

Evidence of God's Indwelling

1 John 4:13-16

Introduction

Assurance is a blessed word in Christian theology. It is a word that helps us in our doubts about our salvation, and it is wholly based on the Word of God and God's power. Many people experience fear and doubt concerning their salvation, but the Bible is full of statements that help us in our unbelief. To name a few:

1. Jesus said that nothing can snatch us away from His Father's hand and His own hand (**John 10:28-29**). Jesus is saying that all salvation is in the hand of the Trinity (the Holy Spirit including!), and the Tri-unity of God is holding on to us until the completed day of our salvation.
2. If God has us in His hand, and nothing can snatch us away, then Paul goes one further by stating that nothing can separate us from the love of God (**Romans 8:39**). What Paul is saying on top of what Jesus says is that as Christians (being born again) when we fail our Lord, He still loves us and holds onto us. Nothing we do can cause Him not to love us.
3. Not only does He hold us in His hand and that nothing can separate us from His love, He starts the good work in us, He will complete it at the end (**Philippians 1:6**). That is a great assurance from the Bible that He will complete the good work He had started in us.

These are assurances that the Bible gives us to know the security of our salvation. John takes the assurance of security and expounds on them in 1 John. He wants us to know that we are saved and not only that we are saved but to be assured before God that we are saved.

In the letter of 1 John, John has many assurance statements for believers to assure them of their salvation.

1 John 2:3 *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

1 John 2:5 *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

1 John 3:10 *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

1 John 3:19 *And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.*

1 John 3:24 *Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

1 John 4:2 *By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,*

1 John 4:6 *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

1 John 4:13 *By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*

1 John 5:2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.*

1 John 5:13 *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

In each instance, John wants us to be sure of something, be fully convinced in something, be assured of something so that our doubts go away. Here in **verse 13**, John wants to assure that we abide in God and He abides in us. How do we know that we abide in God and God abides in us? John says in **verse 12** that no one has seen God at any time, yet we can know that God abides in us! Here John says that the evidence of such thing in **verse 13** is the gift of the Holy Spirit and His work.

I. The Giving of the Holy Spirit (13b)

Note: Jesus said that He is the vine and we are the branches, which means that in our relationship we have union. We have life through Jesus Christ. The question is what started this life? The answer is the Holy Spirit. We were once dead in our sins and then we are born again through the Spirit after hearing the gospel. Without the Holy Spirit we would not have life, power or understanding.

- Through the Holy Spirit we have life

Ezekiel 37:1-14 *The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. (2) Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and*

behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. (3) And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

So I answered, "O Lord God, You know."

(4) Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! (5) Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. (6) I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." ' ' "

(7) So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. (8) Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

(9) Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' ' " (10) So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

(11) Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' (12) Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. (13) Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. (14) I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord.' "

- Through the Holy Spirit we have power

Joel 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. (29) And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Acts 2:14-18 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. (15) For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. (16) But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: (17) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. (18) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

Note: Every believer, regardless of race, age, gender, education, etc receives the Holy Spirit.

- Through the Holy Spirit we have understanding

John 3:3, 5 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (5) Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Transition: The Holy Spirit enables men to believe and hold fast to the truth. John says that the evidence of God abiding in us is through the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit gives evidence of that through our confession and our loving one another.

II. The Evidence of Confession (14, 15)

- Apostolic teaching
 - We have seen and testify

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Note: We have the apostles' testimony, started with Christ Jesus, and their preaching the good news of the gospel—the good confession. Their confession is based on the testimony of the Holy Spirit. What is this confession?

- The good confession

Note: Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

1. World needs a Savior (because the world is in rebellion against God)

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. (17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

2. Deity of Jesus Christ (Father sent the Son...Jesus is the Son of God)
3. Mission of the Savior (To save His people from their sins)

Matthew 1:21 *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

4. Reason for Father sending the Son (God is love—v 16)

Note: This is doctrinal purity. This is the reason why we study doctrine. We must have the correct view of Christ and His Person and His purpose of coming to the world and submit to His Lordship in order to be saved. There are many people who give lip service to Christ but never submit to His Lordship. This is because the Holy Spirit is not in them. They do not recognize the need of a Savior. They do not recognize the exceedingly sinfulness of sin. Do you believe the gospel? Do you live the gospel? If you do, then that is evidence that the Holy Spirit dwells in you.

- Holy Spirit's testimony
 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God

1 Corinthians 12:3 *Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

1 John 4:1-3 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, (3) and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

Note: Until the Holy Spirit comes into their life, they cannot confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (this is talking about their heart and life). The Holy Spirit helps to conform us to the image of the Son.

Transition: Not only does the Holy Spirit's indwelling gives evidence to our confession, He also gives evidence of our love to one another.

III. The Evidence of Love (16)

Note: The first fruit of the Holy Spirit is love as Paul says in

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

Note: From the understanding of the gospel, we reach the conclusion that God is love. When we receive and love the gospel, we love the way God loves. The more grow in our faith, the more we walk in the Spirit, the more we love.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.*

Note: Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot abide in love and we cannot love one another. Without the Holy Spirit, God cannot abide in us. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can abide in God and He in us.

Conclusion