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The Christian's ωληροφορια Assurance



Lionel Hartley

The Christian's Assurance

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The Christian's Assurance

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(for print edition)

Part 1 - Hope

*And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to **the full assurance of hope** unto the end / That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: / Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.*

— Hebrews 6:11, 18, 19

Pandora, according to an ancient Greek legend, was a beautiful woman sent by Zeus to Prometheus. After his brother Epimetheus married her, she opened a box the god's had given her. All the ills of the world are said to have escaped from that box and in mythology Pandora is blamed for these ills. Yet one thing remained in the box. Legend tells us that HOPE remained. The New Testament also tells us that hope remains.

Romans 5:3-5: And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; / And patience, experience; and experience, hope: / And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

What is our hope? (1 Peter 3:15 ...Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.)

The majority of references in the Bible to hope are in relation to *hope in God*. So, let's be a little more specific:

Hope in eternal life: Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God... that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. 1 Corinthians 15:19 If *in this life only* we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Hope, like faith must have an object, and the object of our hope is our resurrection and subsequent eternity. I have in the past suggested that the Second Coming of Jesus is the Blessed Hope. I read Titus 2:13 as suggesting that the blessed hope *is* the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Actually, the Greek doesn't say it is or that it isn't. The Greek says, "waiting for the blessed expectation or hope [...] glorious manifestation...(etc.)". The square brackets could contain such words as [and ... (KJV, NRSV)], [which is the...], [and also], [—(NIV)], [for the blessing which will come with...(Jerusalem Bible)], etc. But as the Greek doesn't give these words, neither should we.

However, I would venture to suggest that the context, especially verse 15 (These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke *with all authority*.), suggests that the Second Coming is the *Blessed Certainty*, and the *Blessed Hope* is explained in Verses 1:2 (*In hope of eternal life*, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began), and 3:7 (That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to *the hope of eternal life*.)

*“O blessed hope! O animating power!
Keep me all true to Thee for that glad hour.”*

— Mabel V. White

Paul makes reference to this as recorded by Luke in Acts 23:6 “But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: *of the hope and resurrection of the dead* I am called in question.” And Acts 24:15,16 “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. / Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope’s sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.”

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Hope in Salvation: Acts 27:20 speaks of the hope that (they) should be saved. Lamentations 3:26 says, “ It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation

of the Lord.” Paul says in Romans 8:24, 25, “ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? / But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” 1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

God has only one method of salvation, the Cross of Christ. God can have only one; for the Cross of Christ means death to evil, and life to good.

— F. W. ROBERTSON.

Hope in God’s mercy. Psalm 33:18 and 147:11. 1 Pet 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

If one had art to gather up all the golden sunlight that today falls wide over all this continent — falling through every silent hour; and all that is dispersed over the whole ocean, flashing from every wave; and all that is poured refulgent over the northern wastes of ice, and along the whole continent of Europe, and the vast outlying Asia, and torrid Africa; if one could in any wise gather up this immense and incalculable outflow and treasure of sunlight that falls down through the bright hours, and runs in liquid ether about the mountains, and fills all the plains and sends innumerable rays through every secret place, pouring over and filling every flower, shining down the sides of every blade of grass, resting in glorious humility upon the humblest things — on stick, and stone and pebble; on the spider’s web, the sparrow’s nest, the threshold

of the young foxes' hole, where they play and warm themselves; that rests on the prisoner's window, that strikes radiant beams through the slave's tear, that puts gold upon the widow's weeds, that plates and roofs the city with burnished gold, and goes on in its wild abundance up and down the earth, shining everywhere and always, since the day of primal creation, without faltering, without stint, without waste or diminution; as full, as fresh as overflowing today as if it were the very first day of its outlays one might gather up this boundless, endless, infinite treasure, to measure it, then might he tell the height and depth, and unending glory, of the pity of God! The Light and the Sun its source, are God's own figures of the immensity and copiousness of his mercy and compassion.

— Henry Ward Beecher.

Hope in God's word: Psalm 119:49 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope., 81 My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word., 114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word., and 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. **Hope from God's word:** Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Faith is common, natural, reasonable, sublime You put it to its highest power, its loftiest use, when it is turned to trust God in the word that He has spoken and in the love that He has displayed on Calvary.

