

## Doctrine of Assurance of Salvation

### Part 5

#### The Importance of Pursing Assurance

1. Because assurance of salvation is a vital part of the Christian experience, it is important to pursue one's personal assurance of being in a state of grace.
2. One of the most terrifying statements of Christ comes at the end of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus gave a preview of the Last Judgment.
  - *Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*
3. It is possible to call Jesus, "Lord", and do many religious activities in His name, and yet have Christ say, "Depart from Me, I never knew you."
4. There are many who will be forced to depart from Christ.
5. There are at least eleven times in Scripture where there is a repetition of a name.
  - Abraham, Abraham. *Genesis 22:11 And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.*
  - Jacob, Jacob. *Genesis 46:2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.*
  - Moses, Moses. *Exodus 3:4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.*
  - Samuel, Samuel. *1 Samuel 3:10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*
  - My father, My father (Elisha to Elijah). *2 Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.*
  - Lord, Lord. *Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

- Martha, Martha. *Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*
  - Simon, Simon. *Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.*
  - Eoi, Eloi. *Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? Which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*
  - Jerusalem, Jerusalem. *Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*
  - Saul, Saul. *Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*
6. In Hebrew, when a personal form of address is repeated, an intimate personal relationship is suggested.
  7. On the Last Day, people will indicate they have a personal, intimate relationship, but they Jesus will say, “I do not know who you are. You are workers of lawlessness.”
  8. What Jesus is saying is that there are many people who use the name of the Lord, and call upon Him in intimate terms, and yet they have no saving relationship with Christ.
  9. The words of Christ are frightening for there are people who are not in the kingdom of God, and they will not make it past the Last Judgment. There are people who are religious, and in the professing church doing many good deeds, but they have not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
  10. It is important to understand the words of Christ in order to motivate the heart of ever sincere believer to make their calling and election sure.
    - *2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*
  11. The concerned professing Christian does not want to be among the many that will be told to depart from Christ for having a false religion. No Christian wants to be self-deceived.
  12. One way that many people are self-deceived is by making a “decision” for Christ that is spurious.
  13. In His parable of The Sower, Jesus addressed the various ways that the gospel seed affects individuals. The context for the Parable of the Sower is to reveal who is the mother and the brother of Jesus.

- *Matthew 12:47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!*

***Special Note.***

The true mother and brothers, the true family members of Christ are those who do the will of the Father. A true family member is not someone who merely made a decision to follow Jesus, but one who actually honors the Lord and submits to His sovereignty. No one forced Judas to become a disciple. Judas made his own decision to be with the Lord during his earthly ministry, and yet Judas was a devil from the beginning. The decision Judas made for Christ did not convert him. Grace and mercy, and the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit is needed for regeneration. As close as Judas was to Jesus, he was never a converted man.

**How the Gospel Seed Affects Individuals**

- *Matthew 13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

**Not Everyone Who Hears the Gospel Will Understand  
Parables of Reveal and they Conceal**

*Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

### **The Interpretation of the Parable of the Sower**

*Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

14. Normally, a parable has one major point. The Parable of the Sower has multiple points by way of interpretation.
15. Jesus spoke of seed being thrown in the wayside, or by-path and the birds came and ate it up. In antiquity, the seed would be sown first, and then the ground would be plowed up. The birds represent Satan. There are people who hear the preaching of the gospel but it has no impact on them. It has no roots in their lives.
16. Jesus spoke of seed being thrown on stony places but there is no root and so it does not produce any fruit. There are people who go to an evangelistic service and enjoy the service, but as soon as there is the dawning of a new day, everything they heard about Christ and Christianity is forgotten. Their religious experience is shallow and there is no fruit.
17. Jesus spoke of seed being sown among thorns but is choked out. There are those who receive the message of Christianity only to return to the world in time of temptation or persecution.
18. Jesus spoke of seed being sown on good ground that produces good fruit. The Parable of the Sower is the Parable of the Soil. In true conversion, God changes the soil, or the heart, so that the gospel seed can grow.
19. Those who are truly converted are not carnal Christians, for a carnal Christian is a false Christian. There must be spiritual fruit of some sort if a person is truly converted.
  - *Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*
  - *Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

20. There should be concern in the church about the modern day culture that is unduly influencing individuals to “make a decision,” respond to an altar call, or pray a prayer, thereby leaving people to trust in those activities rather than placing their trust in Christ, and live out the ethics of the kingdom of heaven.
21. The church is giving people a heavenly way to go to hell which is why, at the Last Judgment, many will be astonished when Jesus tells them to depart.
22. Making a decision to follow Jesus has never converted anyone because it is not the will, or decision, of man that converts. but the power of the Holy Spirit that regenerates. Like Nicodemus, every soul must be born again, or literally, from above.
  - *John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*
23. The question is not did someone walk down the aisle, raise their hand, or make a decision, but is there true faith in the heart manifested in a holy life of gospel obedience.
24. The question is whether or not a person lives lawlessly or with Christ as the Lord of their life.
25. While no one has ever been justified by a public profession of faith, everyone who is justified is called upon to profess that faith.
  - *Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.*
26. Jesus said that people honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him.
  - *Matthew 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*
27. A confession of faith must be motivated by a possession of true saving faith.