

Bible Study

Topic: The Bible in the Wesleyan Heritage

Lesson #7: Vital Bible Doctrines, Part Five

“The Witness of The Spirit” Key Verse: Romans 8:16

Proposition: The Witness of the Spirit is God’s plan for giving His children the assurance of their salvation.

Definition: “The witness of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul, whereby the Spirit of God immediately and directly witnesses to my spirit that I am a child of God; that Jesus Christ hath loved me and given himself for me; that all my sins are blotted out, and I even I am reconciled to God. *John Wesley*”

1. The Importance of Assurance

- a. It gives the believer boldness in sharing his/her faith.
- b. It gives the believer a positive motive for holiness, service, worship and praise.
- c. It gives new meaning to the believer’s life, service and worship.
- d. It gives the believer a new view of death and eternity and thus new values as he/she looks at life in the now.

2. The Meaning of Assurance

- a. It is an impression on the soul (1 John 5:10)
- b. It is the Holy Spirit witnessing to the believer’s human spirit that he is indeed a child of God (1 John 5:6-10; Romans 8:16)
- c. It is the Holy Spirit in the believer’s heart assuring him that his sins have indeed been forgiven and atoned for by the death of Christ and that he is thus an heir of Salvation (Galatians 4:4-7)
- d. It is the Holy Spirit assuring the believer that he is in Christ and that God loves him and gave His Son for him. (1 John 4:10-13)
- e. It is the believer knowing that he has eternal life (1 John 5:10-13)

3. The Process of Assurance

- a. The believer knows that he is saved because the Holy Spirit has imparted spiritual life into him (1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-5; Matthew 13:16-18)
- b. The believer knows that he is saved because the Holy Spirit has given him a new desire and ability to keep God’s Commandments and do God’s will (1 John 2:3-6)
- c. The believer knows that he is saved because the Holy Spirit allows the believer to continue in that state of salvation, growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 2:6)