**The Full Assurance of Hope**

*Hebrews 6:11-12*

**Introduction**

1. Can our salvation be a certainty? Has God granted us the ability to maintain confidence regarding our eternal whereabouts? Or can we not know? Is our salvation merely a “chance”?
2. Some Christians struggle to have a confidence in their spiritual future. They can’t say with confidence at any point that they are going to heaven. This is not how God intended it to be.
3. **Hebrews 6:11-12** – speaks of ***“the full assurance of hope”*** – Hebrew writer shows that we can reach such.
4. **1 John 5:13** – We can know for certainty whether we have eternal life.
5. Christians can be bold and confident when it comes to their salvation!
6. The Nature and Necessity of Hope
7. Hope – Confident Expectation
   1. Common phrases and thoughts about hope:
      1. “Hoping against hope”
      2. “Hope for the best, but expect the worst”
      3. Hope is simply a wish.
      4. Some equate hope with a mere chance that something will be.
      5. THIS DOES NOT DESCRIBE THE HOPE OF THE BIBLE.
   2. Hope – *elpis*; (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence. (STRONG)
      1. “favorable and confident expectation” (VINE)
      2. “joyful and confident expectation” (THAYER)
   3. “full assurance” – *plērophoria* – "a fullness, abundance," also means "full assurance, entire confidence;" lit., a "full-carrying" (*pleros*, "full," *phero*, "to carry"). (VINE)
   4. “full assurance of hope” – fully carrying the confident expectation of eternal salvation in heaven.
      1. The Hebrew writer is saying his desire is for his readers to have such.
      2. Not only that, but we CAN carry fully a confident expectation of our salvation throughout our life. SUCH IS NECESSARY 🡪
8. Hope’s Necessary Role
   1. **Romans 8:24-25** – saved in hope, which helps us persevere.
      1. Washed of our sins in baptism, BUT DIDN’T RECEIVE THE FULLNESS OF SALVATION – hope = NOT SEEN
      2. So we persevere as we eagerly wait for it – THAT BY GOD’S DESIGN (**cf. Romans 8:20).**
      3. WHY PERSEVERE THROUGH HARDSHIP IF THERE ISN’T CONFIDENCE?
   2. **1 Peter 1:3-5** – the hope is living.
      1. It is alive, not dead! – Something which is legitimate and true.
      2. **(v. 5)** – Kept by faith – something which undergirds our hope.
      3. **Cf. Hebrews 11:1** – hope is something not seen, but FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE.
      4. **Cf. Romans 10:17** – faith by hearing God’s word – God’s word is always sure, and counts as substance of our hope if we but trust in God.
      5. ***“FOR ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD IN HIM ARE YES, AND IN HIM AMEN, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH US” (2 Corinthians 1:20).***
      6. **1 Peter 1:6-9** – As we have that hope, we persevere through trials proving our faith, and receiving salvation in the end.
      7. HOPE IS THE DRIVING FORCE IN OUR LIVES – it is motivation to push through because we KNOW what is at the end.
   3. **Ephesians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8** – the hope of salvation is a key part of our armor.
      1. Such grants us the protection to venture out into battle.
      2. We know our salvation awaits us, so we have the boldness to fight!
      3. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – The thorn was from Satan, meant for bad, but the grace of God strengthened Paul to endure.
         1. My grace – i.e. the ultimate gift through the operation of God in Christ’s death, and resurrection – knowledge of salvation, and expectation of its consummation.
         2. **(v. 10)** – It is when we seem to have nothing that we can fully realize we have everything waiting for us in Christ. BY THIS WE ARE MADE STRONG.
   4. Without hope – no confident expectation:
      1. **1 Corinthians 15:19** – If Christ is not risen from the dead then we have no hope for the life to come.
      2. **1 Corinthians 15:29-32** – If we have no hope then what is the point of living for Christ? SUCH BRINGS HARDSHIP, but if no reward, THEN WHY NOT LIVE IT UP?
         1. However, that is folly. False teachers in the midst of the Corinthians, and they needed to get rid of them so as to not be influenced.
         2. **(vv. 33-34)** – LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY!
      3. **1 Corinthians 15:58** – The confidence of victory in the resurrection gives us the courage to continue living faithfully.
   5. Not only does God offer a full assurance of hope, but such is necessary to endure faithfully to the end!
9. FOR WHAT REASONS ARE WE TO BE SO CONFIDENT ABOUT OUR SALVATION?
10. The Reasons for the Full Assurance of Hope
11. God’s Eternal Plan
    1. The fact that God in His infinite wisdom knew the problem of sin would occur, and took measures in eternity to provide an escape should give us confidence.
    2. **Ephesians 1:4** – before the world’s foundation – we can be without blame in Christ.
    3. **Ephesians 3:11** – God has an eternal purpose.
