

Increasing Assurance and Confidence

1 John 4 and 5:11-12

A genuine Christian is humble, totally dependent upon Jesus Christ for salvation and Power.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

An authentic Christian has an increasing confidence in God's _____.

Being an effective witness for Jesus requires a healthy confidence in the promises of God.

The longer you follow Jesus, the more you understand and see God's _____.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

Three areas we can be confident in because of the promises of God

1. We have an increased confidence in our ability to _____ between truth and falsehood.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Isaiah 5:20-21

Are Christians ever to judge?

Yes, we're to judge between true prophets and the false prophets.

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. Matthew 7:1

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Matthew 7:2

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Matthew 7:3-5

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Matthew 7:15-16

*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! **1 Corinthians 6:2-3***

*This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **1 John 4:2***

but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1 John 4:3

“By what power or what name did you do this?”

*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **Acts 4:7-10***

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12***

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **Acts 4:13***

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **1 John 4:4***

*They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. **1 John 4:5***

*We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. **1 John 4:6***

“Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

John 19:4

2. We have an increased confidence that God's _____ is the source of genuine compassion. *Three areas we can be confident in because of the promises of God*

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **1 John 4:7-8***

“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10**

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, **1 John 5:3**

1. We show our love for God by obeying His _____

[Jesus] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command.* **John 14:15**

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:11-12

2. We show our love for God by loving other _____

We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **1 John 4:13-14**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:15-16

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar.

1 John 4:19-20

For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. **1 John 4:20-21**

3. We have increasing confidence in the promise of eternal _____ in heaven. *Three areas we can be confident in because of the promises of God*

In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. **1 John 4:17**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. **Hebrews 2:15**

Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” **Acts 24:25**

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **1 John 4:18**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10-11

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. **1 John 5:11-12**

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. **1 John 5:13**

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **Romans 14:8**

Three reasons why some Christians are not confident in their salvation

- 1. They never made a personal _____ to follow Christ
—it was just assumed.**

“What must we do to be saved?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38**

Ask yourself, “Have I done what God asked me to do?”

- 2. Some aren't confident because they have not had a _____
conversion experience.**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16**

- 3. Some worry over sin they have committed _____ they
became a Christian.**

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
1 John 2:1-2

Key: truth, will, discern, love, commands, people, life, decision, dramatic, after