



UPLOOK SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAM

WORD#16 ASSURANCE

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Supply the missing words as you watch the teaching video.

1. These things are written that you may _____ that you _____ eternal life (Jn 5:13); ... _____ everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but _____ passed from death into life (Jn 5:24)
2. The gospel brings both "salvation" and " _____ " (cf 1 Thes 1:5).
3. The Christian has been invited into _____ .
4. God swore an _____...*by Himself*, securing our assurance according His own _____.
5. God gave us an _____ for our souls inside the veil. Our life is _____ in Christ. Christ is in _____.
6. Christ is our Forerunner: We will be received in Heaven the same way He was—with _____ !
7. Christ refers to the forsaking disciples as " _____ " and there is nothing we can ever do to " _____ " ourselves!
8. We can no more _____ ourselves than we can _____ ourselves.
9. What Christ did on the cross makes us _____. What He says in His Word makes us _____ .
10. We _____ one at a time. We should _____ one at a time.

A HELPFUL OVERVIEW

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance" (1 Thess 1:5). There are three aspects to this assurance: "the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ" (Col 2:2); "the full assurance of hope" (Heb 6:11); and the "full assurance of faith" (Heb 10:22). This is also linked with the doctrine of Eternal Security. Assurance may be lacking for three reasons: a person is not truly saved and the Spirit is convicting them; a person is truly saved and living for Christ but is being attacked by the devil to unsettle them; or a person is truly saved but "walking after the flesh" and therefore has little evidence in their life of the outworking of faith. Assurance does not come by looking at self, however: We "assure our hearts before Him" (1 Jn 3:19). What Christ did on the cross make us safe; what God says in His Word makes us sure. I can no more assure myself than I can save myself. As we read and obey the Word, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom 8:16).



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WORD DEFINITIONS

A HANDY ANSWER: I recall hearing of a young girl who was queried on the passage that speaks of being kept safe in Christ's hand. "But don't you know," said her detractor, "that even if no one could take you out, you could decide to crawl out?" "Oh no," she replied happily. "That will never happen. Don't you know, I'm one of the fingers!"

The English word "assurance" is sometimes used to translate five different Greek words. Here is some help from W.E.Vine's *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*:

1. pistis (pis'-tis): "faith," has the secondary meaning of "an assurance or guarantee," e.g., Acts 17:31; by raising Christ from the dead, God has given "assurance" that the world will be judged by Him. See also 1 Tim 5:12, where "faith" means "pledge." The verb *pistoo* (pis-to'-o): "to trust or give assurance to," has a secondary meaning, in the Passive Voice, "to be assured of" (2 Tim 3:14).

2. plerophoria (play-rof-or-ee'-ah): "a fullness, abundance," also means "full assurance, entire confidence;" lit., a "full-carrying" (*pleros*, "full," *phero*, "to carry"). Some explain it as full fruitfulness (cp. RV, "fullness" in Heb 6:11). In 1 Thessalonians 1:5, it describes the willingness and freedom of spirit enjoyed by those who brought the Gospel to Thessalonica; in Colossians 2:2, the freedom of mind and confidence resulting from an understanding in Christ; in Hebrews 6:11 (AV, "full assurance," RV, "fullness"), the engrossing effect of the expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises; in Hebrews 10:22, the character of the faith by which we are to draw near to God.

The verb *plerophoreo* (play-rof-or-eh'-o), akin to *plerophoria*, "to bring in full measure, to fulfill," also signifies "to be fully assured" (Rom 4:21, RV), of Abraham's faith. In Romans 14:5, it is said of the apprehension of the will of God. So in Colossians 4:12 in the best mss. In these three places it is used subjectively, with reference to an effect upon the mind. For its other and objective use, referring to things external, see FULFILL; see also BELIEVE, KNOW, PERSUADE, PROOF.

3. hupostasis (hoop-os'-tas-is): lit., "a standing under; support" (*hupo*, "under;" *histemi*, "to stand"), hence, an "assurance;" is so rendered in Hebrews 11:1, RV, for AV, "substance." It here may signify a title-deed, as giving a guarantee, or reality.

4. peitho: "to persuade," is rendered "assure" in 1 John 3:19 (marg., "persuade"), where the meaning is that of confidence toward God consequent upon loving in deed and in truth.

