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# The Princeton Path **FINDER**

Sing . . . ; shout aloud . . . ! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart . . . ! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD . . . is with you; never again will you fear any harm. "The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

Zephaniah 3:14-15, 17



## In This Issue

*Assurance*

*(Confidence in God's Promises)*

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*Blessed Assurance*

*Blessed Assurance In Dark Times*

*Full Assurance*

## Assurance (Confidence In God's Promises)

In the midst of passionate debates about "Christian assurance" and "assurance of salvation," it's tempting to think that the New Testament brims with references to these vital concepts. The fervor surrounding these terms is akin to a whirlwind, with countless individuals seeking evidence to affirm their convictions and arguments. Yet, for those who delve into meticulous word studies in hopes of gaining clarity, the outcome may be unexpectedly unsatisfying. This discrepancy invites us to reconsider our interpretations and the depth of meaning behind these crucial ideas.

The English term "**assurance**" makes a fleeting appearance—only nine times in total—across traditional translations. Notably, in Acts 17:31, it is a (mis)translation of the Greek word **πίστις** (**pistis**), which translates to "**faith**" a staggering 239 times. This provides a rather lackluster representation of its true meaning. In *2 Timothy 3:14*, the verb form **πιστόω** (**pistoo**) (**pistoomai**) emerges just once. Turning to *1 John 3:19*, "assurance" translates the Greek term **πείθω** (**peitho**), typically rendered as "**persuade**" in a variety of contexts—22 times for **persuasion**, eight for **trust**, and seven for **obedience**. Meanwhile, *Acts 2:36* uses it for **ἀσφαλῶς** (**asphalos**), translating it as "**surely**," indicative of a strong affirmation, although in a context related to an arrest. Acts 16:10 similarly translates **συμβιβάζω** (**sumbibazo**) to "**assurance**," although it diverges from the four other occurrences of that word.

Further complicating the notion, "assurance" is assigned to the term **πληροφορία** (**plerophoria**) on four occasions—where it stands as the primary translation. You will find it in the vibrant passages of *Colossians 2:2*, *1 Thessalonians 1:5*, and *Hebrews 6:11* and *10:22*. Yet, in each case, alternatives like "**confidence**" or "**conviction**" could fit just as seamlessly, providing a richer tapestry of meaning.

Strikingly, none of these references suggest that a misstep leads to an immediate loss of salvation, nor is there reassurance that once someone is "*be immersed into Christ*," they are forever shielded from the risk of ever "losing" that salvation. Instead, a delicate balance between caution—found in the agonizing warnings of *Hebrews 3:13-14*—

*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.*

and the comforting embrace of reassurance in *1 John 3:19-21*

*This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God*

is clearly woven throughout.

Thus, as we explore into the depths of responsible word study, we find that it doesn't take sides in the age old debates swirling around these two concepts. Rather, the idea of **assurance**—encompassing **certainty, confidence**, and a profound sense of **"being sure"**—is abundantly present. I encourage you to set aside any disputes and instead indulge in the abundant feast of encouragement that the Lord has graciously laid before us. To further enrich your understanding, I invite you to explore my article from last quarter's issue, titled **"Elpis (Hope) In Christ,"** where additional insights await.

**πληροφορία (plerophoria)**, a term highlighted earlier as the sole expression consistently interpreted as **"assurance"** by traditional translators, is rich in meaning and evokes a sense of deep conviction—defined typically as **"certainty, fullness of assurance, complete satisfaction."** In Paul's expressive message to the *Colossians* in 4:3, he intricately weaves this term into the fabric of an **"accurate understanding of God's mystery, Christ."** This profound understanding flourishes forth from the intimate connections made within the body of Christ united in love, illustrating the vibrant interactions among the citizens of the Kingdom. (*aka The Church*)

In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul deepens this notion, adding **"miraculous power and the Holy Spirit"** as the pillars supporting a **"firm conviction."** His concern resonates with the foundational truths articulated by Luke at the beginning of his account, emphasizing certainty and the unwavering truth of Jesus' message, captured beautifully in his choice of words **ἀσφάλεια (asphaleian)** in 1:1 and in 1:4.

