

Getting the Gospel Straight – Part IV (Continued)

Introduction

I. When people repent and believe, they *can* and *should* have _____ of their salvation.

A. Scriptures

1. Hebrews 10:22 – Let us draw near with a sincere heart in *full assurance* of faith...
2. Hebrews 6:11 – ...realize the *full assurance of hope* until the end.
3. 1 John 5:13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may *know* that you have eternal life.

B. Definition

II. Assurance that our repentance and faith is genuine comes only when we bear the _____ of repentance and faith.

A. Principle: “_____ will _____.”

B. The parable of the Sower and the Soils – Mark 4:14-20

1. There are some people whose “repentance” and “faith” will not _____ prove to be *genuine*.
2. We must carefully avoid giving these kinds of people any grounds for _____ assurance!

C. Luke 3:7-8 – [John] began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore ***bear fruits in keeping with repentance.***”

Acts 26:19-20 – I... kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, ***performing deeds appropriate to repentance.***

✓ By its very nature, genuine repentance always manifests itself with _____ of repentance.

D. The fruit of repentance and faith

1. 1 John 5:13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
2. 1 John 1:8-10 – ***If we say that we have no sin***, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ***If we confess our sins***, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us

from all unrighteousness. *If we say that we have not sinned*, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

✓ Genuine repentance and faith is evidenced by those who feel the need to _____ their sins and regularly seek Christ's _____.

3. 1 John 2:3-6, 29; 3:8 – By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked... If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him... The one who practices sin is of the devil.

✓ When a person is not _____ his life after the example of Jesus, then there is *no possible way* for that person to be assured that his repentance and faith are genuine!

4. 1 John 3:14; 4:7-8; 5:1 – We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death... Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love... Whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

✓ When we find ourselves longing to live in _____ with brothers and sisters, then that is a *sure* sign that we have true repentance and saving faith.

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

E. The ultimate ground for assurance that our repentance and faith are genuine is not found only in the past, but especially in the _____ and the _____.

1. 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?
2. Matthew 7:21 – Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.
3. Initially, it is better to say that someone _____ faith rather than “became a Christian.”

F. Our goal is to lay the *only real* _____ for *true and joyful assurance*!

1. 1 John 5:13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, _____ you may **know** that you have eternal life.
2. We must not underestimate the *power* of a _____.
3. 1 John 3:9 – No one who is born of God practices sin, **because** His seed abides in him; and he *cannot* sin, **because** he is born of God.

- G. From all that we have seen, it follows that we can actually _____ our assurance by dilligently working to bear the fruits of repentance and faith!
1. Hebrews 6:11 – And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end.
 2. 2 Peter 1:4-11
 3. When we sin, assurance is _____.
 4. When we obey, assurance is _____.
 5. Assurance is not just the absence of _____, but the presence of _____.
 6. Psalm 51:12 – Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.

III. The only ultimate ground for assurance of everlasting life is the _____ of God.

- A. We do not place any _____ in the fruit! We do not _____ on the fruit!
- B. God *promises* that He will enable us to _____ to the end of our lives in true repentance and saving faith!
1. 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 – You are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Jude 24 – Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy...
 3. 1 Peter 1:5 – [You] are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 4. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
 5. 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 5 – The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
 6. Philippians 1:6 – For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
 7. John 10:27-29 – My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
 8. Romans 8:31-39
 9. 1 John 5:18 – We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.
 10. 2 Timothy 1:12 – I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
 11. Romans 5:2 – We exult in hope of the glory of God!
- C. God *promises* that He will give _____ to all who believe.
1. John 3:15-16 – Whoever believes will in [Jesus] have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
 2. John 6:40 – For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.
 3. 1 John 2:25 – This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
 4. 2 Peter 3:13 – But **according to His promise** we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
 5. Hebrews 10:21-23 – Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience

and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, *for He who promised is faithful.*

6. 1 Peter 1:8 – And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

Conclusion

- A. In our evangelism, we *must* teach the person who professes Christ about the guaranteed *fruits* of repentance and faith, *so that* as time goes by, he might have more and more of an abundant assurance that he has true repentance and saving faith (1 John; Galatians 5:22-23).
- B. In our evangelism, we should help the person who professes Christ to rejoice in God's *promise* to enable him to persevere in true repentance and saving faith – and in God's *promise* to give eternal life to all those who believe!
- C. Romans 8:16-17 – “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.”

Teaching our Children

- Q. When we tell the Gospel to our friend/neighbor, what are the first four things that we need to teach him about?
 - A. We need to teach him about **God**, and then about **sin**, and then about **Jesus Christ**, and then about **repentance and faith** (Review and discuss these teachings.)
- Q. How can we know for sure that we have truly repented and believed in Jesus?
 - A. We can only know for sure that we have truly repented and believed in Jesus when we see the *fruit* (results) of repentance and faith in our lives.
- Q. What are some of the fruits (results) of repentance and faith?
 - A. Read and reflect on the Scriptures under II. D. and F.
- Q. If you want to have lots and lots of joy that comes from knowing that you have truly repented and believed in Jesus, what should you do?
 - A. We should work diligently to bear the fruit of repentance and faith every day. *Then* we can have even more of the joy that comes from knowing for sure that our repentance and faith is real! (Read and reflect on the Scriptures under II. G.)
- Q. Once we know for sure that we have truly repented and believed, what is the only way for us to know for sure that we really are saved?
 - A. The best and only way for us to know for sure that we are saved is to depend on the wonderful *promises* of God.
- Q. What are the two most important and wonderful promises that God has given to us?
 - A. God *promises* that *He* will make sure that everyone who truly repents and believes in Him will keep on repenting and believing for the rest of their lives! (Read and reflect on the Scriptures under III. B. and be sure to rejoice!)
God *promises* that *He will* give everlasting life to *all* those who repent and believe in Jesus! (Read and reflect on the Scriptures under III. C. and be sure to rejoice some more!)
- Q. If our friend/neighbor says that he has repented and believed in Jesus, why should we be sure to teach him about the fruit of repentance and faith and about the wonderful promises of God?
 - A. We should teach him about these things so that he can know for sure that he truly has eternal life! We should teach him these things so that he can be filled with joy for the rest of His life!