    4. **Genesis 3:15** – The prophecy of the victory over Satan had by Christ, thus, the victory promised to those in Christ.
       1. This is ultimately seen at the cross, and in the resurrection.
       2. However, it is yet to be fulfilled in its entirety with each believer.
    5. **Romans 16:19-20** – Paul was confident that if they continued in faith the ultimate fulfillment of God’s purpose in Christ would be accomplished.
    6. THE LAST ENEMY WILL BE DESTROYED! (**cf. Job 42:2** – no purpose of God’s is withheld from Him)
12. The Sacrifice of Christ
    1. Lack of assurance/confidence in the OT sacrifices – **Hebrews 10:1-4**
       1. **(vv. 2-3)** – As they were reminded of sins they were not given confidence in such sacrifices. THE SIN PROBLEM REMAINED.
       2. **(v. 4)** – Not possible = it was never God’s intention that these give the assurance, but typify that which would!
    2. Assurance in the sacrifice of Christ – **Hebrews 10:5-10, 14, 18**
       1. **(vv. 5-7)** – **cf. Psalm 40:6-8** – God’s desire is for obedience/loyalty, not sacrifice. The sacrifices of the OT don’t really please Him, especially as they are offered without sincerity.
       2. **(vv. 8-10)** – However, Christ offered Himself (VOLUNTARILY) in obedience to the Father’s will = perfect sacrifice.
       3. **(vv. 14, 18)** – forever, and remission, so no need for another sacrifice. (THIS IS ONE WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN, AND AN ASSURANCE OF FORGIVEN SINS)
    3. Assurance/Confidence realized and expressed – **Hebrews 10:19-23**
       1. We can boldly (CONFIDENTLY) enter the Holiest (HEAVEN) having been washed in Christ’s blood.
       2. **(v. 22)** – WE CAN, AND MUST, FULLY TRUST IN HIS BLOOD.
       3. **(v. 23)** – WE MUST HOLD FAST THAT HOPE – don’t give up hope, and fall away – TRUST THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL.
13. The Resurrection of Christ
    1. **1 Corinthians 15:12-19** – While the Hebrew writer emphasized the confidence we are to have in Christ’s sacrifice, Paul shows that we cannot if He was not resurrected from the dead.
    2. **1 Corinthians 15:20-23** – However, the wonderful truth is that Christ HAS been raised.
       1. Because Christ has been raised we can be assured of our own resurrection.
       2. Firstfruits – a guarantee that the rest will follow.
       3. **Cf. Romans 8:29** – firstborn among many brethren.
    3. **Cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4** – Our “living hope” is through the resurrection of Christ.
    4. We can be certain of Christ’s resurrection because of the inspired record 🡪
14. The Revelation of God’s Word
    1. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** – The Corinthians were being led to believe there was no general resurrection.
       1. His argument for the general resurrection is based on THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.
       2. They believe Christ was raised. Why? BECAUSE THAT’S WHAT THE GOSPEL SAYS.
    2. God’s will is certain, and worthy of our utmost trust.
    3. His desire is for men to be saved – **1 Timothy 2:4**
    4. The gospel is how He has determined they would be saved – **Romans 1:16**
    5. His words are true, and will come to pass. HE SAID THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT TO THE GOSPEL WILL BE SAVED, SO THEY WILL!
    6. **Cf. Titus 1:2** – God cannot lie – **cf. Hebrews 6:16-20** – God has been careful to make it abundantly clear that word is true.
15. Diligence, Faith, and Patience
    1. While the “full assurance of hope” is possible because of what God has done for us in all of these ways, it must be reached by our own resolve to do what is right before God.
    2. **Cf. Hebrews 6:11-12** – Hebrews lacked the “full assurance of hope,” thus they were encouraged to show diligence TO that end goal.
       1. LACK OF GROWTH AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY – they needed to be teachers by this time, but were in need of instruction in the elementary principles.
       2. **(vv. 9-10)** – However, the Hebrew writer was confident that they would get their act together so as to find ***“the full assurance of hope”*** they needed.
    3. **Hebrews 6:13-15** – God’s promise was certain, but Abraham had to “PATIENTLY ENDURE!”
    4. **Philippians 2:12** – WE HAVE TO WORK OUT OUR SALVATION.
       1. **2 Peter 1:10** – Our call and election can be sure, but WE HAVE TO MAKE IT THAT WAY.
       2. **IF WE FALL SHORT**? – **cf. 1 John 1:7-10** – must not assume God’s grace covers anything undisclosed in scripture. REPENT, CONFESS SINS TO GOD, ASK FORGIVENESS. (CONFIDENCE/ASSURANCE? – **1 John 5:14-15**)
    5. **Hebrews 13:20-22** – God is able, BUT WE MUST COMPLY – BEAR WITH THE WORD.

**Conclusion**

1. God has made provisions for us to have an overwhelming confidence in our hope of heaven.
2. We must continually remind ourselves of these things so that confidence/assurance of hope can push us through this life of difficulty.
3. We must be willing to live faithfully before God according to the gospel to have a confidence of eternal life in heaven.