



Major Bible Themes

52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURE
SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

Lewis Sperry Chafer

REVISED BY

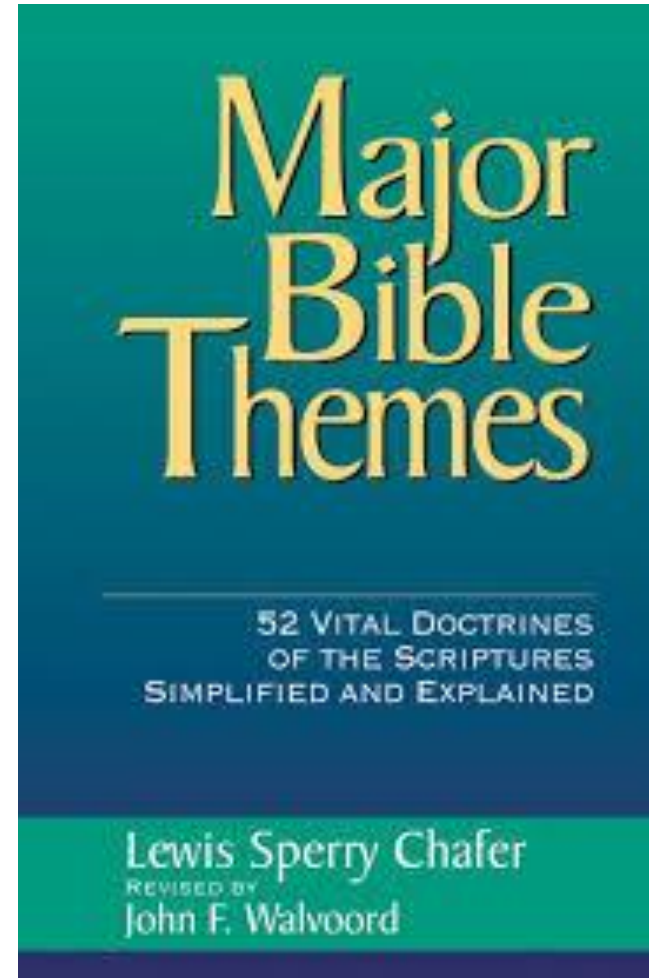
John F. Walvoord

Chapter Thirty-two

Assurance of Salvation

Step # One Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

Find the Outline



Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

A. Importance of Assurance

B. Understanding the Nature of Salvation

C. Confirming Testimony of the Christian Experience

D. Accepting the Veracity of the Promises of the Bible

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

A. Importance of Assurance

In Christian experience, assurance that one is saved by faith in Christ is essential to the whole program of growth in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Assurance is a matter of experience and relates to personal confidence in present salvation. It should not be confused with the doctrine of eternal security, which will be discussed in the next chapter. Eternal security is a question of fact, while assurance is a matter of what one believes at a given time concerning his personal salvation.

**Understand
It**



**Understand
It**



B. Understanding the Nature of Salvation

Essential to any real assurance of salvation is a clear understanding of what was accomplished by Jesus Christ in His death on the cross. Salvation is not a work of man for God, but a work of God for man; it depends completely upon divine grace without respect to human merit. One who understands that Jesus Christ died for him and provided a complete salvation which is offered to anyone who sincerely believes in Christ can, accordingly, have assurance of his salvation just as soon as he meets the condition of trusting in Christ as his Savior.

Once understanding salvation, the question resolves itself into the issue of whether one has really trusted in Christ. This question can be answered by the confirmations that are found in Christian experience of a person who has received salvation.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

**Understand
It**



Among the accomplishments of salvation of the new birth is given the supreme emphasis in assurance. Eighty-five New Testament passages attest this feature of saving grace. Consideration of these passages discloses the fact that this imparted life is the gift of God to all those who believe on Christ it is from Christ it is Christ indwelling the believer in the sense that eternal life is inseparable from Him and therefore is as eternal as He is eternal.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

C. Confirming Testimony of the Christian Experience

**Understand
It**



On the basis of the fact that Christ indwells him, the believer is appointed to judge himself as to whether he is in the faith; for it is reasonable to expect that the heart wherein Christ dwells will, under normal conditions, be aware of that wonderful presence. However, the Christian is not left to his own understanding as to the precise manner in which the indwelling Christ will be manifested, as it is clearly defined in Scripture. This revelation serves a twofold purpose: it protects against the assumption that fleshly emotionalism is proof of Assurance and it sets a standard of spiritual reality on which the believer can rest for his Assurance.

Understand It



The unsaved will never manifest the life which is Christ, and in like manner, the carnal Christian will never manifest the life which is Christ and he can in no way with accuracy prove his salvation by his experience.

