

“The Benefits of Assurance” □ WCF 18.3n (TPH p930)

2024.07.21 Sabbath School Lesson

Hopewell ARPC, Culleoka, TN

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.

2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.

3. This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it: yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto. And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance; so far is it from inclining men to looseness.

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.

n. Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

▪ Peace with God, v1. The relational side of which justification is the legal side. God Himself is reconciled. God Himself is entirely for us. And God personally gives us to perceive and experience this.

- Rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God, v2. Glorifying—being full to bursting with something, in this case joy. When used as “boasting” it’s to be full of oneself; when used about Christ it is to be full of Him. Here, it is to be full-to-bursting of that glory that we have been certainly assured (“hope”) that we will enter.
- The love of God has been poured out in our hearts, v5. The language of the drink offering, except that in this case that which is poured is inexhaustible. Not only does He Himself pour out this love, but the more He does so, the more we realize the greatness of this gift from our Father and our Redeemer. (cf. Ps 119:32 “I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart.”)
- These are what we wish for our lives to convey as the great benefits of becoming Christ’s subjects, 14:17. These are what we look to increase in, and which come from the Holy Spirit through faith, 15:13.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

- Awareness of our election should drive us to holiness, blamelessness, and love, as we come to understand Who chose us and unto what end.

Ps 4:6 There are many who say, “Who will show us any good?” Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. 7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

I don't know how many of you Exactly had to come out of being Baptist. Um, Or our minion. Of some sort. And there's a caricature. Of those who do. And, Unfortunately, in the thought and behavior of many. The caricature has a little too much truth in it. Truth to it.

That. When you come to, Uh, be reformed. Uh, it's especially marked by Uh, drinking. Smoking. Drawing a beard, if you can. Uh, if you're uh, if you're a man. Um, And emphasizing. Uh, not just biblical roles. And differences in between men and women that God has created but a Um, Becoming.

Zealots for those differences above almost anything else. Uh, and

One of the reasons for that is, You do discover. Uh, that Many many things that were made. The distinctives. Of Christianity, by those who. Had a rule or a way of life in opposition to those things were not things that the Bible taught. Uh, and so Uh, you discover that?

There are things that you can actually do and eat and drink. That you have liberty in in Christ to do. That the Lord has even created good for use and moderation, you You discover a new

Liberty in understanding. Uh, who Christ is? And what he has done for us and what we are unable to do for ourselves.

Uh, things like that. Well this isn't the first time that there's been a season like that in the history of the church. When the Lord Jesus came in the ceremonial law was put put aside. And when the gospel started going, not just going out, not just among the Jews but the Gentiles There were those uh Gentile and Jewish Christian, the stronger Jewish Christians, at least to use the language of Romans Who thought that?

Um well they discovered that you could do things now like eat. Uh, pork and shellfish and That you could. Have a not you know the equivalent of a Nazarite vow without abstaining from alcohol that you could. That you could have. The Liberty to drink wine just regularly as a part of Fellowship that it wasn't.

Reserved for ceremonial usage. Uh, and so The change in Behavior became what they focused on as the fruit of Christ having come and there having come to Christ. But that is not. Uh, the main thing, the essence, the great thing in the Christians experience and life. That the Lord Jesus came to do.

And so, Uh, in the book of Romans, which we are just finishing up in the midweek meetings. Uh, not only does the Apostle open up for them. People call the reformed Doctrine of of soteriology of how we are saved. Uh, but it's of course, the reason it's the reform Doctrine, it's because it is the doctrine of scripture.

And when the church became deformed, it needed to get reformed back to the doctrine of scripture. But not only does the Apostle. Uh, then open up how men are saved. He makes the correct applications. And he uses them to correct. Some of the ideas even among the strong Believers.

So, if you have Run into or maybe you yourself are tempted uh, to emphasize those things that we You know, we all laughed at when we said, but I certainly have Met people. Trying to, As discreet as. Anyway, that doesn't help me be discreet. I certainly have met people who that seems to be what they emphasize.

Uh, and about being reformed or being Presbyterian. But, Uh, the corrective that we have and this really comes when you start to see Not just the Application or result of assurance. Uh, that is identified in the section of Uh, Westminster Confession 18-3 that we're covering today. But the proof texts that.

Pulled together. That talk about this result or product or fruit? Of our Assurance. So last week, we had the, the duty of our Assurance, the previous week we had the means by which we We come to be sure that we are in Christ. Uh, and Taking a running start from last week.

Therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling an election. Sure. And then we have the fruit. Then we have the application. And that's the part that we are studying this morning. That thereby his heart. May be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

And love and thankfulness to God. And in strength and cheerfulness. And the duties of obedience. The proper fruits. Of this assurance. Uh, so next week, Lord willing will cover so far. Is it from, inclining men to looseness and he'll Marshal all of Not all of them. Marshall several. Texts of scripture.

Remind us that Assurance of Faith, Assurance of Grace being saved, only by What Christ has done being, right? Right with God, only by Jesus and his obedience and his being your right, your righteousness with God, Being saved. Having your sin paid for only by what Jesus has done to make up for your sin that these things.

Do not then give us freedom to sin or freedom to feel, okay? About our sins. So that you don't say, oh I used my sine used to make me miserable. Uh, but now that I've got reformed it doesn't bother me anymore. You must never. Or speak in such a wicked manner.

My sin used to make me miserable, but now that I am reformed I have quick recourse when I'm rightly miserable over that sin. To Rejoice over Christ. So that You don't have a it doesn't bother me anymore response. It's not the the consequence. Of being reformed and it's not the consequence.

Of assurance of Faith. This is what the opponents of the doctrine, of the of Assurance, of Faith. Say if you can be sure that you're in a state of grace. If you can be sure that you're saved, if you can be sure that you have Christ. Well, that'll just give free reign to your sin.

And so, the part of Westminster Confession, 18 3, that We're looking at right now is going to go to scripture. It's going to say Is that what happens? In those who are saved and uh, have assurance that they are saved. Have free reign to sin. Is that the real fruit of real Assurance?

It sounds like that's the fruit of. Fleshly use. Uh, and that can happen to a Christian. Or even unconverted use. Of the idea of assurance. Uh, but the one who Using it in his flesh or the one who is unconverted and uses. The idea doesn't have the reality of assurance.

The one who is operating out of his flesh as a Christian doesn't have the biblical Assurance of Biblical Assurance of Faith comes. And those who are putting to death, the Deeds of the body and walking by the spirit. The one who isn't a Christian at all, doesn't have biblical Assurance of Faith because he doesn't have faith of which to be assured.

And so, the fact that Assurance of faith is a reality. It's a genuine thing that God gives Christians. Means that there is real fruit. And what is the real fruit or what is the proper fruit? The fruit that, um, is the property of or rightly belongs to Reassurance of F.

And, We're listed here, as Uh, the heart enlarged and That's really. Using language from Psalm 119 verse 32, which we have just recently been in as we're going slowly through Psalm 119 together. I will run the course of your Commandments for you shall enlarge my heart. And what? What do we mean by that?

We're going to Uh, especially look at Romans 5. Verses one through five that the heart may be enlarged in peace and joy. In the Holy Ghost. So, I think we'll just read those first five verses of Romans 5. Therefore having been justified by faith. Okay. What does that mean?

Children having been justified by faith? What is justification?

Okay, it's an act of God's free, Grace wherein, we're accountant righteous. Uh, so having been justified by faith, having been declared by God? To be righteous in his court before his law before his Justice and his Holiness. How can a man be justified only through faith? In Jesus Christ.

But it's not just transactional. Where Jesus obeys and it's counted as if you obey where Jesus, Receives the fullness of the wrath of God for sin. So that the inexhaustible wrath of God is

exhausted because you have an inexhaustible sufferer. Who has endured all of the Wrath that you deserve.

Uh, so if you have been declared Right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We have peace with God. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, see, it's not just transactional, you don't just get the righteousness and the Forgiveness, it's personal. The only way you got the righteousness and the forgiveness is because God gave you Jesus.

And if God gave you Jesus, you're not just reconciled to God in terms of Oh, he's taken away my guilt. And he has given me this Merit, he's given me this righteousness. He's given me this credit. He's given me this right standing with him. You do have peace with God in that way.

But you have peace with God, because you realize That God gave himself. In order to get you. For himself. So it's not just, it's not only that the justice of God is on your side now. But it's the the justice of God is on your side because God himself personally.

Wanted to have you and wanted you to be at peace with him reconciled with him. So, Having been justified by faith. We have peace with God. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is this peace with God. Is the relational side. Of of which justification is the legal side. Justification is God's legally saying, you're right with me.

Peace with God. Is God saying not just Not just have the hostilities ceased between you and God, you're no longer counted as an enemy of But, You belong to God and he belongs to you. Okay, so this is something that Every believer has in Jesus Christ. If you're Justified, you have peace with God but your experience and your perception of that peace with God.

Is increased, especially as you have Assurance of Faith. Right. So there's peace with God, the reality. And peace with God. That is your experience of the reality. There have been many. With whom God was at peace, because he had Justified them in Christ. But because of their doubts about themselves and maybe you have been in this circumstance where you were believing in Christ, but you had doubts about yourself.