An equally compelling idea emerges through the term **πείθω (peitho)**. While it is only once translated as **"assurance,"** it resonates powerfully with **"persuasion"** in 26 instances. These instances present a dynamic interplay, as half involve efforts to convince others—echoing through passages like *Matthew 27:20* and *Acts 13:43*—while the other half exude **confidence**, as in *Acts 26:26* and *Romans 8:38*. The essence of this word also dances gracefully in contexts of **obedience** and **trust**, reflecting the multifaceted nature of **spiritual assurance**.

**ἀσφάλεια (asphaleia)**, **ἀσφαλής (asphales)**, and **ἀσφαλῶς (asphalos)** encompass both the tangible aspects of physical security—drawing vivid images of arrest (*Mark 14:44*), imprisonment (*Acts 16:24*), and the sealed tomb of Jesus (*Matthew 27:64–66*)—as well as the unwavering certainty surrounding essential truths (*Acts 2:36*). In classical usage, they conjure thoughts of **"safety, caution, legal security, steadfastness, soundness,"** standing in contrast to the uncertainties of risk.

# GODFIDENCE

*Reliance On God's Promises*

Turning to the well-known word "sure," we uncover a rich tapestry of terms. **βέβαιος (Bebaios)**, resonating with strength and dependability, embodies notions of "firm, steadfast, steady, durable, guaranteed" and stands as a reminder of God's promises (*Romans 4:16; Hebrews 2:2, 9:17*), the prophetic words gifted to us (*2 Peter 1:19*), and the hope we cling to—the expectancy of their fulfillment (*Hebrews 3:6, 3:14, 6:19*), along with our calling (*2 Peter 1:10*), which is not merely given but requires our diligence and commitment.

**στερεός (Stereos)** adds another layer, conveying the idea of being "firm, solid, solidified, settled." It resonates with God's unshakeable foundation (*2 Timothy 2:19*), and the unwavering loyalty demanded of His followers (*1 Peter 5:9*), as well as the "solid food" purposed for those who mature in faith (*Hebrews 5:12, 14*).

The terms **ginōskō (ginosko)** and **οἶδα (oida)**, commonly rendered as "know," invite us into a deeper understanding of certainty, yet they are seldom translated as "be sure."

When we explore the concept of "confidence," we are introduced to **θαρρέω (tharrheo)**, meaning "to be of good courage, to be unafraid." This term invites us to embrace a boldness that flourishes in faith (*2 Corinthians 5:6, 5:8, 7:16*). Similarly, **πεποίθις (pepoithesis)** embodies "trust, confidence, boldness," while **ὑπόστασις (hupostasis)** evokes images of an "origin, foundation, substructure," painting a picture of resilient courage (*2 Corinthians 11:17, 9:4; Hebrews 1:3, 11:1*). **παρρησία (Parrhesia)**, a term bursting with energy, captures the essence of "outspokenness, freedom of speech, liberality," conjuring a sense of liberation to act without fear.

A treasured jewel of Athenian democracy, **παρρησία (parrhesia)** finds its way into the New Testament, offering us a rich duality in its interpretation—as both "confidence" and "boldness." This boldness, far from being perceived as arrogance, springs forth from the profound identity we hold as citizens of the Kingdom. Our "confidence" is in the Lord to whom we belong (*Acts 28:31; Hebrews 3:6, 10:35; 1 John 2:28, 3:21, 5:14*) becomes the wellspring of the boldness with which we can approach both the very Lord of Glory (*Ephesians 3:12; Philippians 1:20; 1 Timothy 3:13; Hebrews 4:16, 10:19; 1 John 4:17*) and others in His name (*Acts 4:13, 29; 9:29; 14:3; 18:26; 19:8*).

In conclusion, by heeding brother Luke's example to ensure our facts are clear and embracing the empowering resources Paul highlights—the miraculous workings of the Holy Spirit by being our seal for the day of redemption—we can boldly live in authentic "Christian assurance."

*"Let us approach Him (Jesus, our high priest) with a true heart, overflowing with confidence (or, complete faithfulness)" (Hebrews 10:23). "Let us steadfastly cling to our commitment to [our acknowledgment of] hope [expectation] without wavering, for He who promised is faithful!" (v. 23)*

Anyone who argues that examining into the Word of God is tedious or lacking of wisdom has clearly never taken the time to genuinely engage with its transformative revelations. The Scriptures serve as an abundant source of inspiration, quenching the thirst of even the most barren spirit with its infinite truths and enduring wisdom.

