



“Assurance”

Defeating Doubt
I John 4:13-16

Boldness comes with the:

I. Spirit - “of His Spirit” (v. 13)

We benefit through:

A. **Illumination** - “Hereby know we... of His Spirit”

B. **Implantation** - “that we dwell in Him”
to plant securely

C. **Indwelling** - “and He in us”

II. Scripture – “do testify...that Jesus is the Son of God”(vs. 14-15)

We believe in Jesus’ :

A. **Manifestation** - “we have seen”

B. **Mediation** - “the Father sent the Son”

C. **Mission** - “ to be the Savior of the world”

III. Sentiment - “God is love” (v. 16)

We behave with a love that's :

A. **Experienced** – “we have known...the love”

B. **Entrusted** – “and believed the love”

C. **Extended** – “dwelleth in love... in God, and God in him”

Sentence Sermon:

“God provides assurance through the presence and ministry of the Spirit.”

Additional Verses

- I John 3:24; 4:2, 6, 13; 5:13
- I Corinthians 12:3, 13
- Galatians 3:27
- Ephesians 1:13
- II Corinthians 1:22; 5:17
- John 6:9; 13:35
- Romans 1:16-17; 4:5; 8:9, 16, 32; 10:6-12
- II Timothy 1:8-11
- Leviticus 1:17; 5:7, 11
- Deuteronomy 32:11
- Judges 6:17, 36-40
- II Kings 20:8
- Isaiah 7:12
- I Samuel 26:12
- Psalm 23:4
- Genesis 2:21
- Matthew 13:19
- II Peter 1:16-19
- Philippians 1:6
- II Timothy 4:8

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in this passage?
2. Why is it important that we know that we dwell in Him?
3. What are the ministries of the Holy Spirit that assure us?
4. How important are the testimonies of the apostles to you?
5. What significance is found in “the Father sent the Son?”
6. How is Jesus the Savior of the world not just believers?
7. What does it mean to confess Jesus is the Son of God?
8. How have we known the love that God has to us?
9. What does it mean to believe the love of God?
10. How would you explain or describe the connection or correlation of God's love and His indwelling?

INTRO:

Why did John write the letter of I John? The word “know” is found throughout. He wanted us to be confident and assured of our position in Christ and our practice of living the Christian life in this world.

v. 13 .

- Hereby = or “by this” ...often looks forward to the gift of the Holy Spirit (I John 3:24; 4:2, 6, 13)
- Know we that = (present tense) all believers are included and have common experience of obtaining knowledge by observation, experience, and instruction.
- We dwell in Him = mutual indwelling...”meno” continuing reality of the reciprocal abiding as an intimate relationship. Placed in the body of Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27;
- And He in us = placed inside the believer as a downpayment of the promise and the seal of redemption. (Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13; II Corinthians 1:22)
- Because = we know that we dwell in Him on the grounds of
- He has =perfect active indicative = lasting effect
- Given us = to supply, furnish, grant
- Of His Spirit = the Spirit out from God...the Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers.

V. 14

- And = in addition to, also
- We = all apostles including John
- Have seen = word for **theatre** as in verse 12. To witness or behold
- And do testify = bear witness (eye)
- That = the crux of their testimony
- The Father sent = apostello – apostle = sent one
 - Perfect tense = has sent = ***an abiding significance***
- The Son to be the Savior = better “the Son as Savior” = what He is not just what He did. Forever inseparably connected with His identity.
- Of the world = cosmos = without limit and in its entirety for those willing to accept the salvation through Him.

v. 15.

- Whosoever = no limitation on who may...Not elect only
- Shall confess = “he who if he may confess” = 3rd class conditional (probable, likely, doable) – stresses the willingness of the Individual to make a public confession born of an inner persuasion.
- That = what is the contents of the confession? Say the same as what ????
- Jesus is the Son of God = Jesus is the Son of God Incarnate. Fully God / Fully Man
 - Implies surrender and obedience...not just lip service.
 - **Stott** observes ***“The theology which robs Christ of His Godhead, robs God of the glory of His love, and robs man of the one belief that generates a perfect love within him.”***
- God dwelleth in him = present tense emphasizes a present reality ...enjoying invincible power for the accomplishing of his calling on earth.
- And he in God = the believer belongs to a different order...in God
 - It is a twofold relationship which is intimate and progressive

v. 16

- And we = John switches to talking about all believers not just the
- have known = perfect active indicative...better “we have come to know and still know...”
- And believed = perfect tense also
 - Order here - Burdick notes ***“knowledge of basic facts must precede belief, for it is necessary to know what is to be believed. Faith must be intelligent or it is sheer gullibility.”***
- The love that God hath to us = “en” or in us....God’s love has been poured into the hearts of believers and is being manifested in being operative in God’s people.
- God is love = literally “The God love is”speaks of God’s character....repeated same as verse 8....Love does not define God, God defines love
- And he that dwelleth in love = an individual whose way of conducting themselves is permeated by love
 - 3 uses of *meno* stressing the fact of continuity. John seeks to wrap up the argument on assurance.
- Dwelleth in God = the time and fellowship in the body of Christ and in devotion to God is what enriches the believers practice of being loving.
- And God in him = primary source of the love seen in the believer is the indwelling presence of God.

Assurances in I John

- 2:3—By this we may be sure that we know him . . .
- 2:5b—By this we may be sure that we are in him . . .
- 3:10—By this it may be seen who are the children of God . . .
- 3:14—We know that we have passed out of death into life . . .
- 3:19—By this we shall know that we are of the truth . . .
- 3:24b—By this we know that he abides in us . . .
- 4:2—By this you know the Spirit of God . . .
- 4:6b—By this we know the spirit of truth . . .
- 5:2—By this we know that we love the children of God . . .
- 5:13—I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you might know that you have eternal life.
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William Shedd states:

“It follows then that the sovereignty of God with respect to retributive judgement consists

in his power and right to satisfy its claims in more than one way. He has a choice of method. He may inflict the full amount of suffering due to sin either upon the sinner or

upon a proper substitute. He may require the complete satisfaction of justice from the

transgressor or he may provide for it for him vicariously.

‘Divine justice may smite the guilty man or it may smite the man who is God’s fellow.’”

Lord Beaconsfield, one of Queen Victoria’s prime ministers, a Jewish convert to Christianity once said, “Perhaps too in this enlightened age as his mind expands and he takes a comprehensive view of this period in progress the pupil of Moses may ask himself whether all the princes of the house of David have done so much for the Jews as that prince who was crucified on Calvary?”

So, let me just sum it up. The marks of the authentic believer are first the

illuminating Spirit who has shown into our dark

minds and cold hearts. “The natural man

receives not the things of the Spirit of God: they are foolishness to him: neither can he

know them, for they are spiritually discerned.” But the

illuminating Spirit shines into the

hearts, dark hearts, dead hearts, unwilling hearts and creates new life. The cold heart

becomes the warm heart, the unloving heart becomes the loving heart characteristic of

every single genuine believer in Christ. That is one of the marks, the illuminating Spirit

who has shown into our dark minds and cold, cold hearts. The second is the confession

of the Son of God as the one who offered the atoning sacrifice and thirdly, the abiding in the love of God.