

**The 1689 Confession of Faith, Chapter 18 – “Of Assurance of Grace and Salvation”,
Session # 7 – “Assurance of Faith & Hope”, presented by Pastor Paul Rendall
on July 22nd, 2018, in the Adult Sunday School.**

Paragraph 1 – “Although temporary believers, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God and state of salvation, (a) which hope of theirs shall perish; yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured (b) that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them c) ashamed.”

(a) Job 8:13-14; Matthew 7: 22-23; (b) 1st John 2: 3; 3:14, 18-19, 21, 24; 5: 13; (c) Romans 5: 2 and 5

Paragraph 2 – “This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon(d) a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ(e) revealed in the Gospel; and also upon the inward(f) evidence of those graces of the Spirit unto which promises are made, and on the testimony of the(g) Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; and, as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both(h) humble and holy.”

(d) Hebrews 6: 11, 19; (e) Hebrews 6: 17-18; (f) 2nd Peter 1: 4-5, 10-11; (g) Romans 8: 15-16; (h) 1st John 3: 1-3

A Shorter Definition of Assurance:

Assurance of salvation is the right conclusion that you come to, based on the truth of the Scriptures, concerning your state before God, that your faith in Christ is genuine, and that you have eternal life.

John 5: 24 – “He who hears My word, and believes in Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into to judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

1. A Review of what we have seen thus far about Assurance –

Assurance of Faith – We have seen that a person must hear the word of God to be saved. We have seen that a person must believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ to be saved.

A person must know themselves to be a sinner who cannot save themselves from their sin. They must be saved by God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The sinner’s saving faith is not of themselves, or in themselves, but it is looking away from themselves to God and what He has done in giving Christ to those who are lost and spiritually needy. We have seen that there is real assurance which comes to the believer in Christ, the assurance of faith; that if they have believed in what God has said, they shall be saved; indeed they are saved when they first do so. This is the assurance of faith, by which a person can legitimately conclude that they are a Christian because they are resting their faith on Christ and what He has done for them the sinner, to save them.

Assurance of Hope – Assurance of Hope Confirms and strengthens the Assurance of Faith –

John 15: 7-11 – “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit so you will be (prove to be) My disciples.” “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

Assurance of Hope has to do with the believer’s abiding in Christ and Christ’s words abiding in them; praying to glorify God by bearing much fruit, so that you will be, and that you will prove to be Christ’s disciple. These evidences of grace in you will lead you to greater assurance and having joy that is full because you see what God is doing in your life by His grace and this confirms the reality of your genuine faith.

The Assurance of Hope has to do with the evidences of grace that we see in ourselves, as a believer in Christ. This confirms to us that we have been born again, and that we are manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, the faith, hope, and love which have led us to a sincere obedience to God’s word and to Christ Himself. This confirms to us after we have believed, that we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, when we begin and continue to know the things which we have freely been given by God.

Ephesians 1: 13 – “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Then come the evidences of grace – “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ...”

In other words, we joyfully receive the truth that a person must be born again in order to see or to enter the kingdom of God. And we also come to know experientially in ourselves that a real work of the Holy Spirit has taken place in regeneration, and it is taking place in progressive sanctification in our lives. We are being transformed by the supply of the Spirit’s grace to us, and this is transforming us into the image of Christ. We are being transformed from one degree of glory to another by the Spirit of God. 2nd Corinthians 3: 18 – “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” How are we being transformed? By beholding the glory of Christ, looking unto Him, looking at His glory, and then looking to see if that same glory is in me. Am I being transformed by beholding the excellency and glory of Christ in all that He has done? Am I being transformed by learning to obey God’s word, by realizing that the life of Christ is in me, the person who know delights to do God’s will and keep His commandments?

And so, the conclusion that we have come to, in this study, is that in order to come to the full and infallible assurance of grace and salvation, it is not enough to simply come and hear the word of God at church. There must not only be a real reception of Christ and His finished work, but there must also be the realization that there really has been a change in my heart, God Himself has broken the power of sin over my life, and He is taking me from the love of sin and unrighteousness to the love of Himself. And He has given me the consummate desire to do His will as it is laid out for me in the Bible.