Within the pages of the Bible, there are approximately 8,674 unique Hebrew words and around 5,624 distinct Greek terms, each contributing to the richness of its text. This remarkable grammatical diversity presents countless opportunities for those of us who choose to be seekers of the WORD deepening our understanding of God and His character. Each word carries its own weight, echoing the divine message and inviting believers to explore the depths of faith. Truly, we have much to be thankful for—praise God for the privilege to know Him so intimately and comprehensively!

The Holy Spirit writes through John to give us confidence that we can know that we have eternal life. John says that we have to let abide in us what we had heard from the beginning. What did we hear in the beginning that we are to abide in?

Let us look and see the answer. *1 John 3:11*, **“For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,”** *2 John 6*, **“This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.”** Read also *1 John 1:1-3*. The message that was heard from the beginning that we are to abide in is Christ and his teachings. There is no other place for salvation.

## **WE CANNOT WRITE OUR OWN WAY AND HOPE THAT WE WILL BE SAVED.**

It will not happen. We must abide in Christ and his teachings. *Acts 4:12*, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** Thus, we can go to the teachings of Christ and His Apostles and we find that repentance from sins is necessary (*Acts 3:19*). We see that we must confess Jesus Christ as Lord (*Romans 10:9*). We must be baptized (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of our sins (*Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21*; all the examples of Acts). And so we must hold on to “Assurance” of His name and promises and not let it go. When we do notice again *1 John 2:25*: **“This is the promise that He has promised us-eternal life.”** Our confidence; our assurances of salvation and eternal life and work of Christ Alone.

~Aaron Jones

μακάριος  
blessed,  
πληροφορία  
assurance



# In life

there is only two things you have to  
worry about.

Being Healthy or being sick.

If you are healthy, you have nothing to worry about.

But if your sick..... WELL.....

You got two things to worry about.

Whether your gonna get better or your gonna worse.

If you get better, you have nothing to worry about.

But if you get worse.....WELL....

You got two things to worry about.

Whether you are gonna live , or are you gonna die.

If you live, you have nothing to worry about.

But if you die.....WELL.....

You got two things to worry about.

Whether you gonna go to heaven or go to hell.

If you go to heaven, you have nothing to worry about .

But if you go to hell.....WELL....

You got two things to worry about .

Whether you gonna be original or extra crispy.

I wanted to start this article off with a little laughter but I  
seriously, .....



Do you have the assurance of going to heaven?

Will you enter?"

Will you build your life on the foundation that Jesus offers, or will you try to find your own way?

Let's join Jesus on the mountain, and allow His words to transform us, challenge us, and inspire us to live a life that truly pleases God."

(Matthew 7:21-29)

*[21] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

*[22] Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' [23] Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' [24] "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

*[25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

*[26] But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.*

*[27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." [28] When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,*

*[29] because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

It does not matter how many manmade titles you have or the amount of years you have been in church, they will not save you....A resume that might wow a pastoral search committee will not influence a Lord with x-ray vision, which is capable of seeing into the innermost parts of our spiritual hearts.

It is way to easy to busy ourselves about the work of the church without stopping to reflect on whether we are obeying Jesus.....Its way to easy to busy ourselves with programs while

neglecting people.....Its way to easy to prepare sermons while neglecting prayer...Its way to easy to do great things in Jesus' name while neglecting Jesus.....It is way to easy to assume that full pews validate our ministry when, in fact, we have lost touch with the Lord.

This raises the issue of salvation by works. Are we saved by what Jesus has done or by what we do? It would be easy to misinterpret Jesus' requirement to do the will of God. Jesus is not advocating salvation by works but authentic faith that produces good fruit—that impels us to act in accord with God's will—that leads to faithful action.

Doing the Father's will is crucial, what is the Father's will? For Matthew, it is keeping the Torah as interpreted by Jesus. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that obedience requires poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, mercy, purity of heart, and peacemaking (5:2-11). It requires us:

let our light shine (5:16);

To keep the commandments (5:17-20);

To deal with anger and to resolve conflict (5:21-26);

To maintain proper marital relationships (5:27-32);

To speak honestly without fanfare or oaths (5:34-37);

To act in generous and loving ways—even toward our enemies (5:38-48);

To give alms and to pray in secret (6:1-6);

To forgive (6:14-15);

To seek first the kingdom of God (6:24-34);

To refrain from judgment (7:1-5).

