



Mentoring In Christ

Discussion #2: Assurance of Salvation

GOAL: To help a person understand and live with a greater confidence of his/her salvation and the security of God's love.

For The Mentor

What do we mean by this this concept?

When a person places his or her faith in Christ, they are saved and have a relationship with Christ. The scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit is present in that person's life. The Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit evidenced in a person's life give a person confidence that they are forgiven and right with God. They no longer need to fear judgment/eternal punishment from God but can instead live in the full confidence of God's people. There's no need to repeat prayers to make sure. There's no need to make sure you check some other box so God will still like you. There's no fear of losing your salvation when you struggle with sin. Assurance means a person is at rest and confident of the fact that God is in his/her life and his/she is his dearly loved child. There is no longer a place to live in fear. Once Christ is in our lives, he will not leave us.

Helpful passages?

- **1 John 4:13-5:13** – John gives many evidences of those who have Christ in their lives. They have the Spirit, there's an evidence of love for others and therefore no fear in standing before God and fear of his punishment. They are not overcome by the world but instead live for God in the world.
- **Romans 5:1-11** – God's love for us is a reason for us to rest securely in him. God demonstrated his love toward us in dying before we cared about him. Now that we care about it, how much greater can we expect God's love to be consistent for us?
- **Romans 8:12-17, 29-39** – This is one of the greatest statements of God's commitment to his people and to maintain relationship with his people. God's demonstration of love for us in giving us his son gives us a great confidence of God's commitment to us. Nothing can separate us from his love for us.

Why this matters?

One of Satan's greatest attacks is to have people question God's saving work in their lives. When we're fearful about our salvation, we tend to live in fear with God and are motivated to live for God not by God's grace and a desire to worship him but instead by our own fear of punishment. Assurance brings peace and security. When we are secure in our standing with Christ, we tend to have a greater confidence to withstand the pressures put on us by others and the fears this world creates.

An approach for discussion:

A big key to approaching this subject with people is learning to ask questions and draw out any fears or misunderstandings they have about salvation. It is helpful to start by listening to the person's story of when they came to know Christ or to talk to them about how sure he/she is of the Lord's place in their life. Sometimes in this discussion, you will quickly learn that he/she doesn't know Christ personally at all. This gives you a great opportunity to present the gospel and salvation through faith in Christ not works (like coming to church, doing good things, being a good person). Sometimes in this discussion you will learn he/she does know Christ and has great evidence of God's work in his/her life. This gives you the opportunity to point to God's work in his/her life and celebrate what he is doing. Then let the scriptures assure him/her of the fact that God does not and never will leave those who are his.

Discussion with Mentee

Before you read

- If someone asked you to share how sure you are of the fact that you have a relationship with Christ, how would you answer that question? (Or maybe you could ask, how sure of you that when you die you will live eternally with Christ? What makes you sure or unsure of this?)
- If a person is not very confident of their relationship with Christ, what makes you question/doubt your relationship with Christ?
- If a person is confident of his/her relationship with Christ, what makes you confident of the fact that God is in your life?
- Do you think someone can be fully sure of his/her relationship with Christ and eternal salvation?
- What do you think would give a person confidence that he/she is right with God?

Passage(s): Read & Discuss

Read 1 John 4:13-5:13

- What sticks out to you in this passage?
- What are the things that John says will give us confidence in standing before God?
- What are some of the evidences that John gives of someone who has God in their life?
- Where do you see evidence of these kinds of things in your life?

Read Romans 8:12-17, 29-39

- What sticks out to you in this passage?
- What does it mean that we are ‘sons of God’? How would you explain that to someone? How does seeing yourself as a son or daughter of God build your sense of security in Christ?
- Paul says that nothing can separate us from the love of God. What is it about God that gives Paul this confidence?
- How would a person who was completely confident of this concept in their life live? How would you live if you knew for sure nothing could separate you from God’s love?

The concept to get across

The Bible says that a person who has Christ in his/her life will see evidence of the God in his/her life. God also affirms that those who have trusted Christ will not be lost and nothing will ever be able to separate them from the love of Christ. God wants us to be sure of our relationship with him and to not live in fear. Once we are confident of our relationship with Christ, we should have no fear that God will leave us or that we will lose what he has given us.

Why this matters

- What do you think happens in someone who is confident of his/her relationship with Christ? How might they live differently?
- What happens to someone who still lives in fear or uncertainty about Christ in his/her life? How does that affect their view of God each day?

Encouraged Response

A few responses that might make sense for a person:

- Taking time to revisit the gospel and what God has done for us. Have you ever responded to God’s invitation to follow him?
- Celebrate the evidence of God in your life. Make a list of the ways you see God at work in your life (As John says you will). Share with your small group or someone else in your life
- Getting baptized. This is an outward demonstration of your inward assurance of faith in Christ. Baptism is a way of declaring to the world God’s place in your life and your commitment to follow him.

More Bible To Read On Your Own:

- John 10:7-18
- 1 John (*This is a book that has a lot to do with confidence of God’s saving work in our lives*)

Evidence of Integration

The goal of these discussions is not to get information across as much as helping someone integrate this into their lives. Here are a few things to look for in your first and future discussions with this person:

- No longer praying a prayer of salvation out of fear that they did it wrong before
- A desire to get baptized
- Less shame in their life for past sins
- Less focus on trying to please people and get attention and love for yourself. The freedom to focus on other people