And so, as far as God was concerned, By the justification that you had through faith in Jesus Christ, he was at peace with you. And if you could, you know, if you could look up such things and there's a list of all those with whom, the god of Heaven, is at peace.

Your name would be on the list. Actually, there is a list there's a book of But you didn't feel. Peaceful. With God or towards God. And so one of the blessings of the Assurance that we have been studying now for several of Of these weeks is that you experience.

This piece, you experience that God himself is reconciled to you and has reconciled you to himself. You experience that God is entirely for you? You encounter things in your life? Like, Being so poor that you can't afford clothes nakedness. Being in danger because people are hunting you down. Peril Being.

Unable to obtain food famine. Being having even the threat of death upon you sort. Where are we getting these? Um, These particular dangers or difficulties from, we're getting them from. Romans 8, 35. Those are the things. That the Romans 8, 32 Christian may be experiencing what is Romans 8 32?

It doesn't have to be one of your favorites because it's one of my favorites. For if God did not spare his own son. But gave him up for us. All. How will he not also together with him freely? Give us all things. All right, Justified through faith, in Jesus Christ.

God did not spare his own son, but gave him up for me. Therefore, I have peace with God. Everything God does is for my good. God isn't like Um, the United States of America or any Nation that's ever been in a peace treaty. Or in an alliance. In which you have to wonder whether he's actually acting in your best interests.

Right. There have been many countries that were allied with one another and when push came to shove you know they would defend one another in war or whatever it was. But they would not necessarily know because they have an alliance because they are a piece of one another, that the other country is always acting in their best interest.

In fact, That probably has never happened in the history of the world. But if you are at peace with God, you know, He is always acting in your best interest. Even if you are poor, even if you are in danger. Even. Even if it's cancer. Even if your extended family despises you, Even in all of the circumstances.

That we encounter even when you can't get a job. Even when the doctors can't figure out what it is. And so, Personally, gives us To per to perceive and experience that we have peace with him. Therefore Heaven been justified by faith. We have peace with God. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ through whom.

Also, we have access by faith into this Grace. In which we stand. And rejoice in the Of the glory of God now, I don't necessarily expect that. Everyone remembers everything in every sermon actually. You don't need to, Um, remember or even understand? Uh, everything in every sermon. Uh, sermon listening in particular.

Is and interacting with God, in the hearing of his word preached, Uh and so there are particular things that The Lord will will have for you in each sermon. The most important thing in sermon hearing is not assimilation of the content. It is interaction with the God, who is addressing you.

Uh, there might just be one thing. Uh, in a one-hour sermon that the Holy Spirit intends to bring home to the heart for you to be strengthened encouraged convicted corrected, uh, particular call to repentance. In your life. But if you do have Amazing, recall of content and you were there for the Romans 5, sermon, or if you've made good use of The, the many tools that are available to us and not just hope while preaching recordings.

You might know that Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God in verse 2. Is the same as the word glory verse 3. When it says not only that. But we also glory in tribulations, it's a word that's usually translated boasting. Uh, or exalting with the u-e-x-u-l-t-i-n-g or glorying.

Or both, I say boasting already. Okay. Um, what it means is something that you kids are a lot. Better at than we adults. We adults are We've been around a long time, we don't have that much enthusiasm for things usually like children do. Uh the the core meaning of the word is to be full to bursting with something.

It says one of the reasons why uh continuing to have children keeps you younger longer Because they are full to bursting with everything. Praise God. Um, what you don't want to be, is to be full to bursting with yourself. Okay, that is what scripture describes, um, as a boastful person.

All right, and we used we use a very similar phrase in English to talk about uh someone like that. Child or adult. Um, and it's as defense and we say full of himself. Um, but Uh, the word is sometimes used for instance here. Uh, to be full to bursting with.

And the idea is Although that that's implied in verse 2, not stated. To be full to bursting with joy. The hope of the glory of God. Which is. The proper fruit. Of knowing. That you are righteous before God's justice and that he is at peace with you that you have him himself.

And everything. He does not just in everything that you do not just in everything that you experience. But everything that he is and everything that he does is for you. Because he is bringing you. Into his glory and you are guaranteed. The fullness of The experience of his glory.

Okay, so Uh, in which we stand the this Grace, in which we stand and We are full to bursting with joy. In the Of the glory of God. So, Peace with God, Romans 5 1. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5 2 and this of course, is taught throughout the Bible.