~ Eric West

High degrees of Christian assurance  
**are simply not compatible**  
with low levels of obedience.

When asked to submit an article about Blessed Assurance, I was reminded of an article posted by David Nolte several years ago. It gives us strong and solid reasoning why we can be assured that God through His Son Jesus Christ has provided true blessings for Christians in the past and continues to share those blessings today and will continue to share them until He returns.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:9-20

Assurance. We all want and need it. Assurance that our doctor is competent; that our job is secure; that the foods we buy are uncontaminated; and most importantly, that our sins are forgiven and that we are right with God. We need the assurance Gerald sang about today.

Frances Crosby, who wrote the hymn, Blessed Assurance, enjoyed that assurance even though a doctor applied a mustard plaster poultice to her eyes when she was only six weeks old, making her totally blind. Yet, she began writing hymns when she was 6. When she was 9, she wrote Blessed Assurance.



*"O what a happy soul am I,  
Although I cannot see,  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented, I will be.  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't.  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot, and I won't."*

During her lifetime, Fanny Crosby wrote eight thousand hymns, but "Blessed Assurance" is one of the most well-known. God wants us to have assurance and that our assurance be founded on faith and what Paul calls, "confident hope." But what is our "confident hope?" And of, what are we assured?

Let us check Paul's words, "God has now revealed to us His mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill His own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan. God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him. Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—his holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:9-20 (NLT).

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**BE ASSURED: WE ARE PART OF GOD'S PLAN:**

“And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.”

- \*Did you know that God chose you”
- \*Did you know that you are a pleasure to God?
- \*Did you know that God has written you into His will as an heir?

What is the impact of that?

- \* We are not accidents of mindless, godless evolution.
- \* We are here by Divine Design.
- \* We have purpose and meaning and value.

God had a plan before creation. He was not forced from that plan by Christ's rejection and death – that was the fulfillment of His plan. Paul wrote, “Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

If you are in Christ, you are part of God's eternal purpose, His Divine design.

In a mythical garden, the Gardner had daily visits with his many plants. His favorite one was a blue rose tinged with lavender highlights. One day the Gardener came to the garden and went directly to the rose bush. He said to the roses. "Roses, I am going to use you today." They perked up, and said, "We are ready. Use us as you will." He said, "To use you I must cut you from the bush." "Cut ...us... from...the...bush? Oh, not that! Use us but do not cut us from the bush!" The Gardener said, "I cannot use you unless I cut you from the bush." Then the roses said, "Master, if you cannot use us other than to cut us from the bush. then do your will and cut." The Gardener had a plan for the roses. He took them and made a bouquet for a sick child in the hospital. And the roses rejoiced as they saw the joy they brought by surrendering to his plan.

God's plan for us may not be easy; it may cost us something; it may be beyond what we think we can do – but be assured that you are part of His plan and will find joy in serenader. And,

## BE ASSURED WE ARE PARTICIPANTS IN GOD'S PROMISES:



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“He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people.”

God’s promises are not for those who disbelieve. For a scoffer to claim God’s promises without first surrendering to Christ, would be like total strangers trying to claim promises I made to my children.

God’s promises can be trusted:

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.” 2 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV).

Abraham believed God and was “fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.” Romans 4:21 (NASB).

What are your favorite promises? Make a mental file of them for difficult times. There is a promise for every human need – seek them out and file them for future reference.

People also make promises:

- \* Some don’t intend to keep them.
- \* Some forget them.
- \* Some are unable to keep them.
- \* Some change their minds.

But God who cannot lie is faithful and wanting “to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.” Hebrews 6:13-18 (NASB).

Pedro walked his son Esteban to school in a little village in Mexico and promised to return that afternoon to walk him home. Miid-morning, an earthquake hit and many of the village’s buildings collapsed, including the school. Pedro ran to the school and with other parents pulled away the rubble. Pedro called out, “Esteban!” as he worked. After hours of work he heard a faint reply, “I’m here, Papa.” Digging more feverishly, Pedro lifted his boy from a cave under the rubble. Esteban said, “I was really scared, but I knew you’d come for me. You promised!” Would that we have that confidence in God’s Promises.

### **BE ASSURED: WE ARE PURCHASED FOR GOD’S POSSESSION:**

“When you believed in Christ and accepted him as Lord and Savior through baptism, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him.”

