

Full Assurance

Hebrews 6:9-12

In Hebrews 6:4-8 we saw how some who believe they've received God's grace may be deceived. This would lead to a logical question of whether or not Christians can ever have full assurance.

I. A full assurance that God has chosen to save you is possible to possess.

*"But beloved, we are **convinced** of better things concerning you"* (v. 9). Better than what? Better than being found "worthless," close to being cursed, and headed for judgment (v. 8). The word "convinced" (*persuaded*, KJV) is the same word that Paul uses in II Timothy 1:12. *"For I know whom I have believed and am **persuaded** that he is able to keep me till that day."* There is as much danger in baneful assumptions of God's grace as there is in personal doubt. Sure it is harmful to assume, but there is little benefit in having all the joy of assurance gone.

II. There are three key indicators of God's grace that lead to full assurance.

These indicators are those things that 'accompany salvation' (v. 9) and should be seen in you.

A. Your work of faith

*"For God is not unjust so as to forget your **work**"* (v. 10). The word "work" is singular. This "work" of trusting God is the theme of Hebrews. *"They weren't able to enter rest because of unbelief"* (Heb. 3:19). *"Let us be **labor** to enter His rest"* (Hebrews 4:11). *"We give thanks to God for ... **your work of faith and labor of love**"* (I Thess. 1:3). Your faith in God to save you by His grace in sending His Son for you is assurance. The greatest struggle you will ever have in this life is trusting God and not yourself.

B. Your labor of love

*"For God is not unjust to forget your work **and the love you have shown**"* (v. 10). Love to whom? *You have ministered to and are still ministering to the saints* (v. 10). Jesus said, "By your love for one another all will know that you are my disciples." In our study of I Corinthians 13 we saw that "love" is the key indication of grace.

C. Your steadfastness of hope

*"For God is not unjust to forget ... the love which you have shown **toward his name**"* (v. 10). Ultimately your hope is in the justice of God in upholding His name. If He gave His Son to die for you, then there is no way that His judgment will ever fall on you. This hope ultimately rests in "His name," not your own. He is your "anchor of hope" (v. 18).

III. Diligence in hearing God's word and applying it brings the indicators.

"We desire that each of you show the same diligence so as to realize full assurance" (v. 11). The opposite of this diligence is "sluggishness" mentioned in the next verse. The word "sluggishness" translates the same word used by the writer in Heb. 5:11 (*"dull of hearing"*). *"Concerning Christ we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing** [sluggish]."* The Word of God is a Christian's bread of life, his breath of air, his power. You and I read the Word and we hear God speak and we exercise faith, hope and love. This is the great trilogy of Scripture that are the indicators of God's grace in your life. *"We give thanks to God ... constantly bearing in mind your **work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus... **knowing His choice of you**"* (I Thess. 1:3).