



Introduction to Assurance

- Assurance is the subjective experience of salvation—how we experience God’s promises personally.
- It is the outworking of the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints.
- Assurance was a major issue during the Reformation; the Roman Catholic Church denied it was possible.

Key Scriptures:

- Luke 7:47–50 – Jesus forgives the sinful woman.
- 1 John 2:12 – Assurance based on the forgiveness of sins.

Types of Assurance

False Assurance

- Confidence without true salvation.
- Rooted in religious rituals or moral living, but lacking true regeneration.
- Scripture: Matthew 7:21–23

True Assurance

- Confidence grounded in Christ’s work and the testimony of the Holy Spirit.
- Scripture: 1 John 5:9–12

Uncertain Assurance

- Believers who doubt salvation due to sin, spiritual confusion, or lack of growth.
- Common causes include: conscience of sin, doubts, unclear conversions, or Satanic attack.
- Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3–11, 1 John 5:13

Foundations of Assurance

The Promises in Christ (Objective)

- Assurance starts with God’s unchanging promises.
- Focus should remain on Christ, not ourselves.



- Experiences may feel real, but God's Word holds greater authority.
- Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:18–20, Hebrews 12:1–2

Evidence of Saving Grace (Subjective)

- True inward and outward signs of grace support assurance.
- Reformed logic includes syllogisms (premises and conclusions) to assess personal fruit.
- Key evidences: obedience, love, fruit of the Spirit, desire for holiness.
- Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 13:5, 1 John 2:3; 3:14; Galatians 5:22–24

Testimony of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit affirms the truth of God's promises and inward grace.
- The Spirit always works in harmony with the Word.
- Scripture: Romans 8:16, John 14:26, 1 Thessalonians 1:4–5

Faith and Assurance

- Assurance grows from faith but is not the same as faith.
- Saving faith may be weak, but still saving.
- Assurance is the fruit of justifying faith, not its cause.
- Scriptures: Hebrews 10:19–22; 11:1; Ephesians 3:12

Conclusion: God's Role in Our Assurance

- Assurance is part of sanctification, a gift of God.
- Trials may diminish assurance, but God uses them to strengthen our hope.
- God completes his work through Scripture, prayer, sacraments, and the church.
- Scripture: Romans 5:1–5