



WILMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

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DO YOU HAVE ASSURANCE OF HOPE?

At conversion, the once hopeless sinner gains hope in Christ. ***And we desire that everyone of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end. That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promise.*** Hebrews 6:11,12

Hope is gained in repentance and faith; assurance is gained in sanctification and good works. In II Peter 1:10, the saints of God are admonished to make their calling and election sure. Study II Peter 1:2-11: ***Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And, beside this, giving all diligence; add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience; and to patience goodness; and to goodness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***

Can a person have hope yet no assurance of that hope? Jesus Christ promised that in the day when the Spirit came, we should know that He was in the Father and we in Him and He is in us (John 14:16-20) ***Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit shall remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.***

Facts do matter! The Holy Spirit makes us know the fact, and that is assurance of hope in sanctification. Can there be real assurance of your conversion, calling and election? Yes, by diligently striving for spiritual growth. Growth is evidence of life; absence of growth suggests death. Our sanctification and good works, encourage our growth in the assurance and hope of eternal salvation.

Norman Patterson, Adult Sunday School Teacher

Upcoming Events

- August 16 – 6:30 Theology (Pneumatology); 8:00 Book of Acts
- August 17 – 6:30 Men's Bible Study at Patterson's
- August 21 – 11 AM – Bring a Friend Sunday
- August 14 & 21 – 5:30 pm – Youth New Believers' Discipleship Class
- August 7 & 28 – 5:30 – Children's Choir Practice