

# **Got Assurance?**

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Assurance! Is it possible? If I must depend upon myself, there isn't much hope. One of my friend who was seriously sick was once told by his doctor, "Go home and get your house prepared. You only have a short time to live." Because he has been taught all his life that we were responsible for a large percentage of our salvation, he felt unprepared. He could have done this, he could have done that, and his short comings testified against him. He was woefully on the short end and he didn't have enough of the right things to guarantee passage into heaven.

So many people in the world are like that. We have been taught that we must work, to guarantee our salvation. We get as close as we can, then leave what little is left for God's grace to supply. We do most of it and God only has to do small part. But the threat of sudden death reveals our woeful inadequacies. So, those who depend upon their works to "buy" their passage into heaven suddenly find they are bankrupt. No amount of good works is sufficient to guarantee safe passage. With that knowledge there can be no assurance. We build a lifetime of imperfection and reap an emptiness that surrenders to fear.

The Hebrew writer stated: *"Having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he has consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in a full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised."* (Heb. 10:19-23).

My friend, do you know where you are right now? You are in the presence of God. How? Because you put your trust in what Jesus did for you through his blood. Do you know what that blood does? It keeps us in God's holy presence because we are washed clean. We stay clean! If we put our trust in Jesus' sacrifice upon the cross rather than thinking we can gain perfection ourselves through our works, then we will have that blessed assurance that some seek but never find. *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience,"* (Rom. 5:1-3; Eph. 2:18; 3:12; 9:8, 12; John 10:9).

Therefore, assurance comes by trust in Jesus' cleansing blood. When we put our trust fully in Jesus and God's grace, we will come

to understand Paul's words in Rom. 8:1-2, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*" (Rom. 8:1-2).

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