

Evidence for Assurance
Certainty through Scripture
1 John 4:1-6

ONE THING

The very assurance of the Christian faith rests upon the certainty of the Bible being the written Word of God

Sign 1: Certainty through Scripture – 1 John 4:1-6

Sign 2: Confession to Lordship – 1 John 4:15

Sign 3: Connection through the Spirit – 1 John 4:13

Sign 4: Conviction Against Sin – 1 John 1:15

Sign 5: Consistency toward Christlikeness – 1 John 2:3-6

Sign 6: Compassion toward Believers – 1 John 4:11-12

Sign 7: Cleansing through the Father – Hebrews 12:1-13

Sign 8: Continuing in the Lord – 1 John 4:16-18

→ Pic – Evidence for Assurance - Completed



Today we are starting with the first of these signs...

“Certainty through Scripture”

→ Pic – Evidence for Assurance - Certainty



1 John 4:1–6 (ESV) — Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is

the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 4:6 (ESV) — We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Here the apostle John makes a very clear and bold statement regarding his words verses false teachers...

He declares there are TWO primary spirits/voices that are vying for the hearts of mankind...

The Spirit of TRUTH & the spirit of error...

John gives the believers clear warning...

1 John 4:1 (ESV) — Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Ever since Genesis 3 when the serpent questioned, “Did God really say...” the certainty of God’s Word has been questioned...

Satan even used this tactic against Jesus Himself!...

Following Jesus’ baptism, as He was coming up out of the water, the voice of God from heaven declared, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am will pleased.”

After this Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil...

What was the first thing the devil questioned...

“IF you are the Son of God...”

→ How do we know the Bible is the Word of God?

What does it matter?

ONE THING

The very ASSURANCE of the Christian FAITH rests upon the CERTAINTY of the Bible being the WRITTEN WORD of God

1. The RELIABILITY of Scripture

1 John 1:1–3 (ESV) — That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Since the dawn of time people have been attempting to ...

→ Minimize God's Word

- **“Ok, so it's the Bible, but there are other writings just as important...”**

→ Malign God's Word

- **It's full of errors...**
- **It's full of contradictions...**
- **It's nothing but men's words claiming to be speaking for God...**

→ Manipulate God's Word

- **They will attempt to change it, or reinterpret it in order for it to fit their own SINFUL LIFESTYLES**
- **This was done during slavery in America...**
- **This is being done currently to justify immorality**

But, God's Word is reliable!

How?

→ Its History

The actual writing of God's Word began with God Himself!

Exodus 31:18 (ESV) — And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

Moses wrote the Word of God known as the Pentateuch ...

Deuteronomy 31:24–26 (ESV) — When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, 25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.

Joshua wrote what is known as the Book of Joshua...

Joshua 24:26 (ESV) — And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

Isaiah was told by the Lord to write Isaiah...

Isaiah 30:8 (ESV) — And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.

Jeremiah was told by the Lord to write Jeremiah...

Jeremiah 30:2 (ESV) — Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.

Jesus claimed the Psalms of David were inspired by the Holy Spirit...

Mark 12:36 (ESV) — David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’ ”

We read where Jesus told the Apostles that the Holy Spirit would ... “bring to your remembrance...”

John 14:26 (ESV) — But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus also told them that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth...

John 16:12–13 (ESV) — I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

→ *Its Authority*

2 Timothy 3:16a (ESV) — All Scripture is breathed out by God ...

The term “Scripture” used here is a NT technical term referring to the Old Testament Scriptures...

It occurs 51 times in the NT and every time it refers to the Old Testament Scriptures...

Peter declared that the writers of the OT were “carried along by the Holy Spirit”...

2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV) — Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus declares here that God’s Word is from the “mouth of God”...

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) — But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

In the Upper Room prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter says...

Acts 1:16 (ESV) — Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

In this passage, Peter quotes from Psalms 69 and 109...

He claims them to be Scripture...

