

J.C. Ryle

*Assurance* chapter 7

*(Blessed)*  
Assurance

(Have you ever lacked assurance of saving faith?)

Assurance: a positive statement intended to give confidence, encouragement.

Self-possessed; confident.

# *(Blessed)* Assurance

*“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”*

**II Timothy 4:6-8**

# *(Blessed)* Assurance

1. *...such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus...may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*
2. *This certainty...an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces...the testimony of the Spirit of adoption.*
3. *This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it....therefore it is the duty of everyone to give diligence to make his calling and election sure...*
4. *True believers may have the assurance of their salvation shaken, diminished, and intermitted...*

Westminster Confession of Faith chpt. 18

# Three Ways Paul Looks

The apostle Paul, in Timothy, looks at assurance:

I. Downward to the grave

*“I am now already being poured out”*

As though he is looking down into his own freshly dug grave.

II. Backward to his ministerial life

A. I have fought a good fight

B. I have finished the race

C. I have kept the faith

III. Forward to the great day

*“there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness”*

# Four More Things to See

- I. An assured hope
- II. A man may never arrive at it
- III. Why this assurance is to be desired
- IV. Why it is seldom attained

# Four More Things to See

- I. An assured hope
  - A. A positive gift of the Holy Spirit  
In general, he should feel entirely confident as to the pardon and safety of his soul. (Mission to Main)
  - B. What does the scripture say?  
Job, David, Romans 8:38-39  
“Assurance is, after all, nothing more than a full-grown faith.”  
It is the fruit of faith in Jesus Christ  
Mt 8:8

# Four More Things to See

II. No assurance and yet be saved

*“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”* **John 6:37**



# Four More Thing to See: Four Musts

A man **must** have faith

A man **must** feel his sin and lost estate

A man **must** come to Jesus for pardon and  
salvation

A man **must** rest his hope on Him, and on Him  
alone

Faith – root

Assurance – flower

Faith – Mark 5:27

Assurance – Acts 7:56

Faith – Luke 23:42

Assurance – Job 19:25

Faith – Mark 14:30

Assurance – Acts 4:11-12

# Four More Things to See

- III. Exceedingly to be desired
  - A. Present comfort & peace
  - B. Makes us active, working Christians
  - C. A decided Christian
  - D. Holiest Christian

# Four More Things to See Yes, but...

## IV. Hindrances

A. Foundation

B. Inconsistency in obedience

C. A frowning providence

### *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

by: William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform  
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take  
The clouds ye so much dread are big with mercy  
And shall break in blessings on your head

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense  
But trust Him for His grace  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face

# Four More Things to See Yes, but...

## Functions of Affliction

### 1. Corrective

Psalm 119:67, 71

### 2. Produces Character

Romans 15:3-4; Hebrews 12:10-11

### 3. God reveals His grace and glory to us

II Corinthians 12:9; I Corinthians 2:3-5

II Corinthians 1:3-7

Hebrews 12:5-6  from Proverbs 3:11-12

# Four More Things to See Yes, but...

- D. Understand our relationship to sin
- E. We are each our own
- F. Attacks of Satan
- G. Conscience
- H. Negligence
- I. Clouds