

Confident Of Our Salvation

I John 4:13-17

Introduction – The Question

A question posed to a preacher:

"Verses like I John 5:13, Hebrews 4:16, I John 4:17, and other verses of Scripture too, indicate that we should have confidence in our salvation.

"However, I – like many others, I imagine – find myself fearful that there may be aspects of the Law and of my Faith that I am lacking – either in knowledge, practice, or both. So, is this fear productive (in motivating studies)? Will it change in time? Or am I lacking the greater 'confidence' described in God's word?"

Introduction – The answer

Yes, as Christians we can be confident of our salvation

- ▶ I John 5:11-13 – "... that you may know that you have eternal life"
- ▶ Know (εἶδω): be aware, behold, consider, perceive, be sure, understand (Strong)
- ▶ Know you have eternal life, and continue to believe in the Son of God
 - ▶ Hebrews 3:1-6 – "... if indeed we hold fast our confidence ..."

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- ▶ John wrote so that Christians will have full joy
 - ▶ I John 1:1-4 – "... that our joy may be complete"
- ▶ "By this we may be sure that we are in him"
 - ▶ I John 2:3-6 – "And by this we know that we have come to know him"
 - ▶ I John 2:28-29 – "... we may have confidence ..."
 - ▶ I John 3:1-3 – "... we should be called children of God"
 - ▶ I John 5:14-15 – "... know that you have eternal life"

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Fear is replaced by faith in the assurance of salvation

- ▶ Our confidence must be in the Lord
 - ▶ If we live by faith and Christ lives in us, our confidence is in Him
 - ▶ Galatians 2:20 – "... I live by faith in the Son of God"
 - ▶ Hebrews 4:16 – "that we may receive mercy and find grace ..."
- ▶ Matthew 22:37-38 – "love the Lord your God ..."

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Growing in faith increases our confidence and removes fear

- ▶ II Peter 1:5-11 – "make every effort to supplement your faith with ..."
 - ▶ Confidence grows as we grow
 - ▶ Results of growth:
 - ▶ Useful and fruitful (verse 8)
 - ▶ Secures your faith (verse 10)
 - ▶ Entrance into eternal Kingdom (verse 11)

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Fear is destructive, not productive

- ▶ Fear destroys faith
 - ▶ Israel at the Red Sea
 - ▶ Exodus 14:10-14 – “What have you done to us ...”
 - ▶ Report of the ten spies
 - ▶ Numbers 13:32-33 – “We are not able to go up against the people”
 - ▶ Command to Joshua
 - ▶ Joshua 1:5-9 – “Be strong and courageous”
 - ▶ Peter walking on water
 - ▶ Matthew 14:25-31 – “O you of little faith”

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- ▶ John 14:1-7 – “Let not your hearts be troubled”
- ▶ Philippians 2:12-13 – “... it is God who works in you”
- ▶ Philippians 1:6 – “will bring it to completion”
- ▶ Satan plants seeds of doubt to weaken our faith in God's assurance of salvation
 - ▶ I Peter 1:3-5 – “... by God's power are being guarded ...”
- ▶ Walking in the light, we have fullness of joy and a confident faith of salvation in the Lord
 - ▶ I John 1:4-9 – “... God is light”

Obedying The Gospel

Hear the Word of God

- ▶ James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- ▶ I John 3:23-24 – “... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”

Obedying The Gospel

Repent of your sins

- ▶ Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- ▶ Romans 10:9-10 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

Obedying The Gospel

Be immersed in water

- ▶ Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you ...”

Remain faithful

- ▶ I Corinthians 15:1-2 – “if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain”