



Experience the Gospel - Assurance

- ❖ Perseverance of the saints is a reality because God has pledged to protect and complete the work of salvation that He starts in all true believers.
[**Ezekiel 36:24-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6**]
 - IF someone is truly saved, then they will always be saved.

- ❖ The deception of superficial faith is always a possibility. [**The disciples of John 6**]
 - Assurance of salvation should not rely solely on:
 - Knowledge of Godly pursuits.
 - Intense feelings during spiritual experiences.
 - Enjoyment of Christian fellowship.
 - Ministerial work.
 - Discipline in prayer or appreciation of scripture.
 - Remorse for bad behavior.
 - Personal thinking.

- ❖ Assurance of salvation can rely on these truths:
 - Saving faith, in Christ, will endure to the end.
[**Colossians 1:22-23; 1 John 2:18-19; John 3:16**]
 - Do I have a present day trust in Christ alone for salvation from sin and acceptance before God?
 - Am I continuing in my relationship with Christ?
[**John 15:4; 1 John 1:5-6**]

 - When born again, God gives us a new heart and places His spirit within us. [**Ezekiel 36:26-27**]
 - Is there evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in my life today?
 - Is God's character being produced in me? (**Galatians 5**)
 - Do I accept sound biblical truths? [**1 John 4:6**]
 - Do I obey Christ? [**1 John 1:8 - 2:6**]
 - Not a life of perfection, but one directed by Christ.

 - When God justifies us, He also sanctifies us. [**2 Corinthians 3:18**]
 - Do I see a long term pattern of growth in my walk with Christ?
[**2 Peter 1:3-10**]

- ❖ Results of spiritual examination:
 - Peace that should lead to an energized following of Christ.
 - or**
 - Fear that should lead to repentance and trust in Christ.