

Confidence of Being In Him

- Life can be filled with uncertainties...and none of us like them!
- In order to experience “abundant life”, a life of more than necessity, there must be an anchor in place!

Hebrews 6:1, 10-12, 19 (NIV)

1 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. **11** We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. **12** We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. **19** We have this **hope as an anchor for the soul**, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. (Behind the curtain was **His Presence**)

- I. God wants us to enjoy the assurance of KNOWING we have eternal, abundant and a reconciled life!

1 John 5:13 (NIV)

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- A. This confidence, or lack of it, will affect our relationship with the Lord!

1 John 5:14 (NIV)

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1. Is God paying attention?
2. Is He busy with bigger issues than mine?

B. If it affects our relationship, then it will affect our receiving from Him as a Father!

1 John 5:15 (NIV)

15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1. Do you see the progression?
2. This can hinder us receiving hope, acceptance and comfort!

C. Scripture shows us three (3) things by which God gives us assurance.

1. The promises of the Word.

Isaiah 55:11(NIV)

So is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NIV)

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very **great and precious promises**, so that through them you

may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2. The witness of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:16 (NIV)

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

2. The transforming work of the Spirit in our live

2 Corinthians 3:18 New Life Version (NLV)

18 All of us, with no covering on our faces, show the shining-greatness of the Lord as in a mirror. All the time we are being changed to look like Him, with more and more of His shining-greatness. This change is from the Lord Who is the Spirit.

II. The Promises

A. The condition: Realizing you need a Savior!

1. Do you thirst?
2. Do you long to be right?
3. These and others are signs of the promise!

B. The real question!

1. It is not do I have faith.
2. It is, do I believe the promises.
3. One puts pressure on me, the other puts the burden on God!

C. Prepare for accusations!

1. Satan will always try to accuse us of not qualifying.

Revelation 12:10 (NIV)

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Messiah.
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
who accuses them before our God day and night,
has been hurled down.

2. God has the final say.

Romans 8:31-35

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

III. The Witness of the Holy Spirit

A. The scriptures are the foundation, but the Spirit is the second and strong assurance!

Romans 8:15-16 (NIV)

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1. This is an area you cannot analyze or describe!
2. It goes beyond our ability to investigate it!
3. The Spirit always tailors His witness to our particular temperaments!

B. This witness is part of the great mysteries of God!

IV. The Transforming work of the Spirit!

A. This "life" we have is a transforming life!

1 John 5:10-12 (NIV)

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. **11** And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

B. Practice this new life!

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. The issue here is lifestyle!
2. If God is in us, He will do His transforming work!

D. Desire and struggle are indicators of this life!

Romans 7:15, 18-19, 24-25

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **18** For I know that good itself

does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. **24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1. Desiring righteousness is a good indicator of the presence of God in our lives.
2. Struggle indicates a conflict between good and evil.
3. The absence of conflict indicates somebody who already has victory!