A carnal Christian is as perfectly saved as the spiritual Christian; for no experience or merit or service can form any part of the grounds of salvation. Though carnal, he is, nevertheless, in Christ. His obligation toward God is not to exercise saving faith, but rather to adjust to the mind and will of God. Confident assurance only comes to those who are Spirit-filled, those who are walking in the Spirit. It is the Spirit that bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God.

The new life in Christ which results from being saved by faith issues in certain major manifestations.

Assurance of Salvation

**Knowledge
of God as
Father**

**New Reality
in
Prayer**

**New Ability to
Understand
the Scriptures**

**A New sense
of sin**

Manifestations of the indwelling Christ

**New Love
for the
Saved**

**Manifesting
the Character
of Christ**

**New Love
for the
Unsaved**

Understand It



1. The knowledge that God is our Heavenly Father

A normal Christian experience includes, therefore, a personal appreciation of the fatherhood of God and gives Assurance

2. A new reality in prayer is another confirming experience which leads to assurance.

Prayer assumes a very large place in the experience of the spiritual Christian. It becomes increasingly his most vital resource. It is a manifestation of the indwelling Spirit. By the indwelling Spirit the believer offers praise and thanksgiving and by the Spirit he is enabled to pray according to the will of God

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

**Understand
It**



3. A new ability to understand Scripture is another important experience related to salvation.

According to the promise of Christ, the child of God will understand through the Spirit the things of Christ, the things of the Father, and things to come. On the Emmaus road Christ opened Scripture to His hearers and opened their hearts to Scripture as well. Such an experience, though so wonderful, is not designed alone for favored Christians; it is the normal experience of all who are right with God, since it is a natural manifestation of the indwelling Christ and brings assurance.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

4. A new sense of the sinfulness of sin is the normal experience of one who is saved

Understand
It



As water removes that which is foreign and unclean, so the Word of God condemns that which is unclean and implants those ideals which are of God. Through the Word a divine estimate of sin displaces the human estimate. It is impossible that the sinless Christ, who sweat drops of blood on becoming a sin offering, should not, when free to manifest His presence, create a new sense of the corrupting nature of sin in the one in whom He dwells.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

5. A new love is experienced also for the saved.

**Understand
It**



In 1 John 3:14, love for the brethren is made an absolute test of personal salvation.. The fact that the same divine presence indwells two individuals relates them vitally and anticipates a corresponding bond of devotion. The Christian's love one for the other is therefore made a sign of true discipleship and constitutes a basis of assurance.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

6. A supreme basis for assurance is the manifestation of the character of Christ in the believer.

**Understand
It**



The divine presence of Christ in the heart are indicated by the words: "Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith; meekness, temperance". Each of these words represent character of God and the life which Christ lived, it is the life which is Christlike , and it is the life which is Christ . Since these graces are wrought by the Spirit who indwells every believer, this experience is provided for all.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

**Understand
It**



7. A new love is realized for the unsaved.

Apart from all earthly distinctions, men were seen by Paul's spiritual eyes only as souls for whom Christ had died. Likewise, for the lost Paul ceased not to pray and to strive and he so loved the lost that he was willing to be "accursed from Christ" for their salvation. This divine compassion should be experienced by every Spirit-filled believer and is an evidence of their salvation.

**Understand
It**



8. The combined experiences of the Christian life bring a consciousness of salvation and assurance

Saving faith in Christ is a definite experience. The Apostle Paul related of himself, "I know whom I have believed" . A personal reliance upon a Savior is so definite an act of the will and attitude of the mind that one could hardly be deceived regarding it. But it is the purpose of God that the normal Christian be assured in his own heart that he is accepted of God.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

Understand It



To the spiritual Christian, the Spirit bears witness that he is a son of God. Similarly, having trusted in Christ, the believer will have no more the consciousness of condemnation because of sin. This does not imply that the Christian will not be conscious of the sin which he commits; it rather has to do with a consciousness of an eternal acceptance with God through Christ), which is the portion of all who believe.

**Understand
It**



1. Confidence that the Bible is true and that its promises of salvation will be certainly fulfilled is essential to assurance of salvation.

Above and beyond all that the believer may experience - which experience is too often indefinite because of carnality - there is given the abiding evidence of the dependable Word of God.