We have been purchased by God; It cost Christ His life. “God is both the purchaser and the price; for Christ (who is God) purchased these blessings for us, by offering Himself up as the price of our salvation.”

So, Paul wrote, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB).

With what were we purchased? Peter said, “you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NASB).

We belong to Him and “‘The LORD knows those who are His,’ and ‘All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil.’” 2 Timothy 2:19 (NLT).

The implications of this are:

- \* We are not our own and can't claim, "It's my body; money; life."
- \* We are to glorify God by how we live.
- \* We must turn from evil and not pursue it.
- \* God knows us and claims us as His own.
- \* As the song said,

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."

Some say, "But I don't want that!" You don't have to be His – you get to choose – but if that's your choice you forfeit the benefits. There is blessing in belonging to Him.

A little girl had been adopted by a family but she was never integrated into their family of biological children. Whenever they vacationed, they left her with a family friend. After a couple of years, they dissolved the adoption, and another family adopted her.

When her new dad learned her history, plans were made to take her to Disney World. What he didn't expect was that this would produce terrible behavior in their new daughter. She became a total brat.

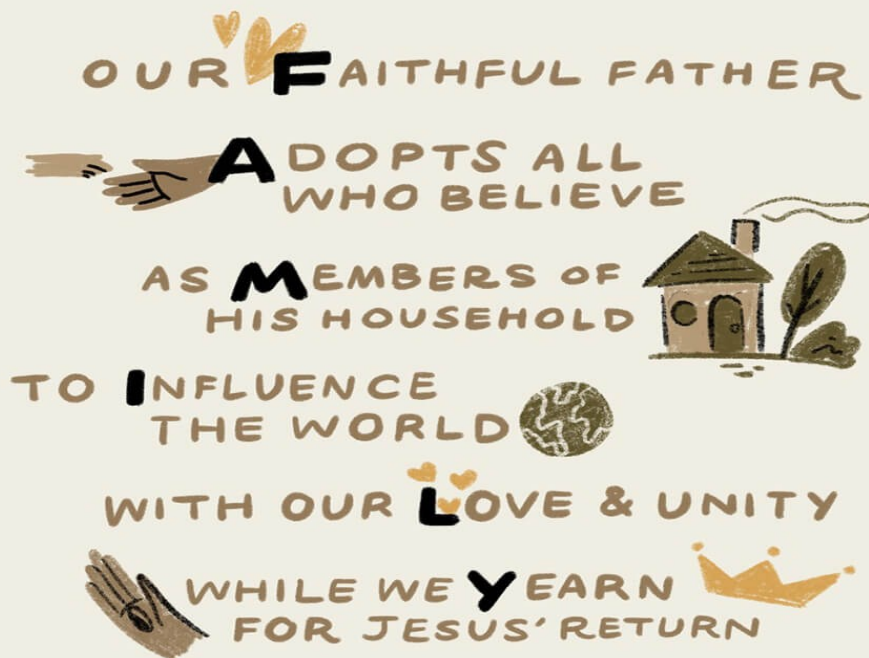
A couple of days before heading to Florida, dad pulled her into his lap to talk through her latest escapade. "I know what you're going to do," she stated flatly. "You're not going to take me to Disney World, are you?" Her misbehavior suddenly made sense. She knew she couldn't be good enough to be included— she had tried that and failed — so she was acting out her anger inappropriately..

Dad asked her, "Is this trip something we're doing as a family?" She nodded. "Are you part of this family?" She nodded again. "Then you're going with us. Sure, there may be some consequences to help you remember what's right and what's wrong — but you're part of our family, and we're not leaving you behind." And they went as a family.

In the hotel room that evening, a very different child emerged. When bedtime rolled around, dad prayed with her and held her. "Daddy," she said, "I got to go to Disney World. But it wasn't because I was good; it's because I'm yours." (Daniel Montgomery and Timothy Paul Jones.)

And God blesses us not because we are good – but because we are His!

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**BE ASSURED: WE ARE PROTECTED BY GOD'S POWER:**

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Peter assures us that God's power protects us, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NASB).

- \* This power is incredibly great.
- \* This power is for those who believe.
- \* This power raised Jesus from the dead and will raise us up, too.