Peter declares the writings of Paul to be Scripture...

2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV) — ... Just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

→ *Its Accuracy*

First, God ALWAYS speaks the truth!

Titus 1:2 (ESV) — In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

John 17:17 (ESV) — Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

NOTICE: Jesus does not say that God's Word is TRUE, but that God's Word is TRUTH!!!

You may not like it...

You may disagree with it...

But that doesn't change the fact that God's Word NEVER CHANGES!

Romans 3:4 (NLT) — ... Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him, "You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court."

Psalms 119:89 (ESV) — Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Psalms 12:6 (ESV) — The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

→ Its Verifiability

Proverbs 30:5 (ESV) — Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

When Israel had entered Canaan and conquered the people, Joshua gathered all the people and made this declaration...

Joshua 23:14 (ESV) — And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.

God revealed His Word to His prophets...

Amos 3:7 (ESV) — For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

Scripture claimed that the Messiah who was to come would not decay in the grave...

Jesus Himself made the clear claim that He would rise from the dead...

But questions began to arise against His resurrection...

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV) — And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) — But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

→ Its Sufficiency

Deuteronomy 4:2 (ESV) — You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

Revelation 22:18–19 (ESV) — I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this

book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Proverbs 30:6 (ESV) — Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

The Epochs of Redemptive History...

- **The calling of Abraham and his descendants**
- **Moses and the Exodus from Egypt**
- **The establishment of God's people in Canaan**
- **The establishment of the monarchy**
- **The exile and return from captivity**

In each of the epochs of redemptive history, God spoke to His people through His prophets until ultimately He spoke through His Son...

Hebrews 1:1–2 (ESV) — Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

- **The birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus**
- **The ascension of Jesus and establishment of the Church**

When the Apostles died and their writings were gathered and collected, the Church recognized them as Scripture equal with the Old Testament Scripture

Ephesians 2:19b–20 (ESV) — ... But you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Nowhere in church history outside of Scripture has God added anything that he requires us to believe or to do.

No other writings are to be added and none taken away until they are all fulfilled at the return of Jesus, the final epoch in redemptive history!

The whole purpose of Scripture is to say everything it does say, on whatever subject. Every one of God's words in Scripture was deemed by him to be important for us. Thus, God issues severe warnings to anyone who would take away even one word from what he has said to us.

— Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

The Scriptures DO NOT tell us everything about God...

Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV) — The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

→ Its Eternality

The Word of God will stand until it is finally fulfilled in the new heaven and the new earth!

Matthew 5:18 (ESV) — For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 24:35 (ESV) — Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Bible's ...

- **History**
- **Authority**
- **Accuracy**
- **Verifiability**
- **Sufficiency**
- **Eternality**

... ALL POINT TO ITS RELIABILITY!

The very assurance of the Christian faith rests upon the certainty of the Bible being the written Word of God

1. The RELIABILITY of Scripture

2. The RESPONSIBILITY of Scripture

We must first choose to read Scripture...

Psalm 1:1–2 (ESV) — Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Physical life is sustained through eating, but real life is developed through God's Word...

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) — But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

The Scripture makes us wise for salvation...

2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV) — ... From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Scripture matures us and equips us ...

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) — All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The Scripture takes us beyond pretense and self-deception...

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) — For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The RESPONSIBILITY of Scripture is to ready us for eternity with God...

1. The RELIABILITY of Scripture

2. The RESPONSIBILITY of Scripture

3. The READABILITY of Scripture

We must read Scripture primarily through the guidance of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV) — The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

We must listen for the voice of Jesus...

John 10:27 (ESV) — My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

When reading the OT, think of Jesus!

John 5:39 (ESV) — 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT!

Matthew 5:17 (ESV) — Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

**Certainty through Scripture
1 John 4:1-6**

The very _____ of the Christian _____ rests upon the _____ of the Bible being the _____ of God

1. The _____ of Scripture

2. The _____ of Scripture

3. The _____ of Scripture