In addressing believers the Apostle John states, "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" By this passage assurance is given to every believer, carnal and spiritual alike, that they may know they have eternal life. This assurance is made to rest, not on a changeable experience, but upon the things which are written in the unchangeable Word of God

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

**Understand
It**



The written promises of God are like a title deed thus inspire confidence. These promises of salvation form the unconditional covenant of God under grace and call for no human merit, nor are they proven to be true through any human experience. These mighty realities are to be reckoned as accomplished on no other ground than the veracity of God.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

2. **Doubting whether one has really committed himself to faith in Christ and the promises of God is destructive to the Christian faith**

**Understand
It**



Multitudes are in no way certain that they ever have had a personal transaction with Christ regarding their own salvation. While it is nonessential that one should know the day and the hour of his decision, it is imperative that he know that he is now trusting Christ without reference to the time it began. Without assurance there can be no growth in Christ.

MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

3. Doubting the faithfulness of God is also fatal to any true experience of assurance.

Some lack assurance of their own salvation because they are not sure that God has actually received them and saved them. This state of mind is usually caused by looking for a change in their feelings rather than looking to the faithfulness of Christ. Feelings and experiences have their place; but, as stated before, the final evidence of personal salvation, which is unchanged by these, is the truthfulness of God. What He has said, He will do, and it is not pious or commendable for a person to distrust his salvation after having definitely cast himself upon Christ.

**Understand
It**



4. Assurance of salvation, accordingly, depends upon understanding the nature of God's complete salvation.

Confirmation may be found in part in Christian experience, and normally there is some change in life on the part of a person who has trusted Christ as his Savior. It is most essential that he realize that assurance of salvation depends upon the certainty of the promises of God and the certainty that the individual has committed himself by faith to Jesus Christ in keeping with these promises. One who has made this commitment can rely upon the faithfulness of God, who cannot lie to keep His promises and to save the believer by divine power and grace.

**Understand
It**



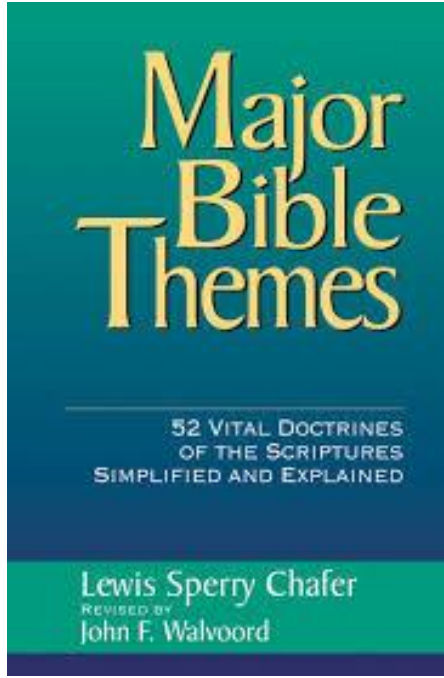
MBT Chapter Thirty-One Outline

**Understand
It**



Much assurance is found by asking the question did I do what the Word of God requires?

The next principle is to build a physical file cabinet



Mike Borland

What does the Bible
teach about
Assurance of
Salvation

Chapter 32- Assurance of
Salvation

Using Major Bible Themes
write a study explaining
The Assurance of Salvation

Memorize it



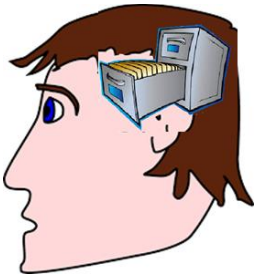
Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

A. Importance of Assurance

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Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

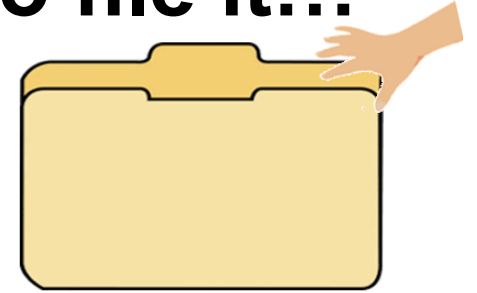
A. Importance of Assurance

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D. Accepting the Veracity of the Promises of the Bible

To file it...



Write it Down



Underline Main
Words...