We may lose everything we have on earth; we may never enjoy earthly riches but:

- \* We are heirs of God.
- \* What we inherit will never cheapen but will endure for eternity.
- \* We are protected by His power through faith so that we will get to heaven where we will enjoy it forever.

The power is not in us; not in our best intentions; not in our most diligent efforts; not in our deepest sincerity; not in the greatness of our giving; not in the intensity of our enthusiasm. The power is God's to save and preserve us.

Stay connected to God if you want to be part of His plan. included in His promises, one of His own and protected by His power. For those who belong to God, these words are true.

"Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love."

The Hebrew writer is encouraging us to be diligent to the end. The result of this diligence allows one to have that full assurance of salvation that God has promised. To KNOW, without a doubt that you are saved, that when you die your home will be in Heaven.

Hebrews 6:1-12 - *Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so. 4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. 7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. 9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

Fanny Crosby at 9 years of age had more insight to God's Blessed Assurance than the average Christian today. May you find that same assurance in God's blessings.

~Robin Fortner

With everything happening in the world today and the swirl of rumors about what may lie ahead it can often feel as if a heavy shroud of despair has settled over us. Yet, amidst this darkness, there exists a profound sense of blessed assurance that can light our way.

Several years ago, my family decided to take a venture into the heart of nature's magnificent hidden wonders and take a cave tour. Our guide led us through the winding passages of the cave, his voice echoing against the cold, damp walls as he pointed out staggering rock formations that seemed to shimmer in the low light. Each stalactite hung like nature's chandeliers and each stalagmite stood as silent sentinels over the enchanted world sculpted by time.

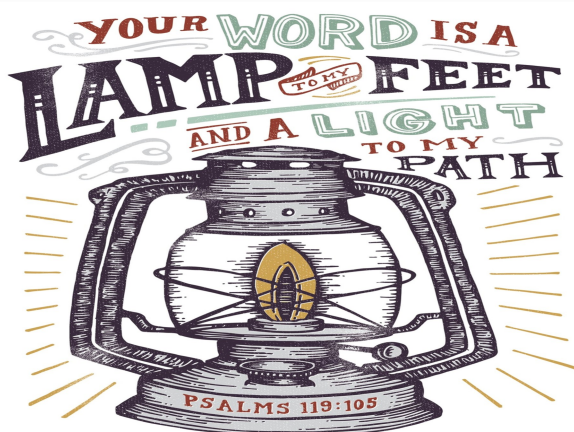
As we pressed deeper into the cave, we approached a grand cavern where our guide beckoned us to look up. The ceiling was a breathtaking tapestry of thousands of glimmering pennies and shining coins that were lodged in thick, dark clay, reflecting faint glimmers of light like stars scattered across a night sky. We all began amusing ourselves by taking turns tossing our own pennies towards the ceiling watching them either fall back to the floor or disappear into the moist clay depths above.

Then, without warning, BOOM! The lights went out, plunging us into an abyss of pitch-blackness. Gasps of shock and fear rippled through the group, but our guide's calm voice cut through the panic: "Don't panic and don't move. Everything is going to be OK."

The darkness wasn't simply absent of light; it wrapped around us like an oppressive blanket, thick and suffocating. The air felt heavy, each breath a labor. I instinctively reached out in front of me to feel for anything, only to discover I couldn't even see my own hand in front of my face

In that unsettling void, a strange faint glimmer appeared far in the distance—a tiny pinpoint of light flickering like some small beacon of hope. My heart accelerated as I focused on it, believing that rescue might be on its way. Gradually, the light grew larger and brighter, seeming to transform the air around us as the dense atmosphere that had clung so closely began to ease. An odd clanging sound echoed against the dark emptiness of the cave As the clanging and banging became more distinguishable we began to have an assurance that we were saved.

As the source of the light drew near, we could finally see that it was an old oil lamp, held by a scruffy prospector, his rugged exterior casting shadows across his jovial face. With a twinkle in his eye, he spun humorous tales of his mining adventures, filling the cavern with laughter as we chuckled, rolling our eyes at his corny jokes and the general hokeyness of it all. As the old prospector wandered off into the darkness our group was once again enveloped by darkness.





The new found revelation that the lights going out was simply a setup for a joke transformed the oppressive darkness into something more manageable. as our perspective widened, We began to adapt to the shadows, feeling less afraid of our predicament. Then as suddenly as it all began bright lights once again illuminated our pathway and a great sigh of relief was heard from all.