— McNeill.

Hoping for God's truth to prevail: Isaiah 38:18 ... they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

No lips can be eloquent unless they are speaking in the name of a great truth.

— David Swing

Hoping for the growth of God's Church: 2 Corinthians 10:15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly.

If you would have your church be much, make much of it. Talk it up. Live and give for it. Be short-sighted as to its weaknesses and far-sighted as to its possibilities. ...Our churches are full of latent forces. These forces latent must be made forces potent if the kingdom is to come. To draw people to church you must lead the way. The only way to get is to go. To get outsiders in, the insiders must go out; but they must go out after others, and come back. If the insiders stay out, they will never get the outsiders to come in.

— Watchman.

Hoping for righteousness: Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

One of the finest steamers afloat on Lake Champlain is the steamer "Champlain," and when she began her first voyage she was the admiration of all who looked upon her. Cheer after cheer rent the air when she floated over her moorings on the dry-dock into the waters of the lake. Her machinery was perfect, her crew well trained, and the passengers upon her enthusiastic; when suddenly something seemed to be wrong

with the machinery and a stop was ordered that the fault might be remedied. The captain ordered them to let down the anchor and because of a wind that was blowing she was seen rapidly to drift toward the rocks. The captain shouted again, "Down with the anchor." and the sailors responded that the order had been previously obeyed but still she continued to drift. At last, because of the fact that the machinery was repaired the awful drifting was stopped and then it was found that while the anchor had been cast out, the chain was three feet too short to touch the bottom of the lake. Thus it is with men who claim mercy independent of trust in Christ. It is all right so far as it goes, but falls short of the righteousness of God. And no man can ever see God until by faith he is linked to Christ. It is not what we do, nor what we are, that saves us, but what he has accomplished and what he is today at the right hand of God.

— J. Wilbur Chapman

Hoping for glory through the indwelling Christ:

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

"Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavouring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed."

—Westminster Confession, 1646 - Chapter 18, Part.1

Transition:

Things hoped for need faith as their substance (Hebrews 11:1) and now we ask, What is faith?

Part 2 - Faith

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. Psalm 20:7

What is faith?

A certain lecturer in my college days related a time when he sat an exam on the topic of *faith*. The principal question asked was, “What is faith?”. A fellow examinee confessed later to him that, being at a panicky loss for words in the exam, the fellow put his name on each of several blank pages and wrote “Hebrews 11:1a” on the first page and “Hebrews 11:1b” on the last page. Although he failed the exam, the result did earn him a minor mark as it showed that “Faith was the substance of things hoped for” and yet the hoped for mark eluded him due to the “evidence of things not seen”.

Hebrews 11:1 (Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.). The word, which has been translated *substance* (KJV), is the Greek word *hupostasis* which means either a concrete essence or an abstract assurance. In non-biblical literature, the word *hupostasis* refers to the title deeds for a piece of property. What a certainty faith is — our title deed to God’s Kingdom!

Faith is also described as a Shield. Ephesians 6:16 (Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.) and a Breastplate, 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.)

Faith is an abstract noun and yet, in reality, appears as a preposition — faith needs an object — to be *in* something or someone!

The object of faith ought to be

1. **God** Mark 11:22 (And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.) and

2. **Jesus** Galatians 3:22-26 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. / But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. / Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. / But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. / For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The Source of Faith is

1. **The Holy Spirit** 1 Corinthians 12:9 (For to one is given) faith by the same Spirit, and

2. **Jesus** Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus *the author* and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We get faith by:

1. Hearing the Word of God Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I believe hundreds of Christian people are being deceived by Satan now on this point, that they have not got the assurance of salvation just because they are not willing to take God at His word.

— Dwight L Moody

2. Prayer and fasting (great faith) Matthew 17:19-21 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him (a devil) out? / And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. / Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

3. Ask in prayer and believe Matthew 21:21,22 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. / And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.

4. Continue to believe and share with God's family Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) / And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: / Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the

manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Yet there are pre-requisites:

1. **Christ rising from the dead** 1 Cor 15:13,14 If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: / And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

2. **Hearing the Word of God** Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Now, I find a great many people who want some evidence that they have accepted the Son of God. My friends, if you want any evidence, take God's word for it. You can't find better evidence than that. You know that when the Angel Gabriel came down and told Zachariah he should have a son he wanted a further token than the angel's word. He asked Gabriel for it, and he answered: "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of the Lord." He had never been doubted, and he thundered out this to Zachariah. But he wanted a further token, and Gabriel said: "You shall have a token; you shall be dumb till your son shall be given you."

— Dwight L Moody

2. **Pray for it & Believe that you will receive it** Mark 11:20-24 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. / And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. / And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. / For verily I say unto you, That who-

soever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. / Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Is faith proportionate? Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every *man the measure of faith*.

Can faith be increased? (Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.) To increase our faith we need to continue searching the word of God - Romans 10:17 (Faith comes...from the Word of God), Acts 17:11 (search the scriptures daily), 2 Timothy 2:15 (Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.), and Romans 15:4 (For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope).

Salvation is **the ultimate goal of our faith**.

Ephesians 2:8,9 (For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: / Not of works, lest any man should boast.); and 1 Peter 1:7-9 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: / Whom hav-

ing not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: / Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

It is very well for you to go into your house where your children are all strong, healthy and boisterous, full of life and vigor all the day long, and for you to praise God. But here is a man whose income is small; whose children are puny, weak, hardly ever have a day's health. For that man to look upon his lot and say: "It seems to be very hard: all these things are apparently against me, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." That is faith!

— Joseph Parker.

Transition:

"Faith is the root, and Assurance is the flower. Doubtless you can never have the flower without the roots; but it is no less certain you may have the root and not the flower. Assurance is more than life. It is health, strength, power, vigor, activity, energy, manliness, beauty."

— Bishop Ryle. *Assurance*. 7th Edition. Pp. 15, 16.

Part 3 - Assurance

Faith saves us, but assurance satisfies us.

— Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Faith's Checkbook*

The sixteen Assurances of the Christian Life

1. Adoption

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We are the children of God, and this is properly the foundation of the assurance of faith.

— John Wesley

2. Answers to prayer - 1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.; 5:14,15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: / And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

We sometimes find that our prayers are answered right away while we are praying; at other times the answer is delayed. But especially when men pray for mercy, how quickly the answer comes! Look at Paul, when he cried, "O Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" The answer came at once

. — Dwight L Moody, *Prevailing Prayer*, Ch. 11

3. Comfort in affliction - Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever; Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10,16-18 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; / Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; / Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. / For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. / For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; / While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

It is a comfort to feel that God is right, whatever and whoever else may be wrong.

— H. F. Robertson.

*Sometimes a light surprises / The Christian while he sings;
/ It is the Lord, who rises / With healing in His wings: / When
comforts are declining, / He grants the soul again / A season
of clear shining, / To cheer it after rain.*

— William Cowper.

4. Continuance in grace - Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ

If ever men complain of languishing vitality in their religious emotions, or of a stinted supply of food for their truest self, it is their own fault, not His. He means that there should be no parentheses of famine in our Christian life. It is not His doing if times of torpor alternate with seasons of quick energy and joyful fullness of life. So far as He is concerned, the flow is uninterrupted, and if it come to us in jets and spurts, like some intermittent well, it is because our own evil has put some obstacle to choke the channel and dam out His Spirit from our spirits. We cannot too firmly hold, or too profoundly feel, that an unbroken continuity of supplies of His grace - unbroken and bright as a sunbeam reaching in one golden shaft all the way from the sun to the earth - is His purpose concerning us. Here, in this highest region, the thought of our text is most absolutely true; for He who gives is ever pouring forth His own self for us to take, and there is no limit to our reception, but our capacity and our desire; nor any reason for a moment's break in our possession of love, righteousness, peace, but our withdrawal of our souls from beneath the Niagara of His grace.

— Alexander Maclaren.