5. asphalos (as-fal-oc'e'): means (a) "safely," Mk 14:44; Acts 16:23; (b) "assuredly," Acts 2:36; the knowledge there enjoined involves freedom from fear of contradiction, with an intimation of the impossibility of escape from the effects.

THE MOMENT THE LIGHT BROKE IN...

A lady came to me one day and said, "I can quite understand that Christ died for the sins I committed up to the night of my conversion, but do you mean to tell me that Christ died for my future sins?" I said, "How many of your sins were in the past when Christ died on the cross?"

She looked puzzled for a moment, and then the light broke in, and she said, "How foolish I have been! Of course they were all future when Jesus died for me. I had not committed any of them." God saw all your sins, and He laid upon Jesus all your iniquity, and therefore, when you trusted Him, you were justified freely from all things (Acts 13:39).

Do you say, "Does it make no difference then if a believer sins?" That is another question, but here is the point—the moment you trust the Lord Jesus as your Savior, your responsibility as a sinner having to do with the God of judgment is ended for eternity, but that same moment your responsibility as a child having to do with a Father in heaven begins. Now if as a child you should sin against your Father, God will have to deal with you about that, but as a Father and not as a Judge.

— H.A. Ironside, in his helpful booklet,
The Eternal Security of the Believer



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TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

1. Is there such a thing as false assurance? I was once told it was impossible to know for sure that I was saved. On what basis? Because of what Jesus said in Luke 13:23-30—people thought they were going to be inside, but then discovered to their horror they were on the outside. “Maybe you’re one of those,” the person said. Is that true? Let’s look at the passage:

Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “Strive [be serious about this] to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able (vv 23-24).

Who was Jesus talking to? Was this a general statement about the whole world or about that generation of Jews who had their Messiah come to them in a way completely unexpected?

Notice what Paul says about this generation of Jews in Acts 28:25-28 and Rom 10:16, 21.

As to the question, “are there few who are saved?” look at v 29 and answer the question yourself. **What does the Lord infer?** _____

We can also see this concerning the Gentiles in Acts 28:28 and Rom 10:20.

So was my questioner right that I might be one of those with false assurance, thinking I was inside but find out I was outside? Look carefully at vv 25-27:

“When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank

in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’”

Were these people saying (as true believers might say), “Lord, Lord, open for us. We are trusting in the finished work of Christ. We have received the Lord as our Savior”? **What are they saying?**

It **is** false assurance to think that religious experiences (*We ate and drank in Your presence*) or mere religious knowledge (*You taught in our streets*) is sufficient to gain entrance to heaven. From our study, **compile a list of some good verses that show the assurance we can have by simply putting our trust in Christ:**

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,

2. What about 1 Cor 15:2? “By which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.” **What does it mean here to believe in vain? Again, let’s look at the context. What is the general subject of the chapter?**

In vv 12-19, what scenario is Paul imagining?
What if _____?

THAT is the point of the phrase, unless you believed in vain. Notice similar ideas in vv 14 and 17.

So Paul is warning them about those teaching the impossibility of a bodily resurrection (as the Sadducees believed). Our gospel message would be hopeless if it did not also include Christ’s victory over _____ in His _____ that also guarantees the believer’s _____ also.



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TAKING A CLOSER LOOK (Cont'd)

3. There are several parables in which the characters in the story are cast into "outer darkness" (see Mt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). Or things they were once given are taken away (see Mt 25:28; Lk 19:24). **These parables seem to be describing servants of God who are lost in the end. What does it mean?**

Again we will be helped by asking who the Lord's audience was on these occasions. **Were they Jews or Gentiles?** _____. See what Paul says about that generation of Jews in Rom 11:11-15. The Jews lost their privileged position to be God's spokespeople because of their unbelief. It was taken away and given to believing Gentiles. Some of those who were priests in the temple service were also those who paid Judas to betray the Messiah! If they did not repent, from their place of privilege they would be sent into "outer darkness." But thankfully we read in Acts 6:7, that _____

_____!

What the Jewish nation lost has enriched believing Gentiles. We now have their Messiah as our Savior. We enjoy their Scriptures as if they were written to us. We "who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy" (1 Pet 2:10).