Our guide called out, “Follow Me,” and with new-found certainty, infused with blessed assurance as we trailed behind him, trusting that he would lead us toward safety. Moments later, he opened a door, and we emerged back to the surface—safe and sound—.

Our life’s journey in this world mirrors that experience we had in that cavern. So often we revel in life’s splendor, delighting in the kaleidoscope of joyful experiences and happy moments. We pour ourselves into the pursuit of happiness investing in our quest just as carefree as tossing those pennies into the air. But everything can shift in an instant. When hardships strikes and turmoil engulfs us, we find ourselves lost, directionless and in an overwhelming muddle, as the once-vibrant joys of life relinquishes to the darkness of uncertainty that presses down like a heavy weight consuming our spirit draining our vitality and leaving us in a state of isolation and despair.

In the depths of such darkness, we yearn for a flicker of hope. It’s easy to be enticed by someone who promises happiness, only to discover that they themselves are wandering aimlessly through the dark, offering little more than Fool’s Gold.

But we have been given a choice. Instead of hardening our hearts into cynicism, believing that life—or everything in it—is merely a cruel joke, we can elect to follow the True Light provided by our True Guide, Christ Jesus. He holds his hand out beckoning us with the promise: “Don’t Panic. Everything’s going to be OK. Follow Me.” He consistently illuminates the right path

and leads us to that blessed assurance of safety and peace.

As it says, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” (Psalms 119:105) And Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) Embrace that blessed assurance as you navigate the winding paths of your journey through life.

We are not given the promise of a perfect life or that nothing bad will never happen to us but we have the blessed assurance through Jesus that He will always be with us every step of the way.

By following Jesus, we have the blessed assurance of His unfailing **Guidance** that involves with **Abundant Love, Grace and Mercy. Forgiveness** of sin and failures, **Salvation** by the blood shed at Calvary, **Answered Prayer** when we learn to surrender and trust Him and finally the blessed assurance of **Victory** over all Satan’s world throws at us. The choice is yours.



~Angela Jones

Most of us who are Christians and have spent countless hours in worship services have heard and sung the hymn with the title of this article – Blessed Assurance.

The Hymn was written by Fannie Crosby, who wrote dozens of hymns in her lifetime. Fannie Crosby was blind – blind from the age of about 6 weeks.

Some of the more recognizable songs Fanny Crosby wrote include:

He Hideth My Soul, To God Be the Glory, Draw Me Nearer, A Wonderful Savior is Jesus My Lord, and Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Savior.

We might think that a person who was blind from a very early age, who had really never been able to view much at all, would have very little perspective of who any person is, or what they are like, or what their qualities are.

But when she wrote about the One she knew and recognized as her Savior, she was capable of writing positive, uplifting, and life changing words. These words were put to music and have uplifted the spirits and souls of millions of people over their lifetimes.

Her experience stands as a beacon for those of us who have had physical eyesight all of our lives. Those of us who have been blessed with the gift of sight can take a lesson from her in that the gift of Blessed Assurance is worth more than all the earthly treasures we might attain.

We come now to a facet of the Christian life which, at times, may baffle our minds and cause us to wonder: “Is there anything in this world that we can be absolutely assured of, without doubt, without question, from anyone on the face of the earth?

What is there in the world in which we live be staid to be an assured object?

Well, the Bible says there is. And we find it in the book written to the Hebrew Christians.

The writer of the book of Hebrews in our Bibles (10:22) has this to say about assurance: “*Let us draw near in **full assurance of faith**, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*”

*~Continued On Page 15*

**LET US DRAW NEAR** with a  
true heart in  
full assurance  
of faith, having  
our hearts sprinkled  
from an evil conscience,  
and our bodies washed with  
**PURE WATER**

Now that passage is written concerning the Tabernacle and/or the Temple. But the reference is to the fact that we, as Christians – as Christ Followers – can come near to God in faith through the blood of Jesus Christ.

The Tabernacle and the Temple were Holy Places which represent the presence of God. Only the priest could enter into those holy places – into God’s very presence.

Today we have the privilege and the invitation to draw near to God with full assurance of faith because our hearts have been sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

As baptized believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we also have the full blessed assurance of hope.

