

## Blessed Assurance; 1 John 5:11-12

- I. Assurance
  - a. Pledge, guarantee, security, being certain in the mind (the puritan's *assurance* of salvation)<sup>1</sup>
  - b. We all like to be assured of certain things
    - i. Our husband's or wife's love for us
    - ii. Our job
    - iii. Our salvation
  - c. Some things we can never really be assured of...salvation is NOT one of those!
  - d. 1 John 5:13 (ESV)<sup>13</sup> 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.
- II. Jesus is Mine!
  - a. We can sing that with confidence
  - b. The Great Commission
    - i. Mark 16:15–16 (ESV)<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.<sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
      - 1. We see this happening in Samaria where Philip is preaching
      - 2. Acts 8:12–13 (ESV)<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.<sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.
      - 3. A little bit later Philip is preaching to an Ethiopian who has just come from worshipping in Jerusalem
      - 4. Acts 8:35–37 (NASB95)<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.<sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"<sup>37</sup> And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
        - 5. Mark's commission, believe and be baptized
    - ii. Matthew 28:18–20 (NASB95)<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
      - 1. Making disciples is (obviously) about faith
      - 2. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

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<sup>1</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

3. Acts 16:14–15 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.
4. “Opened her heart” is belief, faith
5. She wanted Paul to stay so he could teach them all the things Jesus commanded

c. The Day of Pentecost

- i. The city was filled with God fearing Israelites, “devout men from every nation under heaven,”
- ii. “Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks, also is calculated from the first feast, Passover. It comes 50 days after the Passover Sabbath, thus the name Pentecost which means “fifty.” This is a Greek name, but the Jewish people call it “Shavuot,” which is the Hebrew word for weeks. Shavuot is also a harvest festival, thanking God for the wheat harvest.” <sup>2</sup>
- iii. After the sound of the Holy Spirit brought everyone together (Acts 2:6), Peter (and the rest of the Apostles) began telling everyone about the Jesus
- iv. Acts 2:36–41 (ESV) <sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

d. If we follow the very words of Jesus in Matthew 28 or His Apostles in Acts 2 then the words of John become very clear and concise, “that you may know that you have eternal life”

e. Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood, indeed!

III. Watching and Waiting

- a. Do you remember the anxiety of waiting impatiently for something or someone?
  - i. I remember when Sherril flew (finally) to Iceland
  - ii. I had to be there in June, but there was no housing available for my family, so they had to fly later (when housing became available)
  - iii. The flight arrived and I was waiting at the military terminal
  - iv. I could see down the hall where the passengers lined up after deplaning
  - v. It went about 10 yards before it turned, and I could no longer see anyone

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<sup>2</sup> Moed, Elisa Leopold. “Feasts of Israel -Understanding Jewish Holidays.” *Travelujah*, 25 June 2018, <https://www.travelujah.com/tips/holiday-tips/jewish-holidays/feasts-israel-understanding-jewish-holidays>.

- vi. As the line inched forward, people would make that corner
- vii. I would expect to see Sherril, Shaddiah, and Bear each time
- viii. But each time it was someone else
- ix. There were the last people to get off the plane
- x. If I could have made the line go faster, I certainly would have!
- xi. 2 Peter 3:11–13 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

b. Patiently

- i. This is something we are not very good at
- ii. I want to go back to a week before Sherril and my children arrived in Iceland
- iii. The military charter to Iceland only flew once a week (on Wednesdays)
- iv. My first visit to the terminal, I went through all that waiting only to watch the last person get off and it was not them
- v. This was before cell phones; international calls were difficult to make, especially to a US military base
- vi. James 5:7–8 (ESV) <sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- vii. This word, patient, also brings with it the idea of suffering
- viii. This is where God's idea of peace and joy come from...we remain patient under tribulation (bear up while suffering) because of the peace and joy God's salvation brings us

c. We are filled with His goodness and lost in His love!

IV. Blessed Assurance

- a. We know that we are saved, no guessing!
- b. This is my story, this is my song
- c. Praising my Savior all the day long