14)

**I. SOURCES OF FULL ASSURANCE**

**A. From The Promises Of God**

Once God has given us faith to believe, we have the same need as the Colossians, "*That we stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured*" (Col. 4:12). God's promises form a very secure foundation for full assurance because of who He is and the fact that He does not lie. Equally important is the confidence those promises produce within us when backed up by the fulfilled prophecies found in His Word. Our hope of salvation is based on the promises made not only to Israel, but to all who believe in Christ. From our study of the attributes of God we know His word teaches that God is truth. The scriptures continually verify that He keeps His promises. (1 Ki 8:56; Psa 145:13; Rom. 9:4 and Titus 1:2)

**1. To Abraham**

When God made His promise to Abraham that he was to be the father of many

nations, it meant that he was the father of all who would be made righteous by faith and God's grace. Like Abraham, we believe because God promised. Paul used promises made to the patriarch to teach Gentile converts they were heirs of Abraham through faith not by works of the Law. To assure the believers at Rome that they were in the family of God, he wrote:

*It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring-- not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. (Rom. 4:13, 16)*

**2. To the Prophets**

In the great faith chapter of Hebrews 11, the writer describes the suffering of the prophets who were stoned, sawed in two (Isaiah, according to tradition) and persecuted, yet remained faithful to God because of His promises to and through them. They all died without seeing the promises fulfilled. "*The world was not worthy of them*" (Heb 11:38). They did not understand that it was God's will that believing Gentiles be included in His promise of grace.

**3. In The New Covenant**

The promise of a future new covenant relationship with Israel was also intended for all who would believe. It was based upon promises that God's blessings does not depend upon man's keeping the Law but upon the righteousness that comes by faith in God's Word. That is why it became known as the covenant of righteousness or grace. In it God made precious promises based upon what He was going to do to insure our righteous position before Him. The first covenant contained ten commandments. The new covenant contains seven promises [the I wills) that are said to have better promises because, God took the initiative upon Himself. (1) "*I will put my law in their minds*", (2). "*I will write it on their hearts*". (3). "*I will be their God*", (4). "*They will be my people*", (5). "*They will all know me*" (experientially), (6). "*I will forgive their wickedness*", and (7). "*I will remember their sins no more.*" (Jer. 31:31-34)

The fulfillment of the first five promises were made possible on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers and give them a new birth through faith in Christ. The fulfillment of the last two promises were made possible by the atoning death of Jesus Christ and His intercession for believers before

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God. God's promises to Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel were extended to include Gentile believers to demonstrate His love and grace. This was attested to by Paul when he wrote to the church in Corinth and by the author of the letter to the Hebrews.

*He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (2 Cor. 3:6)*

## **B. The Proofs of Christ's Atonement And Resurrection**

Few evidences from the Bible are more powerful in assuring our faith in God's eternal purpose than the fulfillment of those prophecies related to the coming and suffering of our LORD. They are not only powerful supports on their own, but all the more when attested as true by John the Baptist, Jesus, Herod, and some of the Pharisees. Such prophecies were shadows of the truth to come in the way that the sacrifices were the shadows of the ultimate sacrifice accomplished on the cross.

### **1. The Eternal Atoning Sacrifice**

Although prophecy regarding an eternal king for Israel is found in Scripture beginning in Genesis (49:10), it is not until Isaiah's time that we find the prophecies concerning His role as a resurrected and eternal atoning sacrifice (Isa.42; 51-53). When John the Baptist said, "*Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29), he was introducing Jesus as God's provision of an eternal atonement sacrifice.

### **2. Resurrection Appearances**

On the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday) Jesus appeared to two of his distraught followers on the road to Emmaus. He opened the pages of the prophetic design to them to reveal the holy purpose of the Father leading to reconciliation. In light of the fore-ordained design, He restored the hope they had lost for a moment.

## **C. Assurance From The New Intimacy To Pray Directly To God (Torn Curtain)**

There are few things in this world that give us more pleasure or more assurance of reconciliation than the freedom to pray to our heavenly Father.

**1. Power of Prayer.** Based on what we have learned of His attributes, we know that when we confess to God, He is faithful and just

to forgive us and restore us to fellowship once again (1 John 1:9). Jesus, in His prayer at the last supper (John 17.9), prayed that the Father *might complete His purpose of atonement* for every believer. The reconciliation He prayed was for more than just forgiveness of sin; it was for an at-one-ment within the family of God. He prayed that the intimacy might be to the extent Jesus had with the Father. Assurance comes from knowing Jesus prayed in God's will, that He heard Him, and granted His request.

### **2. Proof That He Hears Our Prayers.**

If we ask anything through faith in Christ's name, Jesus promised His presence in heaven would assure the prayer was heard. We can ask no more of a prayer than it be heard and heeded by a listening God who loves us so much He has made us joint heirs with His Son. It will be answered according to His will in a way best for all concerned. "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayers.(1 Pet. 3:12)

**3. Praise And Thanksgiving** One reason we so enjoy the Psalms is the way in which David and the other writers expressed their emotions of love, praise, and thanksgiving to God. The thought that God has made it possible for us to have the freedom to address Him and to express our feelings to Him brings forth our praise. Praising Him acknowledges that He lives, reigns, and loves us beyond imagination.

### **4. Privileged Intimacy With God**

The right and freedom to walk with God as a daily part of our lives is a lasting privilege of being reconciled to Him. We are assured of an at-one-ment with God because we know that He lives within us and has made us members of His new family. Jesus said," When you pray say, Father.." (Luke 11:2) Think of the privilege that implies! Not only are we assured of having been given access to the HOLY of HOLIES (daily) because of Christ's death for us, but access to living in eternity with Him in a new heaven and a new earth. How good of our Lord Jesus to pray that we might be reconciled to the point of sharing the intimacy He enjoys with the Father. (John 17)

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Heb. 10:22-23

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

Review The Notes.

What things give you assurance that your hope is not in vain?

Chose one that stands out and say why it strengthens your faith.

Underline things that remind you God is personal. Share one with your group. Give Him thanks!

### ASSURANCE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT:

#### Administrator of the Godhead

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit's work under the Old Covenant from:

Gen. 1:2; Psalm 104:30; Job 33:3-4?

I Sam. 16:13; Isa. 44:3?

Exodus 31:3?

Psalm 51:11; I Sam. 16:14?

God's New Covenant was made possible by Jesus' coming. God spoke through the prophet in Jeremiah 31:31-34. What was this new relationship to be?

Jesus encouraged his disciples by telling them about the person of the Holy Spirit. Describe Him from Jesus' words. (John 14:17,26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:5,8.)

After Jesus ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:9), the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. What happened that day? (See Acts 2:1-13)

How are we reconciled to God? (John 3:3; Acts 2:38)

What do these passages say about the Holy Spirit? Titus 3:5; I Thes.1:5,6; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; 2 Cor. 13:14

**Hope doesn't disappoint us because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given. (Rom. 5:5)**