Hear what the writer of the Bible book of Hebrews writes in chapter 6, verse 11: “And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the **full assurance of hope** until the end.

The Hebrews writer here is setting forth a warning of imminent danger of falling back into Judaism. He is encouraging them to remember that a promised hope has been extended to them to become imitators of true believers. He desires them to become true believers themselves.

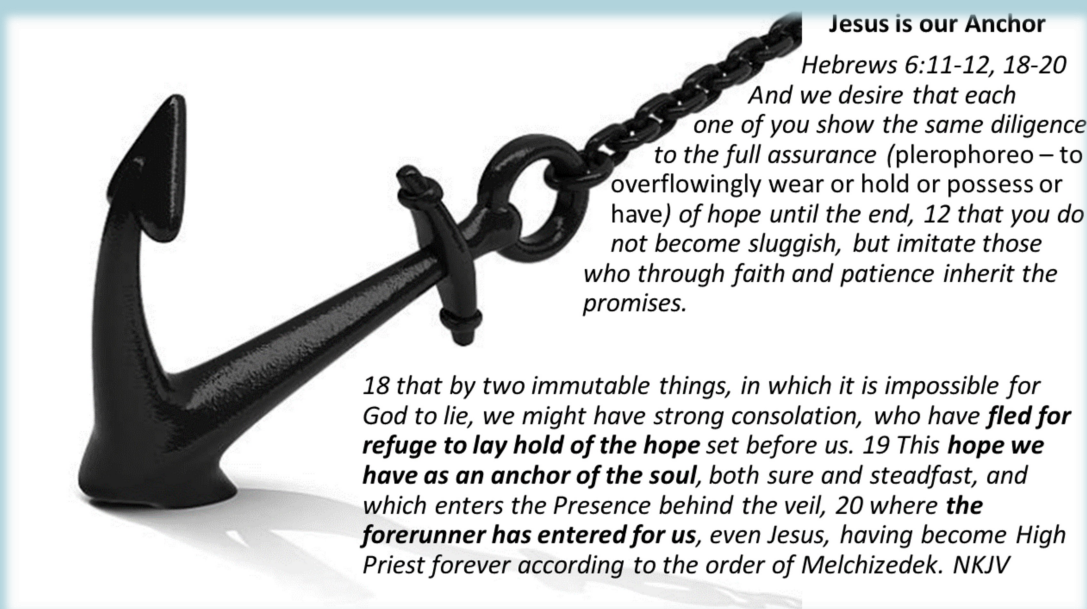
This encouragement has been stated that it is the writer’s desire that everyone would become as true believers full of assurance of hope to the end. The writer also continues with this encouragement: “For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the live that you have shown for His Name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hop until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Hebrews 6;10-12:

And it is today. We do not want anyone to fall away and lose all hope of the assurance in Christ that one might have had.

The guiding truth is this: “There is no hope apart from Jesus Christ, and it is therefore to Him that these are called to come before it is too late to come.”

When believers remain steadfast, clinging to the Gospel, we can claim that hope as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast.: --- Hebrews 6:19

~Gary K Fair



## Opportunities To Connect With Us

Sunday School - 9:30 am

Morning Worship - 10:30 pm

Sunday Prayer Meeting - 5:30 pm     A Special Time to Talk to God and Intercede on Others Behalf

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday ReCharge Bible Study - 6:00 pm

## Monthly Events

**Held Every First Sunday Of The Month**

We encourage everyone to invite their friends and family to join us in worship. Excellent time for visitors.

.. FRIENDS & FAMILY ..  
**SUNDAY**

**\*\*Fellowship Luncheon Each First Sunday of New Quarter**

**SOS**

Serving Our Savior  
Women's Ministry Group

### S.O.S Women's Ministry

Meets Every First Tuesday Of The Month at 6 PM  
At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)

Meal and or Snacks Provided



### WatchMen Men's Ministry

Meets Every Second Saturday Of The Month at 9 AM  
At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)

*Physical and Spiritual Food Provided*





# The Princeton Path **FINDER**

A Publication of  
Princeton Christian Church

## Blessed Assurance

*Sing . . . ; shout aloud . . . ! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart . . . ! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD . . . is with you; never again will you fear any harm. "The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*  
*Zephaniah 3:14-15, 17*



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD ~ LOVING OTHERS ~ LOVING YOU

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### our mission



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