But NOTE: Does Paul say this is a permanent loss? Will the Jewish people never recover this privilege? Read Rom 11:1, 2, 12, 15. **And why is this hope for Israel possible?** _____ See vv 29-33. Paul praises the Lord because He never gives up! He actually found a way to use Israel's unbelief as a way to spread the gospel to the whole world! When the Jewish leaders chased the Christians all across the Roman empire, **what did they do?** See Acts 8:4: _____ . It was *persecution power* that fueled early evangelism!

The **BIG POINT** in this section of Scripture (Rom 9-11) is that God has not failed in His plans with Israel, He has not given up on His "everlasting love" (Jer 31:3) for them, so we can be sure of His everlasting love for us, too! See Rom 8:37-39. We can have FULL ASSURANCE in a God like this!

SOME GREAT QUOTES...

"True Christians shall never perish. Are they not Christ's special property, the servants of His house, the members of His family, the sons of His adoption? Then surely He will never let them be overthrown. He will watch them as tenderly as we watch over our own flesh and blood... He would never have laid down His life for their sakes if He had intended to give them up. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you" (Isa 49:15). —**J.C. Ryle**

Uncertainty as to our relationship with God is one of the most enfeebling and dispiriting of things. It makes a man heartless. It takes the pith out of him. He cannot fight; he cannot run. He is easily dismayed and gives way. He can do nothing for God. But when we know that we are of God, we are vigorous, brave, invincible. There is no more quickening truth than this of assurance.

— **Horatius Bonar**



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EVEN MORE HELPFUL QUOTES...

When God calls a man, He does not repent of it. God does not, as many friends do, love one day, and hate another; or as princes, who make their subjects favorites, and afterwards throw them into prison. This is the blessedness of a saint; his condition admits of no alteration. God's call is founded upon His decree, and His decree is immutable. Acts of grace cannot be reversed. God blots out His people's sins (Isa 44:22; Acts 3:19), but not their names (Rev 3:5).

—**Thomas Watson**

Assurance after all is no more than a full-grown faith; a masculine faith that grasps Christ's promise with both hands – a faith that argues like the good centurion, if the Lord “*speak the word only,*” I am healed. Wherefore then should I doubt? (Mt 8:8). —**J.C. Ryle**

“Hath God said?” Satan knows that assurance is a pearl of such price that will make the soul happy forever; he knows that assurance makes a Christian's wilderness to be a paradise; he knows that assurance begets in Christians the most noble and generous spirits; he knows that assurance is that which will make men strong to do exploits, to shake his tottering kingdom about his ears; and therefore he is very studious and industrious to keep souls off from assurance, as he was to cast Adam out of paradise.

—**Thomas Brooks**

IN CONCLUSION: The true believer is the recipient of a new quality of life in Christ called “everlasting,” from which we can “never perish.” We are also sealed by the Spirit until the day of redemption. Promised in the New Covenant that our sins are remembered no more, we benefit as well from Christ's constant advocacy and intercessions. We are now vital parts in the body of Christ, members of His eternal family, and the Son has specifically asked His Father to “keep” us. Nothing can separate us from this love of God which is in Christ Jesus and administered to us by the Spirit. The finished work on our behalf by the triune God makes us safe; Their unfinished work (until we are Home) makes us sure.

MORE UPLOOK RESOURCES TO HELP YOU:



Catch up on previous lessons at:
www.uplook.org/summer-bible-program/



All URLs are hyperlinked. Just click on them and go directly to articles/sites!

H.A. Ironside provides helpful answers to common questions about assurance
<http://www.uplook.org/1996/07/full-assurance/>

A beloved expositor looks at two words in Hebrews 11, “substance” and “evidences”
<http://www.uplook.org/1991/02/substance-evidences/>

A fresh look at Hebrews 6
<http://www.uplook.org/2016/01/five-fatal-flaws-warning-passages-hebrews-3/>

A detailed examination of Hebrews 10
<http://www.uplook.org/2016/01/five-fatal-flaws-warning-passages-hebrews-4/>

The Spirit seals and secures the saint
<http://www.uplook.org/2007/07/the-sealing-of-the-spirit/>

While it's true Christ holds believers fast, there are some things we need to hold fast
<http://www.uplook.org/2002/07/hold-fast/>

A good resource to have on the subject of Eternal Security
<http://www.uplook.org/1993/09/eternally-secure/>