Uh, just think for instance of how often we have seen in Isaiah, as we've been going through Isaiah, how often we have seen in the Psalms The Lord himself and the glory. Of the Lord. So the Glorious Lord and particularly his glory is what he is giving to you and has obtained for you in Jesus Christ.

This is what is guaranteed for you to have God himself. Not just to. Free of your guilt. Praise God, you may not just to have A long and pleasant and hopefully fruitful and good and upright life in this world. Although by the application of Christ to you and in the gospel you make but to have God himself, this is what Makes us full to bursting the joy.

The assurance that we are in a state of grace the Assurance. That we have God himself and will come into glory. And so sometimes it's even years of Christ, right? So the Apostle says, if I'm going to boast of anything, I'm going to boast in Christ Jesus. Uh, and it's uh, that's the concept there to be.

Uh, to be full of Christ. Um, To be certain that we shall have him and to be full to bursting with joy over that. So that thereby, his heart. May be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Uh, in love and thankfulness to God. The. The Apostle, the spirit makes the Application that we have just made.

Verses 3 and 4, but not only the and not only that, we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance character and character hope. Uh, but now verse 5, Now. Does not disappoint. Because the love of God, Has been poured out in our hearts. By the Holy Spirit who has given to us now.

You may remember that this language of poured out in our hearts, It comes from well. I'm looking around. I don't know if uh, how many are here? Where does this language come from of pouring out? We've been through it not too long ago in Leviticus. Is the drink offering?

When they gave a drink offering, do they do? They do it like Did they do it? Like I do. Uh, we're pouring. In the middle of the meal, even that Jesus divided the cup before the meal, but that's uh, beside the point. But when we're at the Lord's table, and I've got a couple of answers of wine, and I want the entire congregation to have the opportunity to see the pouring.

And to remember that Christ's, uh, Blood has been poured out for many for the Russians in And so I'm kind of moving around and trying to get within everyone's line of sight, at least for a moment and I'm kind of pouring this very thin line of the wine. Um, you've seen me doing this right, kids, are you paying attention at the Lord's table?

That is not. How the drink offering was done. The drink offering was poured out all at once a complete unreserved, uh, offering unto God. Now when they would pour out, whatever the assigned amount of wine was for whichever animal was being sacrificed with, with that

particular drink offering it would take less than a second Because it was a limited finite, small amount of wine.

They did not have an infinite amount to pour out. But is the love of God for you in Jesus. That the Holy Spirit pours into your heart. Is it limited and small and finite? Uh, that is why. The. It's probably KJV that that is why the older word that was used here is shed abroad.

Okay. Well, what does shed abroad mean? Uh, it is poured out, it is gushing out. And in this case, it does. It's from an inexhaustible. And so the Holy Spirit has been given to us as a gift. The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

And one of his primary Ministries to the believer Is to continually pour into your heart. The knowledge that all of this has come from the love of God, that will never stop. That the love in which God elected. To redeem. Sinners. And for you as a Believer to redeem you, even though you are a sinner and the love in which God gave Christ To accomplish that Redemption and the love in which God gave you his Spirit to give you Faith to apply the Redemption of Christ to you.

Is. Always. Is constant and infinite is as much to you. Right now, as it was from eternity, as it was when, when Christ was, uh, becoming a man in order to say to you as it was when Christ is offering himself for you, on the cross as it was when God intervened in your life and made you alive by his holy Spirit and will never stop.

Being that full. And this is why. You're rejoicing in the hope of God's glory. He doesn't disappoint. It will not be put to shame. And so, you have this. Peace and joy and love and thankfulness. That are the proper fruit. Of a reformed Theology of Salvation. The proper fruit.

Of you coming to be more and more sure in your own personal case that this is true about you and your experience of God. You know might you enjoy God's good creatures and not call evil? What God made good and have more Liberty to do that. Absolutely you might and you will But you're not gonna.

Enjoy the whiskey. Because, Of the goodness of the whiskey, you will buy the goodness of the whiskey and the, the many proper uses that a holy and righteous and therefore moderate use of it. You will be reminded that the God who made it is the god against whom, you had sinned but Desired to have you and gave himself, not just for you but also to you.

And whatever it is that you enjoy from among the creatures. Is minuscule. By the comparison to your enjoyment of him himself. And then, hopefully, As you interact with others. Rather than becoming the alcohol evangelist or the pipe smoking evangelist, or the whatever it is that you Your friend of weak conscience.

Or sorry of strong conscience weak, theology. Such you will be an evangelist. Peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. And love and thankfulness to God. And when you talk to your Armenian friend, or when you are urging someone to pursue assurance of Faith, you will say. Not. Don't you realize the stuff that you could enjoy on Earth?