5. Crown 2 Timothy 4:7,8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: / Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing; James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

There is a general assumption to the effect that it is perhaps remotely possible, even maybe almost likely, that God so loved the world (or at least possibly some of or in the world) that it seems to all intents and purposes to appear that maybe there is a slight possibility that it is conceivable that He gave, though possibly reluctantly under the circumstances (Jewish pressure and all) his only (we assume) begotten son, which presumable may imply that possibly whoever believeth in Him (it seems) might not perish, but, in all likelihood, may (perhaps — through chance) probably have eternal life (although no definitive explicit proclamation or decree to this effect is presently available, maybe).

— Notjohn 3:16

6. Election — Psalm 4:3 But **know** that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself; 1 Thessalonians 1:4 **Knowing**, brethren beloved, your election of God.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

— Jeremiah 29:11

7. Eternal life — 1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The security of the believer is not merely focused upon this life on earth. It has a dynamic focus on the life-to-come.

— Holman

8. God's love —

Romans 8:38,39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, / Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (See also Romans 8:15; Ephesians 4:32; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 8:10; 1 John 4:10, and 19.)

All true Christians have such a faith as implies an assurance of God's love.

— John Wesley

9. Kingdom — Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

It is the privilege of every child of God to have beyond doubt a knowledge of his own salvation.

— Dwight L. Moody, *Way To God*, Ch 8

10. Peace with God by Christ — Romans 5:1,2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: / By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

*Jesus gives us the peace which surpasses all understanding. And I'll tell you another thing: Jesus gives us the peace which surpasses all **mis**understanding*

— Dr Des Ford, Radio Broadcast,
The Feast Before The Funeral Pt 3.

11. Preservation — Psalm 3:6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about; 8 Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: thy blessing is upon thy people; 27:3-5 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. / One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. / For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock; 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. / Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; / Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof; 1 Samuel 2:8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.

On classic cups and vases we have sometimes seen devices carved by the cunning hand of the sculptor. So around the cup of trial, which God commends to the lips of suffering Christians, are wreathed many comforting assurances. Here is one of them: "All things work together for good to them who love God." Here is another like it: "As thy day is, so shall thy strength be." Afflicted friend, turn thy cup of sorrow around, and you will see engraved on it these precious words: "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." Turn it again and read: "My grace is sufficient for thee." The whole cup is encircled with the words of love. But faith is required to read them. They are invisible to selfishness and blind unbelief. And God sometimes washes the eyes of His children with tears, in order that they may read aright His providence and His commandment.

— T. L. Cuyler.

12. Redemption — Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.

Here the doctrine of assurance. Some say, "How are you to know that you are saved?" It can be known; it ought to be known. "Surely," cries one, "it is presumption to say that you are sure." It is presumption to live without knowing that you are delivered from wrath.

— Charles Haddon Spurgeon
Sermon No. 1806, 26th, Oct 1884.

13. Resurrection —

Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; Psalm 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.; Philippians 3:20,21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: / Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself; 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

“But,” a man said to me, “no one has come back, and we don’t know what is in the future. It is all dark, and how can we be sure?” Thank God, Christ came down from Heaven; and I would rather have Him, coming as He does right from the bosom of the Father, than any one else. We can rely on what Christ says, and He says: “He that believeth on Me shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” Not that we are going to have it when we die, but right here today.

— Dwight L Moody

14. Salvation — Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

It is the right and portion of every believer to live in the assurance that he is reconciled to God, that God loves him, and that he is God’s child, and if he doth not so live he has

himself only to blame. If there be any starving at God's table, it is because the guest stints himself, for the feast is superabundant

— Charles Haddon Spurgeon,
Sermon No. 1027, 31 Dec 1871.

15. Support in the hour of death — Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

I once read these words on a tombstone: "Born, died, kept." Let us pray God to keep us in perfect peace, and assured of salvation.

— Dwight L. Moody, Way To God, Ch 8.

16. Union with God and Christ —

1 Corinthians 6:15a Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you...; Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones; 1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him; 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

"Genuine assurance naturally leads to a legitimate and abiding peace and joy, and to love and thankfulness to God; and these from the very laws of our being to greater buoyancy, strength, and cheerfulness in the practice of obedience in every

department of duty.” This assurance may in various ways be shaken, diminished, and intermitted, but the principle out of which it springs can never be lost.

— [Eastons Bible Dictionary](#), Assurance.