

Searching Our Hearts in Difficult Times
2 - Assurance of Salvation

1. The Question

2. An Example from Psalm 130

3. George Müller's Answer

Gal 3:26

John 1:11-13

4. 2LCF 18.2

Hebrews 6:17-18; 2 Peter 1:4-5, 10-11; Romans 8:15-16; 1 John 3:1-3

1 Jn 5:2-3

1 Jn 2:29

1 Jn 3:9

1 Jn 3:14

5. John Owen's Answer

6. Resolution

Next time: Chapter 3, The Sins of Our Day and Age, pages 10 - 15

Jesus Christ the Lord is a complete all-sufficient Savior. His invitation to the weary and heavy-laden is general, without exception, condition, or limitation. He has said, him who comes unto me, I will never cast out. God not only permits—but commands us to believe in the Son of his love. The apostle affirms that he is able to save to the uttermost, all who come unto God by him. When Moses raised the brazen serpent in the wilderness, the direction to the wounded Israelites was very short and simple—it was only, Look, and live! Thus the gospel addresses the sinner, Only believe, and you shall be saved.

Why then does not every sinner who is awakened to a sense of his guilt, danger, and helplessness; and whose desires are drawn towards the Savior—believe with full confidence, even upon his first application for mercy? Is not the remedy fully adequate to the malady? Is not the blood of Jesus able to cleanse from all sin? Is not the Word of the God of truth worthy of entire credit? Yet with such a Savior exhibited before the eyes of his mind, and with such promises sounding in his ears—he continues to hesitate and fluctuate between hope and fear. Could he rely as firmly on the Word of God, as he can on the word of a man, whom, he thinks, means what he says, and is able to make good his promises—he would immediately be filled with joy and peace in believing. But experience and observation may convince us, that, however rational and easy this assurance may seem in theory, it is ordinarily unattainable in practice—without passing through a train of previous exercises and conflicts.

~ John Newton, *Letters of John Newton*

Tests of Assurance - Thomas Watson

1. He who loves God desires his presence
2. He who loves God does not love sin
3. He who loves God is not much in love with anything else
4. He who loves God cannot live without him
5. He who loves God will stop at nothing to get him
6. He who loves God prefers him above life and worldly goods
7. He who loves God loves his saints
8. He who loves God fears to dishonor him

Bear in mind that Christ is the only infallible judge of our condition.

~ John Owen