

Our Blessed Assurance

1. At salvation God gives us many things.

2. In my book *At Salvation Gifts* I listed 44 things God provides to the believer at point of regeneration. I want to review these with you this morning and then compare what we find in 1Jo 3:3-10. These 1st John passages have proven disturbing to many believers.

3. What will follow is the listing of the wonderful things given us by God at point of regeneration, and a discussion of 1st John Chapter three verses 3-10.

4. What did God give us at the moment of our salvation? Follow along with me:

4.1 As objects of God's love we received everlasting life

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

4.2 Indwelling of the Father

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

4.3 Indwelling of Christ

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

4.4 Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

1Co 6:19 What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

4.5 Filling of the Holy Spirit

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

4.6 Spiritual Rebirth

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (*a reference to physical birth—amniotic fluid*) and of the Spirit (*spiritual rebirth*), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

4.7 Human Spirit

Joh 3:6 "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

4.8 System of Spiritual Dynamics

1Co 2:9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"...

1Co 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

4.9 Calling of God

1Th 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

4.10 Election of God

1Th 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

4.11 Ministry of Reconciliation

2Co 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

4.12 Redemption

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

4.13 Propitiation

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

4.14 Atonement

1Jo 2:2 He is the atoning (*Hilasmos*) sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

4.15 Walk with God

Eph 2:10 For we are His product, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which such production God hath before ordained that we should be so structured with the potential to walk in them.

4.16 Emancipation from the Mosaic Law

Gal 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

4.17 Renovated Soul

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

4.18 Adoption

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

4.19 Positional Sanctification

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

4.20 Potential for Temporal Sanctification

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

4.21 Justification

Rom 5:16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.

4.22 Released from the Control of the Powers of Darkness

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

4.23 Translated into God's Kingdom of Light

Col 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

4.24 The Solid Rock as our Foundation

Psa 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psa 18:3 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

4.25 We Become a Gift from the Father to Jesus the Christ

Joh 17:6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word ...

4.26 Circumcised in Christ

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

4.27 Recipients of a Holy and Royal Priesthood

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

4.28 We Become a Peculiar People

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

4.29 Direct Access to God

Luk 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

4.30 We Are the Objects of God's Power

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

4.31 Objects of His Faithfulness

1Co 1:9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

4.32 Objects of His peace

Phi 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

4.33 Consolation and Encouragement

2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation to be in a state of comfort and solace, encouragement and good hope through grace.

4.34 We Are Made the Objects of His Intercession

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

4.35 Eternal Inheritance Secured by the Integrity and Power of God

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

1Pe 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

4.36 Heavenly Association

Eph 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

4.37 Ambassadorship

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

4.38 Made God's Ministers

2Co 6:4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

4.39 A Sealing

2Co 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

4.40 Glorification

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

4.41 Completeness in Christ

Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

4.42 Every Spiritual Blessing

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4.43 Spiritual Gift

1Co 12:5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1Co 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

4.44 Pastor-Teachers

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

5. This should remind you of your VIP status. Every time you leave the house in the morning think about the many power packed gifts God has given you.

6. Now for a discussion of 1Jo 3:4-10.

7. No discussion of sin as it relates to the believer and his position in Christ is more important than 1Jo 3:4-10.

8. These passages set up a distinction between sin with its source in Satan and righteousness in conduct prompted by deeds of rectitude because of a perfect standing in God. John, however, in chapter one makes clear every Christian commits sin.

1Jo 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us ...

1Jo 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

9. Let's take a look at 1Jo 3:4-10 with comment.

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1Jo 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1Jo 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in **Him** is no sin.

1Jo 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

1Jo 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for **His seed** remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1Jo 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

10. Lewis Sperry Chafer has written:

“There is no basis in these passages for the doctrine of sinless perfection on the part of Christians – there are no such Christians. It will be remembered that John has warned here against such a bizarre conclusion (1Jo 1:8-10). Nor does the Bible teach here or elsewhere, that Christians do not sin. It does teach, however, that the Christian retains his Adamic, carnal nature until the day of his death.

“The Bible also teaches that the Christian, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is possessed with a new standard of what is good or bad. A believer's conduct either grieves or does not grieve the Holy Spirit. Additionally the Christian is grieved when he sins.

Psa 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.
Psa 32:4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

“It is to be concluded therefore that the child of God cannot sin lawlessly without great suffering and that suffering is due to the presence of the divine seed or nature in him.”

11. The assurance of salvation is born of confidence in Christ. We began our study by looking at 44 things given to us by God at regeneration. These things should provide great assurance.