Step # Two

Read the Section and look up the passages



Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

A. Importance of Assurance

Chapter Thirty- Two: Assurance of Salvation

B. **Understanding** the Nature of Salvation

Understanding the New Birth

The New Birth is secure

Joh 10:28 *And I give unto them eternal life; and **they shall never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

The New Birth is Christ indwelling the believer

Col 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:*

The New Birth is from Christ

1Jn 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

The New Birth brings character

1Jn 5:1 *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat **loveth him also that is begotten of him.***

C. **Confirming Testimony** of the Christian Experience

The believer is appointed to judge himself as to whether he is in the faith

2Co 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, unless you are discredited?*

Christian experience is limited by that which is carnal

1Co 3:2-3 *I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, **neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal:** for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

Though carnal, he is, nevertheless, in Christ

1Co 3:1 *And I, **brethren**, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto **carnal**, even as unto babes in Christ.*

1. The knowledge that God is our Heavenly Father

Son will reveal Him. Matthew 11:27

Mat 11:27 *All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knows the Son, but the Father; neither knows any man the Father, save the Son, and **he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.***

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that **they might know thee** the only true God*

Fellowship with the Father and with the Son is known only by those who "walk in the light"

1Jn 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

2. A new reality in prayer is another confirming experience which leads to assurance.

By the Spirit he is enabled to pray according to the will of God

Rom 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit itself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Jud 1:20 *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit***

By the indwelling Spirit the believer offers praise and thanksgiving

Eph 5:18-20 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be **filled with the Spirit**; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody in your heart to the Lord**; **Giving thanks** always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

3. A new ability to understand Scripture is another important experience related to salvation.

The child of God will understand through the Spirit

Joh 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come.***

On the Emmaus road Christ opened Scripture to His hearers

Luk 24:32 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and **while he opened to us the scriptures?***

He opened their understanding to Scripture as well

Luk 24:45 *Then **opened he their understanding**, that they might understand the scriptures,*

The normal experience is to be taught of the Spirit

1Jn 2:27 *But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and **ye need not that any man teach you**: but as the **same anointing teaches you of all things**, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

4. A new sense of the sinfulness of sin is the normal experience of one who is saved

1Co 6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.***

The Word of God removes that which is foreign and unclean implants those ideals which are of God

Psa 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

5. A new love is experienced also for the saved.

Absolute test of personal salvation

1Jn 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.*

Test of true discipleship

Joh 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

6. A supreme basis for assurance is the manifestation of the character of Christ in the believer.

The divine presence of Christ in the heart is manifested in the fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

This fruit is the character of God and the life which Christ lived

Joh 13:34 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

This fruit is the life which is Christlike

Php 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

7. A new love is realized for the unsaved.

Christ has died for all men therefore we should give our lives for souls

*2Co 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if **one died for all**, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live **should not henceforth live unto themselves**, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

Men are seen only as souls for whom Christ had died.

2 Cor. 5:16 *Henceforth know we no man after the flesh*

Paul's prayer was for the lost

Rom 10:1 *Brethren, my **heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.***

Paul worked for the salvation of the lost

Rom 15:20 *Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel,*

Paul so loved the lost he was willing to be "accursed from Christ" (Rom. 9:1-3).

Compassion for the lost should be experienced by every Spirit-filled believer

*Rom 5:5-5 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. For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.***

8. The combined experiences of the Christian life bring a consciousness of salvation and assurance

Saving faith in Christ is a definite experience.

2 Tim. 1:12 *I know whom I have believed*

Spirit bears witness that he is a son of God (Rom. 8:16).

Rom 8:16 *The **Spirit itself bears witness** with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

Believer has no more the consciousness of condemnation because of sin

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus*

Heb 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?*

The believer will have a consciousness of an eternal acceptance with God through Christ

Eph 1:6 *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us **accepted in the beloved.***

D. Accepting the Veracity of the Promises of the Bible

1. Confidence that the Bible is true and that its promises of salvation will be certainly fulfilled is essential to assurance of salvation.

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"*

This assurance is made to rest, not on experience, but on the Word of God

Psa 119:89. *For ever, O LORD, **thy word is settled in heaven.***

Psa 119:160 *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments **endures for ever.***

The written promises of God are as a title deed

- John 6:37 the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out ---
- John 5:24 he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life
- John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life ---
- Rom 1:16 for it (the gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes
- Rom 10:13 Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved

2. Doubting whether one has really committed himself to faith in Christ and the promises of God is destructive to the Christian faith

Jas 1:5-8 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him. **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.***

2Tim 2:13 *If we believe not, yet he abides faithful: he cannot deny himself*

Step # Three

Memorize one Passage per section

Learn general and specific later.

- Highlight key words
- Understand difficult words and the meaning



Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone



Step # Four Take the Test at the end of the chapter

1. How would you distinguish the doctrine of assurance from the doctrine of eternal security?

Eternal security is a question of fact, while assurance is a matter of what one believes at a given time concerning his personal salvation.

2. Why is assurance of salvation important?

It is essential to the whole program of growth in grace and in the knowledge of Christ

3. How is assurance related to understanding the meaning of the death of Christ?

One who understands that Jesus Christ died for him and provided a complete salvation which is offered to anyone who sincerely believes in Christ can, accordingly, have assurance of his salvation just as soon as he meets the condition of trusting in Christ as his Savior.

