

Christian Assurances

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Introduction

Some Bible verses are like lights. They were made for dark places and dark hours – the difficult times. Did you ever hear about the little girl in the passenger train years ago? She couldn't understand why the trainman was going through the car lighting the lamps. She said, "Mother, it is the middle of the day and the sun is shining, why is he turning on those lights?" The mother smiled, and said, "Wait a bit and you'll see what the lights are for." In a moment or two the train plunged into a long, dark tunnel, and then the little girl saw the wisdom of the lamp lighting process. Dear friend, that Bible of yours contains thousands of verses that seem very ordinary and unnecessary. You can't see why God has gone to all the trouble of lighting those lamps of truth, but some day you're going into the tunnel of bereavement, or the tunnel of temptation, or the tunnel of suffering, and then you will value and appreciate the verses that appear to be commonplace today. You should "light" (learn them) before you need them, so they will be turned on when you go through the darkness. Here are seven passages (11 verses) that will light your way in your times of darkness.

Assurance of Salvation

I John 5:11-13

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Eternal life is a free gift! You do not earn it nor do you deserve it. In fact, because we are sinners, we should not have eternal life. We have eternal life only because of God's grace and Jesus substitutionary atonement for our sins. He died to take the punishment for our sins. In this passage of Scripture, John says that those who have the Son (Jesus) have the life (eternal life). God offers us the gift of eternal life. It is a conditional gift that is given only to those who accept God's Son, Jesus Christ, as their personal Lord and Savior. You accept Jesus by repentance and faith. Biblical faith includes a public confession of Jesus and baptism (immersion) into Him. In the book of First John, from which the above passage is taken, there are three types of evidence that a person is saved. Those three are faith, love and obedience. A person who is trusting Jesus for salvation loves God and other people and he or she obeys God in their daily lives. That does not mean you are perfect. It does mean that your "habit of life" is godliness. Sin is an unwelcome intruder in a Christian's life. The Christian who is trusting in Jesus for salvation and living for Him daily "knows" he has eternal life. This assurance of salvation is a true comfort among all the uncertainties of this life. The Apostle John says that he wrote his first epistle so that believers in Jesus would know that they have eternal life. Do you know you have eternal life? If you were to die today, do you know for sure you would go to heaven?

Assurance of Victory Over Sin

I Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

God not only saves us from the penalty of sin, He also saves us from the power of sin. One day God will save us from the presence of sin, when he takes us to heaven. This verse, written by the Apostle Paul, is about how to have victory over the power of sin in our life now. The word temptation used in this verse includes not only temptation to sin, but trials and troubles of all kinds. This verse says several things about the issues we face. The first thing it says is that all of our "temptations" are "common to man". In other words, other people have faced, and are facing, the same kinds of problems. Sometimes we think we are the only ones who have ever had to face the problems we are facing. That is not true. Other people have faced the same kinds of problems. The second thing Paul points out in this verse is that God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted or tried beyond our

ability. You will not be tempted beyond what you are able to handle. That is a very precious promise. If “it” is happening to me and I am a Christian, God says I can deal with it. There is always a way of escape so that I can endure it. There is always a way out of the difficulties a Christian faces. Sometimes, that is hard to believe, but God never lies. There is a way out. You can endure it. Trust God – He is telling you the truth. If you are a Christian, here is a promise that you can handle whatever comes your way. You can have victory over sin and over life’s situations.

Assurance of Forgiveness of Sins

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In spite of the fact that I Corinthians 10:13 is true, we Christians still sin on occasion. This passage is not addressed to non-Christians, but to Christians. Non-Christians have their sins forgiven by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior by faith, repentance, confession of Jesus and baptism. This verse tells a Christian what to do when he or she sins. When we sin, we are to confess that sin to God. That means that we admit it is our fault. God had provided a way out (I Corinthians 10:13), but I didn’t take it and therefore, I sinned. If we confess our sins, God will forgive us. Many times we don’t confess our sins, but instead, we blame someone else for our sins. If I claim that the sin I committed was my parents’ fault, then I have not confessed my sin and God has not promised to forgive me of that sin. In order to claim this promise, I must confess my sin. To confess my sin means that I admit that it is my fault. When I confess my sin, God will forgive me. Another precious promise from the pages of God’s Holy Word.

Assurance That God Will Hear Our Prayer

I John 5:14

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

All of us have had the experience of feeling like God did not hear our prayer. Sometimes it seems like they “bounce off the ceiling” and never go anywhere. Again, this is a promise to Christians. If a Christian asks anything according to God’s will, God hears that prayer. This verse does not promise that God will give us what we ask for. It only promises that He hears what we ask for. When we pray, we want God to hear us and to answer according to His will. He always knows what is best and we should always desire His will – not ours – to be done.

Assurance That God Cares For Us

I Peter 5:7

Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

All of us have times of “depression” and just being “down in the dumps”. Those with certain personality types have these times more often, but I think everybody has them sometimes. When you are depressed and feeling sorry for yourself, you feel like no one cares. I jokingly say “no one loves me and even worse, no one cares that no one loves me”. This passage says we should give all of our troubles and worries to God, because He cares about you. Even if it is true that no one else cares, God cares! That’s a great verse for the dark times.

Assurance That All Things Work Together For Good

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

This is one of the greatest of the great verses in the Bible. God is in control and God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. This verse

does not mean that all things are good. This verse does mean that God will cause all things to work together for good to those who love Him and have responded to His purpose. A good illustration of this principle can be seen in the story of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37-50.

Assurance That The Bible Is A Sure Guide For Our Life

II Timothy 3:15-17

And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Someone has said that life is a series of problems to be solved. Sometimes I think this is as accurate a definition of life as you will ever find. There are a lot of problems in life. The great thing is that God has given us an instruction manual. Some years ago someone wrote a book with the title, "The Bible Has the Answer". Whatever you are facing in life, the Bible has the answer. God has already given us the solution to most of the major problems we will face in life. The biggest problem we face is that our sin separates us from God. The Bible tells us how to solve that problem. The Bible tells us what to believe, what not to believe, what not to do and what to do. The Bible is completely adequate to equip us to live this life the way God wants us to live it.

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Conclusion

When we began this study, I told a story of a little girl years ago riding in a passenger train and wondered why they turned the lights on in the car she was in during a bright sunny day. She did not know that the train was about to enter a long dark tunnel. The Scriptures are lights that may not seem too useful when everything is going well in your life. I suggest you "turn them on" by learning them, so that when you go through the dark times there will be a light to guide you through.

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