

Blessed Assurance

God > Hearts

1 John 3:19–24



**“Feelings come and feelings go, And
feelings are deceiving; My warrant is
the Word of God-- Naught else is
worth believing. Though all my heart
should feel condemned For want of
some sweet token, There is One
greater than my heart Whose Word
cannot be broken. I’ll trust in God’s
unchanging Word Till soul and body
sever, For, though all things shall pass
away, HIS WORD SHALL STAND
FOREVER!”**

~ MARTIN LUTHER

Main Idea: God uses biblical truths and the gift of His Spirit to provide assurance & comfort to His beloved children.

- I. Love for Others Reassures our Hearts That We Belong to God (3:18-19)
- II. God Is The Perfect Judge Who Sees Everything (3:20)
- III. Be Confident That God Answers Our Prayers (3:21-22)

Love for Others Reassures our Hearts That We Belong to God

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. (1 John 3:19-22)

God Is the Perfect Judge Who Sees Everything

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

(1 John 3:19-21)

The Threefold test of 1 John

Belief: Do I really believe rightly about Jesus?

Obedience: Am I really obeying God as I ought?

Love: Is my love for others what it should be?

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. **4** For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. **5** Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Be Confident That God Answers Our Prayers

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

(1 John 3:21-22)

huiothesia - (υἱοθεσία): adoption into the divine family

Romans 8:15: "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship, by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father!'"

- **Romans 8:23:** "Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

- **Galatians 4:5:** "to redeem those under the Law, that we might receive our adoption as sons."

- **Ephesians 1:5:** "He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will."

Galatians 4:4-5: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Be Confident That God Answers Our Prayers

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

(1 John 3:21-22)

Charles Spurgeon

“If our hearts condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God; and whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him.” He who has a clear conscience comes to God with confidence, and that confidence of faith ensures to him the answer of his prayer. Childlike confidence makes us pray as none else can. It makes a man pray for great things, which he could never have asked for if he had not learned this confidence; and makes him pray for little things which a great many are afraid to ask for, because they have not yet felt towards God the confidence of children...

The man of *obedience* is the man whom God will hear, because his obedient heart leads him to pray humbly, and with submission, for he feels it to be his highest desire that the Lord's will should be done. Hence it is that the man of obedient heart prays like an oracle; his prayers are prophecies. Is he not one with God? Does he not desire and ask for exactly what God intends? How can a prayer shot from such a bow ever fail to reach its target?

GOD > Heart

Assurance isn't a feeling, it is a legal standing. This passage is the crown jewel of God's evidence to the saints of their assurance of welcome into His presence to to seek the Father & pray. Christ has quieted their condemning heart by His great love, and now they have boldness to ask their Father for grace & mercy to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16) A.A. Hodge