4. How is assurance related to knowledge that salvation is a gift?

Salvation is not a work of man for God, but a work of God for man; it depends completely upon divine grace without respect to human merit and is met when one accepts by faith Christ's work on the Cross

5. How is assurance related to knowledge that salvation is by grace alone?

Salvation is not a work of man for God, but a work of God for man; it depends completely upon divine grace without respect to human merit. One who understands that Jesus Christ died for him and provided a complete salvation which is offered to anyone who sincerely believes in Christ can, accordingly, have assurance of his salvation just as soon as he meets the condition of trusting in Christ as his Savior.

6. Is it reasonable to assume that a Christian will know that he is saved?

On the basis of the fact that Christ indwells him, the believer is appointed to judge himself as to whether he is in the faith; for it is reasonable to expect that the heart wherein Christ dwells will, under normal conditions, be aware of that wonderful presence

7.To what extent will a carnal Christian be subject to loss of assurance of his salvation?

The carnal Christian will never manifest the life which is Christ and he can in no way with accuracy prove his salvation by his experience.

8.How does assurance relate to knowledge that God is our Heavenly Father?

A normal Christian experience includes, therefore, a personal appreciation of the fatherhood of God and gives Assurance

9. How does reality in prayer constitute a confirming experience of salvation?

Prayer assumes a very large place in the experience of the spiritual Christian. It becomes increasingly his most vital resource. It is a manifestation of the indwelling Spirit. A new desire to talk with God is a manifestation of the Spirit dwelling within us.

10. Relate the ability to understand Scripture to assurance of salvation.

According to the promise of Christ, the child of God will understand through the Spirit the things of Christ. On the Emmaus road Christ opened Scripture to His hearers and opened their hearts to Scripture as well. Such an experience, though so wonderful, is not designed alone for favored Christians; it is the normal experience of all who are right with God, since it is a natural manifestation of the indwelling Christ and brings assurance.

11. To what extent does a sense of the sinfulness of sin relate to assurance of salvation?

As water removes that which is foreign and unclean, so the Word of God condemns that which is unclean and implants those ideals which are of God. Through the Word a divine estimate of sin displaces the human estimate. It is impossible that the sinless Christ, who sweat drops of blood on becoming a sin offering, should not, when free to manifest His presence, create a new sense of the corrupting nature of sin in the one in whom He dwells.

12. How does a love for the unsaved constitute a basis for assurance of salvation?

Apart from all earthly distinctions, men were seen by Paul's spiritual eyes only as souls for whom Christ had died. Likewise, for the lost Paul ceased not to pray and to strive and he so loved the lost that he was willing to be "accursed from Christ" for their salvation. This divine compassion should be experienced by every Spirit-filled believer and is an evidence of their salvation.

13. How does love for one's fellow Christian give assurance of salvation?

In 1 John 3:14, love for the brethren is made an absolute test of personal salvation

14. Relate the fruit of the Spirit to assurance of salvation.

The divine presence of Christ in the heart are indicated by the words: "Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith; meekness, temperance". Each of these words represent character of God and the life which Christ lived, it is the life which is Christlike, and it is the life which is Christ. Since these graces are wrought by the Spirit who indwells every believer, this experience is provided for all.

15. How does a definite placing of faith in Christ assist in the matter of assurance of salvation?

Multitudes are in no way certain that they ever have had a personal transaction with Christ regarding their own salvation. While it is nonessential that one should know the day and the hour of his decision, it is imperative that he know that he is now trusting Christ without reference to the time it began. Paul said, "I know whom I believed in"

16. How does accepting the promises of salvation in the Bible relate to assurance of salvation?

The written promises of God are a title deed of Salvation

- John 6:37 the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out ---
- John 5:24 he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life
- John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life ---
- Rom 1:16 for it (the gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes
- Rom 10:13 Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved

17. Is it necessary to know the exact time when a believer trusted in Christ for the first time?

It is not necessary to know the exact time but you must know that a transaction with God took place

18. Is it important that one know that he is trusting in Christ now as his Savior'?

If a person lacks assurance it is important that they accept Christ as their savior now and stand on that decision

19. If there is lack of assurance of salvation, what should an individual do?

Consider the terms of salvation given in the scripture and analyze whether or not they have made that commitment and if not accept Christ.

20. How does assurance of salvation relate to confidence in the faithfulness of God?

One who has made this commitment can rely upon the faithfulness of God, who cannot lie to keep His promises and to save the believer by divine power and grace.

Psa 119:89. *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*