

## ASSURANCE OF SALVATION NOTES

(Teacher Helps)

Lesson 11

page 26ff

The Battle of Assurance

Explain the chart on top of page 26. Explain to the students how assurance can change and how security cannot change. A person is either safe (secure) or he is not safe. He is either saved (safe) or unsaved. Every saved person is secure and that security never changes. A believer can never be less secure or more secure. We are always perfectly safe and secure in Christ and this never changes or varies.

Assurance is how the believer views God's salvation. A believer can have much assurance or can have little assurance, as illustrated in the picture top of page 26.

Why can the believer's assurance change? Several reasons are given in the notes:

1. Choice. The believer can choose to go God's way or to go his own way. The more we choose to go our own way, the less assurance we will have. Why is this so? A child of God ought to be going God's way, walking down God's road in time (God's will and ways). A child of the devil (unsaved person) will not walk down God's road. He will be on the road of his own will and his own ways. (I'll do what I want to do!) When a believer walks down this wrong road, choosing to go his own way, then he is walking on the road that the unsaved are walking on and this will cause him to think that he might not be a saved person. (In other words, the more we act like a child of the devil the more we will start thinking that we are a child of the devil, even though this might not be true; the more a prince dresses and acts like a pauper, the more he will start thinking that he is a pauper).
2. Conflict. What are the believers three great enemies?

A. The old sin nature. What is the old sin nature? Who has an old sin nature? Where did we get it from? Do unsaved people have an old sin nature? Do saved people have a sin nature? What does the sin nature produce? Can it produce anything that pleases God? (see Romans 8:8) Can it do anything good? (in man's eyes YES, but in God's eyes NO) How does God describe your heart? (Jeremiah 17:9) Is this true even of a saved person? Is your heart really that bad?

B. The world. What is the world? (The teacher will need to help the students here. We are not talking about the world of nature that God has created. We are not talking about the world of people such as is mentioned in John 3:16--the world of humanity. But we are talking about the world system which is under Satan and which is opposed to God). See 1 John 2:15-17.

Note the contrast:

lust of the flesh=that which I want to do (apart from God and apart from God's will)

lust of the eyes=that which I want to have (apart from God and apart from God's will)

pride of life=that which I want to be apart from God and apart from God's will  
(I don't care what God wants me to be; I want to be what I want to be regardless of God's will)

In contrast is the WILL OF GOD (see 1 John 2:17):

That which God wants me to do  
That which God wants me to have  
That which God wants me to be

I'm content to do whatever God wants me to do;  
have whatever He wants me to have; be whatever  
He wants me to be.

The worldly person could care less about God's will.

The saved person does care about God's will.

### C. The devil

How do we know the devil really exists? Have you ever seen him? Have you ever seen an evil angel? How do we know there really are such creatures?

(remember, there are many things that we have not seen but which are true realities--such as God Himself, heaven, hell, the Lord Jesus Christ, etc.)

We know so because God says so!

Page 27--taking a look on the inside.

Discuss the body , soul and spirit (1 Thess. 5:23).  
Have you ever seen a soul? Have you ever seen a spirit? Have you ever touched a soul? Have you ever touched a spirit? Have you ever seen a body? Have you ever touched a body? The body is the house we live in. The body is not you, but you live in your body (the house of the soul; the shell that you live in, just as a peanut lives in a shell, so a person lives in a body, the only difference being that the nut is something physical that can also be seen (when the shell is opened up) but the soul and spirit is not physical and cannot be seen, even when the doctor opens you up to operate on you.

Have the class list the fruit of the old nature and the fruit of the new nature. Explain how the qualities on the left are those things which I produce on my own apart from God. Explain how the qualities on the right are those things which only God can produce in the believer. The left side is man's working and man's producing. The right side is God's working and God's life and God's fruit. Man's effort and works brings forth the one; God's life and God's working brings forth the other. Show the war in Galatians 5:17 (it's a BATTLE FOR CONTROL).

Pages 27 a-f are very helpful pages for the teacher giving careful and specific definitions and meanings for the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. Pastor Parsons did a good job on these word studies. This is mostly for the teacher's benefit and can be used in class as the teacher would see a need.

Page 28--How can we have the Holy Spirit's victory? How can we have the defeat of the flesh? How can we let the flesh have the victory? How does a believer grieve the Holy Spirit? Does a believer have choice as to whether the flesh or the Spirit will control his life?

The bottom part of page 28 gives the students opportunities to share from their own life, and to see if they are able to distinguish between God's fruit (what God can produce) and sin's fruit (that which the flesh produces).

The top of page 29 discusses the things that the old nature robs us of. The old nature, when allowed to control us, robs us of God's fruit (love, joy, peace, etc.). This can affect my assurance. How? (the believer, controlled by the flesh, will be producing the very things that he/she was producing when an unsaved person, when he/she only had one nature, the sinful nature. Thus the more the flesh is in control, the more the believer will think, "Why am I living the same way I used to live when I was unsaved." And the more we live like an unsaved person, the more we might begin to think that we might be unsaved and thus we have an assurance problem. "How can I be a child of God if I don't act like one?" This is a good question.

How can a believer get back into fellowship with God? The teacher will want to make sure the students understanding 1 John 1:9, what confession is, what the believer must do, what God has promised to do, why God can forgive sin, on what basis God can forgive sin, etc.

Also the students should be taught about the principles

of reckoning from Romans 6:1-11.

Confession of sins is very important but it is not the ultimate answer. Many believers, even Juniors, get caught in the sin-confess-sin-confess-sin-confess cycle. We do the same thing and commit the same sin over and over, we hate it, we don't want to do it; we confess it, God forgives it graciously, we try to forsake it and then we fall into it again.

Remember, confession is God's method for dealing with sins that have been committed so that fellowship can be restored. Confession fixes things but it does not prevent things, just as band-aids fix cuts but band-aids do not prevent cuts. You could keep using band-aids forever unless you get at the SOURCE of the problem. If you keep tripping and bruising your knee, instead of applying band-aids for the next twenty years, why not remove that rock that you keep tripping over! You must get at the cause of the problem. (You can keep removing cobwebs forever. A better solution would be to kill the spider that keeps causing the cobwebs!)

Get at the SOURCE of the problem. Confession deals with sins that have been committed by the believer--it's like band-aids (and let's not minimize the importance of God's first aid). But the ultimate answer is to get at the source of the problem. Why do I sin? It's because of my Adam nature. (It's because of my old nature, my old man which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts.

Thankfully God has dealt with the source of the problem! He dealt it a deadly blow! He condemned it at the cross! He crucified it! SEE ROMANS 6:6. By faith we must reckon on this tremendous fact (see Romans 6:11).

Many believers do much confessing but little reckoning. They fail to count on Christ's finished work on the cross. The teacher can help the Juniors to understand what reckoning is and how it is done. This is the key to dealing with the flesh (see Galatians 5:24).

The next section deals with the WORLD SYSTEM, and this can be covered next time.