12. Even with such assurance there are still those who question: "Has He cast me out?" To doubt salvation at this point is not modest or commendable: it is the sin of distrusting God, or making Him untrue. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Heb 11:6 It is impossible to please God unless by faith we believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

13. On the other hand, it is quite possible for the believer to sound a rousing Amen to every word found in John chapter three. Such a person looks at 1Jo 3:4-10 as standards for **self-examination**.

14. Who can look at the cross of Christ and not be convinced that God's love has been manifested toward us and that He Who paid such a price will not only save us from our sins, but will keep us safe and secure; why? Because every believer becomes family of God.

15. The Word of Scripture becomes the title deed as to the certainty of the transaction. "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." (1Jo 5:13) Such wonderful knowledge, therefore, is to be gained through the things written. The written things are His exceeding great and precious promises.

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
2Pe 1:4 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.

16. These promises are of no value to the person or persons who refuse to accept those wonderful promises. Normal Christian experience and the joy and peace that results from believing can never even begin in the heart until God has been trusted to the extent that the record of His saving grace has been believed.

17. There is abundant Scripture describing that which occurs in the transformed life of a believer. It is tragic that Christ should come into a human heart and there be no change in that life.

18. There should be in the life of the believer a new and vital relationship to God the Father, to fellow-Christians and to Christ Himself, a new attitude toward prayer, toward the Word, toward sin and toward the unsaved.

19. This is the view-point of the Apostle James when he contends so earnestly for works. It must be remembered, however, that James in his epistle is concerned with the appearance, professions of faith have on the outside world.

20. Men can judge only by the outward appearance, and works alone can justify the Christian profession in their sight. This, James clearly asserts to be true as illustrated in the case of Abraham. (Jam 2:23)

Jam 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

21. The First Epistle of John is full of references to the outward evidence of the inward fact of the newly imparted divine life.

21.1 First John chapter three should be taken as an examination of the believer's post-salvation life.

22. Lewis Sperry Chafer in his *Systematic Theology* offers a powerful summary:

“We have two ways of looking at what at first appears to be two contradictory positions. Many passages as we have seen assert salvation is a product of faith alone in Christ alone and that subsequent actions are expected as the believer moves from a babe in Christ to a mature believer.”

“You must either believe the Bible as the Word of God where it asserts over and over again that Christians sin or you can carefully parse first John three to discover the true meaning of such verses found in 1Jo 3:4-10. It is not 1st John only where we find passages requiring critical parsing but all Scriptures indicating that faith alone in Christ alone is not enough must be exegeted and categorically analyzed in the light of their dispensation. Don't let anyone mislead you!”

23. The Bible is replete with Scripture that clearly tell us we are eternally secure because of God's gracious gift of His only begotten Son.

24. There can be no better conclusion of how to interpret 1st John Chapter Three than that provided by Chafer in his book "*He That Is Spiritual.*"

"The First Epistle of John is full of references to the outward evidence of the inward fact of the newly imparted divine life. **This little book, standing near the end of the Bible, may be taken, in one sense, as an examination of the believer.** 'Hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.' 1Jo 2:3

"In this the children of God are manifested, and the children of the devil: whoso doeth not righteousness is not of God (compare John 6:28, 29), neither he that loveth not his brother; We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren; Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother; And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us"; He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love; And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. (compare 1Co 12:3) Such a precious experience as is described by these passages may become clouded by sin or lost in the depression of some physical weakness, and were we depending upon the experience as primary evidence that we are saved, all grounds of assurance would be swept away. The primary evidence is clearly stated in the same Epistle as the final word of testing here given and the final grounds of confidence:

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath the life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not the life. These things (about having the life) 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." (1Jo 5:9-13)

"The possession of the indwelling Son of God is the abiding fact of the newly created life in Him, and should never be confused with some imperfect and changeable experience in the daily life. He is received by faith. His presence most naturally leads to blessed new realities in experience. Certainly experience never leads to the realities of the presence of the indwelling Son of God. The Biblical use of the word "assurance" will be found in several passages: "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. (Heb 10:22)

“This is the confidence that grows out of a repose of faith in the faithfulness of God that He will fulfil every word He has spoken. ‘And unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding. (Col 2:2)’”

25. A believer’s confidence should grow as the believer increasingly enters into the vastness of God’s revelation. We are limited in spiritual vision when we first believe. To all believers I pray there will be a growing understanding and a corresponding increase of confidence and assurance as other promises are claimed. Remember, “Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world.”

