

## Intimacy and Assurance

1 John 5:9-13

Intimacy with God: From Genesis to Revelation, this is the ambition of those who know their Creator. God desires it, too, but it's Satan's worst nightmare! One way he prevents us from intimacy with God is getting us to doubt our salvation. Do you have assurance of your salvation?

No Assurance...No Intimacy

- 'Believing in Jesus is just the first step in a process'
- 'Unless you live a holy life, you probably didn't really believe'
- 'How you live your life will determine if you go to heaven'

*Those who have no assurance their sins are forgiven, they are a member of God's forever family, or that they will go to heaven when they die, will struggle to have an intimate relationship with God.*

Assurance and Intimacy in the Promise of God (1 John 5)

- Whoever believes...is born of God (1)
- Intimacy, victory, overcomers (1b-5)
- The witness of God about Jesus (6-8)
- Eternal life is in God's Son (9-12)
- You may *know* you have eternal life (13)



1. Assurance of salvation is a problem for many Christians today. Some choose just not to think about it, but whenever they do, it bothers them. Others live in quiet desperation, wondering what their eternal destiny is. Have you ever doubted your salvation? Do you still? What hinders your assurance of salvation?
2. Joseph Dillow writes, "A believer may lack subjective assurance because of doubts, trials, or even an inconsistent Christian life. But for any Christian, he will only find his assurance if he looks to Christ." What is the difference between subjective and objective assurance? What gives subjective assurance of salvation? What gives objective assurance of salvation?
3. Romans 8.31-39 is a goldmine of assurance of salvation for the Christian. As you read these verses, ask yourself: Who can be against us? (31) Who will bring any charge against God's chosen ones? (33) Who condemns us? (34) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (35) Reflect on the climactic words in verses 38-39. How secure is our salvation?
4. Some popular pastors today overtly or covertly undermine assurance of salvation by introspection – that you must endlessly examine your life to see if you are truly saved or not. Some even re-define faith by making "true faith" dependent on our works. If you ever sense yourself beginning to doubt your salvation, check to see if you have started putting your faith in your own works, instead of the finished work of Christ!
5. Having assurance of salvation is a key to intimacy with God. That is, *knowing* that you have eternal life, *knowing* that you are a part of God's forever family, *knowing* that your sins are forgiven and you have been declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ... this gives you grounds for joy, peace, and gratitude in your life. Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead? Then you have received the gift of eternal life! Now draw near to God in the confident assurance that you are forever His.