

Soteriology Part 6

Assurance, Peace, & Preservation

- **What benefits accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?**

The benefits that accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and preservation to the end.

Question: Can a Christian know for certain that he or she is saved?

Question: If a person is certain that he or she is "right with God," may we automatically conclude that he or she is "right with God" in reality?

The believer is assured of God's love.

1 John 5:13 – "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that **you may know that you have eternal life.**"

Bridges on this text – "It is evidently, therefore, our Father's will, that his children's complete acceptance should not be with them a matter of present uncertainty. He intends, not only that they should reach heaven at last, but that heaven should commence on earth in a state of conscious security and peace; not only that they should *have eternal life*, but that they should *know that they have it.*"¹

Romans 5:2-5 – "**Through him** we have also **obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and we rejoice in **hope of the glory of God**. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**"

Hebrews 6:17-20 – "17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to **hold fast to the hope set before us**. 19 **We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul**, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

¹ <http://rediscoveringthebible.com/BridgesAssurance.pdf>

Bridges on the effects of godly assurance – “The assured hope of the gospel is the *principle*, not the *hindrance*, of godly fear. (Heb. 12:28.) Indeed we must consider this doctrine, scripturally stated, to be the life of present privilege, and the spring of practical devotedness.”²

Question: Through whom have we obtained access into the grace in which we now stand?

Question: How does this standing provide assurance of God’s love?

The believer has *peace* of conscience.

Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

Romans 5:1 – “Therefore, since we **have been justified** by faith, we **have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

William Reid on *Peace* – “[A]lthough our thoughts and feelings must ever fall far short of the infinite preciousness of [Christ’s] ransom, yet, inasmuch as God tells us that He is perfectly satisfied about our sins, we may be satisfied also. Our conscience may well find settled rest where God’s holiness finds rest.”³

Question: What does Paul say is the basis for our peace?

The believer has *joy* in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17 – “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and **joy in the Holy Spirit.**”

John 15:9-11 – “9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** 10 **If you** keep my commandments, **you will** abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy may be in you**, and that **your joy may be full.**”

Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

² <http://rediscoveringthebible.com/BridgesAssurance.pdf>

³ http://www.the-highway.com/blood_Reid.html

The believer enjoys an increasing awareness of **grace**.

2 Peter 3:17-18 – “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and **lose your own stability**. But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Question: How, according to Peter above, do you become increasingly more stable in grace?

God preserves **every** Christian to the end.

Philippians 1:6 – “And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 1:3-5 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to **an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Spurgeon on Divine Preservation – One man lay dying, and says to another, “‘Man, my name is written on Christ’s hand, and I see it!’ Then, if that is the case, His hand must be severed from His body before my name can be taken from Him! And if it is engraved on His heart, His heart must be torn out before my name can be removed!

Hold on, then, and trust, believer! You have an anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast, which enters within the veil—the winds are bellowing, the tempests howling—should the cable slip, or your anchor break, you are lost. See those rocks on which myriads are driving?—You, too, are wrecked there, if divine grace leaves you! See those depths in which the skeletons of sailors sleep?—You are there if that anchor fails you! It would be impossible to moor you again, if once that anchor broke, for there are no other anchors. There can be no other salvation—if that one fails you, it is impossible that you ever should be saved. Therefore thank God that you have an Anchor that cannot fail...”⁴

Question: Who began, causes us to hope in, and guards our salvation?

⁴ <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols1-3/chs75.pdf>