

EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

2040 N. WESTRIDGE, WICHITA, KS 67203

(316) 942-5882

E-Mail Address: church@evangelpca.org

Web Page: Http://www.evangelpca.org

Sunday Worship 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Senior Pastor: Donald W. Rackley

Associate Pastor: Tim Rackley

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That You May Know!!!

The devotion in *TableTalk* for March 18 concerned assurance of salvation. "Only the person who has been given a new heart by the Holy Spirit can long for His precepts (Psalm 119:40); therefore, only the regenerate person has a real struggle within when he fails to obey. If you trust Christ and are struggling with sin, know that the presence of this struggle and the desire to do good are evidences that you belong to Jesus."

Every believer in Jesus is safe but not every believer is sure of it. It is certain that God wants His children to be sure that they are His forever. "The Holy Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:16). This is a very practical matter. We cannot see or feel the Holy Spirit but we can know when He is present (John 3:8).

When Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God, Jesus responded that such persuasion comes only by the Holy Spirit. He also stated other convictions which are the work of the Spirit. "He (The Holy Spirit) when He comes will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; concerning righteousness because I go to My Father, and concerning judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged."

When the Jews crucified Jesus, they did not believe that they were sinning, they believed they were serving God. But when the story of that crucifixion was later preached they were pierced to the heart (Acts 2:37). This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will convince men of righteousness. Jesus was crucified as a criminal. He was tried; He was found guilty; He was regarded by the Jews as an evil heretic. He was given the punishment that the worst criminals had to suffer, branded as a felon and an enemy of God. It is the Holy Spirit who convinces men that this crucified Jew is the Son of God (Matthew 27:54; Acts 9:1-9). It is the Holy Spirit Who convinces men of the righteousness of Christ, backed by the fact that Jesus rose again, and went to His Father.

The Holy Spirit convinces men of judgment. There on the cross evil stands condemned, judged and defeated. What confronts a person with the certainty of judgment? Why should a person not do what he likes? What makes him feel certain that judgment lies ahead? That is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who gives us the unshakable conviction that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

When we are convinced of our own sin, when we are convinced of Christ's righteousness, when we are convinced of judgment to come, what gives us the certainty that in the cross of Christ is our salvation and that through Christ we are forgiven and saved from judgment? This too is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Deep inside the heart of every believer should be this sense of certainty. The basis of our assurance is the Word of God. "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life." Knowledge is the fuel of confidence. Our salvation is based upon what Christ has done. Our assurance of it is based upon the truthfulness of God's Word.

The question then is do you believe these things. This is not an invitation to look at your faith and ask do I believe enough or in the right way. Our focus must be upon the object of our faith. So read this article again and while doing so, ask yourself has the Holy Spirit been working in me in these ways.

Other evidences of the Holy Spirit's work in you is love for Christ and love for your brothers and sisters in the Church. It is he who loves not the Lord Jesus that is accursed (I Corinthians 16:22) and John assures us that, "We know we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (I John 3:14).