

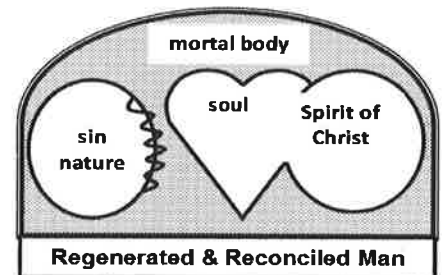
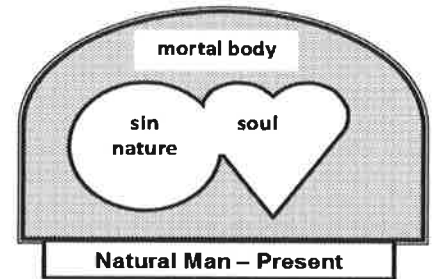
### “Assurance of Salvation”

1. The ground of assurance – the new birth (regeneration).  
*John 3:16; (John 1:12-13; 3:5; 3:36; Rom. 8:9,15-17; Phil. 1:6)*
2. The undermining of assurance – the weakness of the flesh.  
*Gal. 5:16-18; (I John 1:7 – 2:6; I John 5:1, 11-13)*
3. The building of assurance – engagement in one’s calling.  
*“who saved us and called us with a holy calling” II Tim. 1:9*  
*“the upward (heavenly) call of God in Christ Jesus” Phil. 3:13-14*  
*“you who share in a holy calling” Heb. 3:1*  
*“walk in a manner worthy of the calling*  
*with which you have been called” Eph. 4:1*

Believers in Christ are exhorted to develop:

- “a full assurance of understanding” *Col. 2:2*
- “a full assurance of faith” *Heb. 10:2*
- “a full assurance of hope” *Heb. 6:12*

“The greatest thing that we can desire, next to the glory of God, is our own salvation; and the sweetest thing we can desire is the assurance of our salvation.” Caryl (1633)

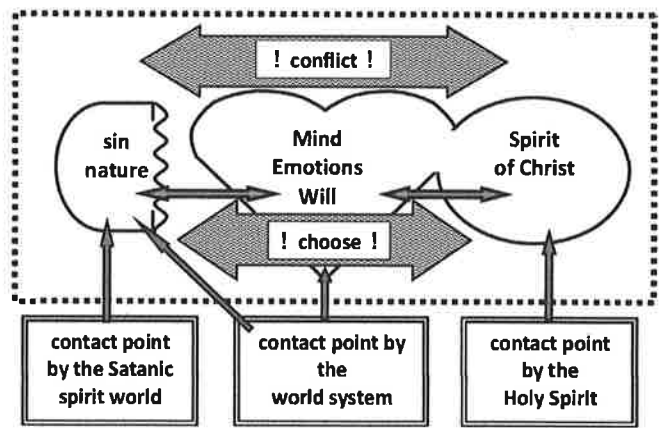


“in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.” *Col. 2:11 (Rom. 2:29)*

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith, examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test (are reprobate {KJV})? *II Cor. 13:5*

“Inconsistency of life is utterly destructive of peace of conscience. The two things are incompatible.”  
 “There is a very close connection between true holiness and assurance. Where there is the most holiness, there is generally the most assurance.”  
 Ryle (1877)

“Would’st thou have thy hope strong? Then keep the conscience pure: thou canst not defile one without weakening the other. The godly person that is loose and careless in his holy walking will soon find his hope languishing. ... Say not that thou hast royal blood in thy veins, and are born of God, except thou canst prove thy pedigree by daring to be holy.”  
 Gurnall (1680)



“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.” *Gal. 5:16-18*

## **“Assurance of Salvation” (continued)**

### **The Essential Content of Saving Faith**

1. Jesus, the virgin-conceived son of Mary, is the Son of God.
2. Jesus lived a sinless (perfectly righteous) life in His humanity.
3. Jesus, in His humanity, died on a cross to pay the ‘blood penalty’ of death for my sin.
4. Jesus was buried and resurrected the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the only conqueror of sin and death.
5. Jesus is eternally alive, the only provided Substitute for sinners.
  - Jesus has satisfied God’s wrath for sin, allowing a believing sinner to escape eternal condemnation.
  - Jesus has provided the required righteousness, allowing a believing sinner to live before God.
6. I believe that, by my placing a believing trust in Jesus alone as my Savior and Substitute, God will graciously save my soul and grant to me eternal life.
7. I accept Jesus as my personal Saviour and Substitute – the One who died to satisfy God’s wrath for my sin, and the One who alone provided that perfect righteousness that God requires for eternal life.

### **The Defining Essence of a “Faith That Saves”**

Faith, when used in regard to the Gospel and God’s saving work accomplished through His Beloved Son, consists of both a believing and a trusting:

- believing with conviction that the content of the Gospel is true and trustworthy
- trusting with a “whole-soul” dependence that the message of the Gospel is eternally valid and wholly effectual for my eternal salvation.

Saving faith is a belief and trust concerning the true message of the Gospel that is awakened in the mind and will of a person by the Spirit through the means of His breathed out Word.

Stated another way, the faith that saves and justifies a sinner is a confident trust in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ consisting of:

- a true knowledge of the essential content of the Gospel
- an intellectual acceptance of, plus agreement with, the truth of the Gospel
- a resting ‘soul-confidence’ in Christ alone as personal Savior-Redeemer-Reconciler
- a willful ‘life-commitment’ to follow Christ as personal Lord and Master.

### Discussion Questions

- In regard to *II Cor. 13:5*, what are some “tests” that can be applied to discern if one is truly “in faith”?
- How might (should!) one’s public testimony in believer’s baptism form a basis for assurance?
- In regard to engaging in one’s calling (see point #3 in sermon outline), what are some practical steps that can be implemented in a walk of faith that will contribute to enhancing assurance of salvation?

Quote: Billy Graham, *How to Be Born Again*, Word Books, 1977, pp. 118-121.

Picture a courtroom. God the Judge is seated in the judge’s seat, robed in splendor. You are arraigned before Him. He looks at you in terms of His own righteous nature as it is expressed in the moral law. He speaks to you:

GOD: John/Mary, have you loved Me with all your heart?

JOHN/MARY: No, Your Honor.

GOD: Have you loved others as you have loved yourself?

JOHN/MARY: No, Your Honor.

GOD: Do you believe you are a sinner and that Jesus Christ died for your sins?

JOHN/MARY: Yes, Your Honor.

GOD: Then your penalty has been paid by Jesus Christ on the cross and you are pardoned. ...

Because Christ is righteous, and you believe in Christ, I now declare you legally righteous.

After John and Mary were pardoned the Judge invited them to come to live with Him forever.