

That You May Know

Confidence Before God — 1 John 3:19-24
May 5, 2019

And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit he has given us. - **1 John 3:24**

I. COUP D'ÉTAT FROM WITHIN

- We know we are in the truth in two primary ways: when we love in reality rather than in words only, and by the Spirit that dwells in us (vss. 19, 24).
- Lack of assurance is not a modern phenomenon in the church; it has been around from the beginning.
- It is not our knowledge of God nor our Christian experience that proves to us that we are in Christ; it is Christ's Spirit himself abiding in us that confirms the reality (Rom. 8:12-17).
- Sometimes our doubts are part of the cross we bear in this life (Luke 9:23-25).
- God is greater than your heart that condemns you. Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more (Rom. 5:20).

II. OBEDIENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS

- When our hearts are free from condemnation, we go boldly before our God; and our God is a great giver (vss. 21-22; Psalm 91:9-16).
- We must not, as Christ-followers, spend our days in grief and self-condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:12-14).
- Genuine believers obey God's commands. Those commands are as follows:
 1. Believe in Jesus Christ (John 6:28-29).
 2. Love one another (John 13:34).
- Do these and you will live forever (Luke 10:27-28).

KNOW: We all want assurances in life. We want to know that we are not standing condemned before the God of the universe. Belief in the name of Jesus, acted out in love toward others, gives us both hope and assurance, even when our hearts question.

DO: Let the truth of God's word override the fluctuations of your heart.

Suggested Reading:

How Can I Be Sure I'm A Christian? by Donald Whitney (LifePoint Library #248.4 WHI)

The Mark of the Christian by Francis Schaeffer (LifePoint Library #284.4)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 3:19-24

1. What does John want us to know from this passage of Scripture?
2. John tells us that God is greater than our hearts. What does he mean by that?
3. When Scripture tells us that we will receive anything we ask from God, does it mean "anything at all," or are there parameters involved?
4. What is God's commandment to us?
5. Are you confident in your faith? When do you find yourself doubting? What is generally the cause of that?
6. How does a passage like this help those who consistently doubt their salvation?