

TRUE CONVERSION
Session 01: "The Test of Truth"
10.28.07

INTRODUCTION

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."

DEFINING ASSURANCE

"Assurance of salvation is a God-given awareness that He has accepted the death of Christ on your behalf and forgiven you of your sins. It involves confidence that God loves you, that He has chosen you, and that you will go to Heaven. Assurance includes a sense of freedom from the guilt of sin, relief from the fear of judgment, and joy in your relationship with God as your Father." Donald Whitney¹

"By 'Christian assurance,' I refer to a Christian believer's confidence that he or she is already in a right standing with God, and that this will issue in ultimate salvation." D.A. Carson²

Two opposite errors:

- _____
- _____

COMMON CAUSES FOR LACK OF ASSURANCE

SOURCES OF ASSURANCE

Three tests in 1 John:

1. A true Christian _____ in the _____ of God
2. A true Christian _____ the _____ of God

¹ *How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?*, 12.

² in Schreiner & Ware, eds., *Still Sovereign*, 248.

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3. A true Christian _____ the _____ of God

TEST 1: THE TEST OF TRUTH

- Jesus is _____
- Jesus is _____
- Jesus has come as _____

"Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones³

"Assurance is not to be obtained so much by self-examination as by action." Jonathan Edwards in Donald Whitney⁴

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

ON THE TOPIC OF ASSURANCE:

- *How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?* By Donald Whitney
- *10 Questions to Ask to Make Sure You're Still Growing* by Donald Whitney

FOR THOSE LACKING ASSURANCE:

- *When I Don't Desire God*, by John Piper
- *When the Darkness Will Not Lift*, by John Piper

FOR TEENS:

- *Growing Up Christian*, by Karl Graustein

FOR PARENTS:

- *Your Child's Profession of Faith* by Dennis Gunderson

³ *Spiritual Depression*, 20.

⁴ *How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?*, 84.

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- *Age of Opportunity*, by Paul Tripp, especially chapter 10

ASSURANCE WORKSHEET

How confident that you will go to heaven when you die?

Not at all confident

Very confident

If, upon your death, God asked you why he should let you into heaven, what would you say?

How often do you lack assurance of salvation?

Rarely

Often

What has kept you from experiencing assurance in the past?

When you lack assurance, describe your thoughts:

Describe your practice of the spiritual disciplines (e.g. Bible reading, prayer, etc.):

Who or what has helped you find assurance in the past (e.g. advice, books, verses)?

Of the "three tests" in 1 John (believing in the Son of God, obeying the commands of God, loving the people of God), which one is the hardest for you? Explain:

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