If you just came to my position? You say, don't you realize You can experience with God. Joy that you can have in the Holy Ghost. The experience of the love of God in which you can live. This is why when the Apostle comes later in the letter and this is what has shaped this approach to chapter five is because the fossil comes later in the letter, in the middle of the argument or in the middle of reasoning with strong Believers and how they interact with weak, Believers weak.

Believers are the ones who have all these Hang-Ups over the things that had, you know, they're still sticking to ceremonial Judaism and even that the traditions of the Jews that had grown up around the ceremonial law and he's in in Romans 14 and 15. He's warning. The strong Believers from emphasizing.

To those who still have those Jewish ceremonial and traditional Hang-Ups from emphasizing what they can eat and what they can drink, he says you're emphasizing the wrong thing and that's where they produce. The proof. Text then Romans 14 verse 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking.

Okay, the kingdom of God did mean, they could eat and drink new things. But that was not the essence of the difference that Christ coming had made. The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. And there, it's not just the righteousness that is your right standing with God.

It's righteous living. The Jews valued righteous living. But apart from knowing God, the son and being united to him by faith and being indwelt by his there was so much more now. In the experience of God and his grace. In the in the fuller revelation of himself and the application to the minds and hearts of Believers.

Of that full application. Of himself. It was not to be a new age of eating and drinking, but it was to be a new age of righteous living. The Jews had never. Obeyed the law. Well, The Pharisees who had been the pull yourself up by the bootstraps and make a good show of it, people.

Paul. Had been able to say as far as the righteousness that is from the law blameless. Yeah, he would have been known as this wonderful Lockheeder. But he had never kept the law. So well, as until he came, To know Christ, never kept it at all, from the heart.

And so, Uh, that is the proper fruit of assurance. The proper fruit of making application to one's own life of knowing that you are in Christ. Uh, not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and this is something that we increase in He comes to the conclusion of that section, in chapter 15, and verse 13.

And he uses the same. Same idea is taken together. Now May the god of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in. By the power of the Holy, Um, It's the same application, he makes. Uh in Ephesians 1 verses 3 and 4.

It says blessed be the God and father of our Lord. Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the Heavenly places in Christ just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world. Okay. So he's making application now of knowing not just having General reform, theology abstract, reformed theology says God, chooses people that he is going to save.

But this is how you make application of the knowledge. God chose to save me. And it is, what did he choose to save me for Verse 4 just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, or if you want to make Um, it would be appropriate for you to make application in the singular.

Just as God chose me in the Lord. Jesus Christ. Before the foundation of the world that I should, what? That I should be holding and without blame For him in love. So the more convinced you are of your own being elect, the more convinced you are. Of your own being saved.

The more. Devoted and resolved, you ought to be To the purpose for which God elected you. Purpose for which God saved you. That you would be holy and blameless. Before him. In. Uh, Psalm 4 then making the same. Comparison. Psalm 4 verses 6 and 7. There are many who say who will show us any good Yahweh lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart. More than in the season that their grain and wine increased. Again, he makes the same. The same comparison there, in Psalm 4. That knowing that you have God. Gives you a gladness. That no amount of creaturely enjoyment can give you. There's creaturely enjoyment, and then there's enjoyment of the Creator.

And that is what God intends for you to have by way of assurance of Enjoyment of himself. You can know that you should enjoy him. But if you are not certain that you are a Christian, Then you cannot expect. To enjoy God, the way that you ought to Because your doubts about your own condition will inhibit you.

God, gives to Believers Assurance of faith and He commands us to pursue that Assurance. That means children, not only are you to turn from your sin and believe in Jesus? But as a believer in Jesus, you should seek from God. The certainty in your heart, that, that you have believed that he has given given you, this faith that you are, Christ's So that you can come into.

Um, so that in your life and in your experience, you will enjoy God himself. More. And Any of his get more than in any of his gifts? So that as much as You get to church and you're excited for the breakfast line to start. And you're waiting for the pastor asking him if we could pray now.

So we can You will enjoy. The God Who has gathered us the God, who gave us the food, The God, Who gives you more and more to know him by the teaching, and the listening, and the Holy Spirit, helping you apply it to your heart. That is the proper fruit of our Assurance.

Let's pray.

Our Father in Heaven by your spirit. Please give us Assurance. And please make uh, give us to make proper use Of this assurance. That we may have peace and joy and That we may be full of love and thankfulness that we may be devoted to Holiness. Give us O, Lord to know.

That we have, you. And that we shall have you to the full for. We ask it in Jesus name, Amen.