

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WALKING IN ASSURANCE

1 John 4:13-18, ESV – ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 According to verse 13, God has given us His Spirit. How do we know that we have His Spirit in us? What kind of assurance does this give us?
- 2 Why is the eye witness testimony important for our faith and assurance?

3 How does God's love assure us? How does our love for others reflect God's love?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **John 15:4-11, ESV** – ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

4 According to the passage above, believers are to abide in Jesus. What does it mean to abide in Christ? What does it look like practically? Why is it sometimes difficult to abide in Jesus?

5 What is the fruit of abiding in Jesus? How can fruit provide proof of being His disciple? How can fruit provide assurance for the believer?

6 What does Jesus mean when He says, "That my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full"?

B **Romans 8:14-16, ESV** – ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

7 Looking at the passage above, we see that the Spirit leads us, liberates us, and assures us. How does the Spirit lead us?

8 What does the Spirit liberate us from? What does it mean for us to be adopted?

What kind of relationship do we have with God as a result of the Spirit's work? How does the Spirit assure us of our relationship with God?

TAKING IT HOME

Assurance is real for those who sense the presence of the Spirit in them, who trust the eye witness testimony of the Apostles, and who abide in God's love. How are you doing, walking in assurance of God's love? What is one thing you can do this week to improve in this area? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to walk in assurance.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ezekiel 36:26-27

John 13:34

2 Timothy 1:7

1 Peter 4:8

2 Peter 1:16