

CONFIDENCE

Abide

November 4, 2018

Introduction: Over the years of my ministry, many believers have addressed me directly, but more often indirectly, with this statement, “I don’t know if I have done enough to get into heaven.” The idea of their assurance in God is profoundly foreign to them. For many, we live in the fear that our life and our deeds will not be enough in the end. Today, I would like to dispel those assumptions and tell everyone, “On that day, we can have confidence of our salvation as we bow before his throne.” This is great news.

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:16-18

I. The Struggle to Stand Upright

²⁰ *as it is my eager expectation and hope that **I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death** (Philippians 1:20).*

- Confidence: Courage and boldness – An upright position
- Fear: Timidity, anxiety, worry and doubt

NOTE: Timidity is the twin to fear. It is the expression of an internal anxiety.

- Cocky: arrogant; pertly self-assertive; conceited

“Most people live in a restricted circle of potential.”

William James

II. We Can Know

¹ *See what kind of **love the Father has given to us**, that we should be called children of God; and **so we are**. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, **we are God’s children now**, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself as he is pure** (1 John 3:1–3).*

²⁸ *And now, **little children, abide in him**, so that when he appears **we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame** at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that **everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him** (1 John 2:28–29).*

¹⁸ *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in **deed and in truth**. ¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and **reassure our heart before him**; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart**, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, **if our***

heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God... ²³ And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.** ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments **abides in God, and God in him** (1 John 3:19-21, 23–24).

¹⁶ So we have come **to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.** ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, **so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.** ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear.** For fear has to do with punishment, and **whoever fears has not been perfected in love** (1 John 4:16–18).

² By this we know that **we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.** ³ For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.** And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.** ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world **except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** (1 John 5:2–5).

¹¹ And this is the testimony, that **God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.** ¹² **Whoever has the Son has life;** whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 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.** ¹⁴ And **this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us** (1 John 5:11–14).

III. How Does One Gain Confidence in Their Salvation

A. By the work of his blood.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

B. By his advocacy.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1).

C. By practicing his walk.

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked (1 John 2:6).

D. By internalizing his forgiveness.

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake (1 John 2:12).

E. By his adoption.

*Beloved, **we are God's children now...** (1 John 3:2a).*

- F. By his power within us.

*Little children, you are **from God** and **have overcome** them, for he who is **in you** is **greater** than he who is **in the world** (1 John 4:4).*

- G. By his love.

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Scripture Reading:

- I. The Struggle to Stand Upright (*Philippians 1:20*)
- II. We Can Know (*1 John 3:1–3; 2:28–29; 3:19–21, 23–24; 4:16–18; 5:11–14*)
- III. How Does One Gain Confidence in Their Salvation
 - A. By the work of his _____. (*1 John 1:7*)
 - B. By his _____. (*1 John 2:1*)
 - C. By practicing his _____. (*1 John 2:6*)
 - D. By internalizing his _____. (*1 John 2:12*)
 - E. By his _____. (*1 John 3:2a*)
 - F. By his _____ within us. (*1 John 4:4*)
 - G. By his _____. (*1 John 4:16–18*)