



Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 18

Growing in Christ, Witnessing to the World

We Can Have Assurance



Chapter 18 of the Confession teaches us that we can have assurance of God's grace and our salvation in Christ. We can live in unwavering confidence that we will be with the Lord in eternity. It's not in question.

False Hope of Hypocrites



Although hypocrites, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions: of being in the favor of God and estate of salvation; which hope of theirs will perish...

(WCF 18.1)

True Hope of Believers



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 that they are in a state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God: which hope shall never make them ashamed.

Our Challenge



Theologically, we know we can have assurance of God's grace in this life, but our experience makes us question it.

- Our stained consciences
- The boldness of hypocrites

False Hope of Hypocrites



Although hypocrites, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with *false hopes and carnal presumptions*: of being in the favor of God and estate of salvation; which hope of theirs will perish...

(WCF 18.1)

How Do We Know?



This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion, grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith, founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made... (WCF 18.2).

How Do We Know?



the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption (WCF 18.2).

Infallible Hope



- Founded upon the divine truth of Scripture
- Founded upon the inward evidences of God's grace
- Founded upon the Holy Spirit's testimony of our adoption to our spirits.
- Sealed in the Holy Spirit

2 Peter 1:5-8



For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-8).

Supplement Faith



- Virtue
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Steadfastness
- Godliness
- Brotherly Affection
- Love

2 Peter 1:9-11



For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:9-11)