

(Though we may strive each day for increasing righteousness, we will never reach a state in which we will not need God's grace.)

**Upon these conditions God has promised to continue His fellowship with us.**

*If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 Jn. 1:6-7).*

By maintaining fellowship with God through a faithful life, we may approach the judgment with confidence rather than fear (1 Jn. 4:17-18). Indeed, *“you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 Jn. 5:12).

Take a moment to do some personal reflection. Are you truly “walking in the light”? If so, we hope you will continue your life of faith so that you may have the wonderful assurance of salvation. If not, will you purpose today to renew your commitment to serve Jesus Christ faithfully? Do you need help? We'll be glad to help you begin anew in your service to God. Let us know how we can help you!

**This is a brief digest of a sermon delivered by Johnny Felker. If you would like a cassette tape of the full sermon, we will be glad to make a copy for you.**

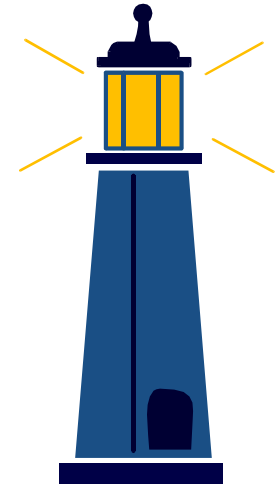


**We would be honored to have you visit with us at Perry Heights at any of our services.**

**Sun. 9:00 a.m. (Bible class)  
9:55 a.m. (Worship service)  
6:00 p.m. (Worship service)  
Wed. 7:00 p.m. (Bible class)**

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## **The Christian's Assurance of Salvation**



**The Christian life begins with the forgiveness of past sins and a wonderful hope of being with God after this life. How may we be sure that we are living the life that will result in our eternal salvation?**

**On what basis do you hope to go to heaven?**

Some people base their hopes of going to heaven as Christians on the doctrine of perseverance commonly called “once saved, always saved”: *“I know that God has saved me; and now that I am saved there is nothing that can cause me to be lost.”*

Other people base their hopes on the doctrine of perfectionism: *“I can live above sin. I know what God wants me to do and I obey His commands just as He revealed them”.*

*Neither of these is trustworthy grounds for assurance because:*

***First, the saved man can turn away from the Lord in unbelief and forfeit his inheritance:***

For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

***Second, none of us will succeed in living a sinless life as Christians:***

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 Jn. 1:8).

***Upon what basis then can we be assured of eternal life?***

***Our eternal salvation is conditioned upon the continued presence of the faith that saved us initially.***

*Just as God promised forgiveness to all who believe and obey the gospel, he assures salvation to all who continue in that same obedient faith, confidence, or assurance produced by the gospel (Heb. 3:6,14; 10:35-39).*

*John in his first epistle reveals the manifestations of the faith that will enable the Christian to live with assurance.*

***1. We must continue our confession of Jesus as the Son of God.***

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (1 Jn. 4:15).

***2. We must acknowledge our accountability to His law and live in obedience to His teachings.***

And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. (1 John 2:3)

*(This obedience is not sinless performance of His will but the increasing practice of righteousness. It requires that we continue our quest for truth, correcting our lives as we discover we are wrong and maintaining the progress in holiness we have already achieved in our application of His word.)*

***3. We must live a life of love toward God and our fellowman, especially our spiritual family.***

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. (1 Jn. 3:14).

*(This command of the Lord has special importance, since it manifests the love for our fellowman that the gospel was intended to create within us.)*

***4. We must acknowledge our ongoing need for forgiveness in failing to keep the Lord's teaching perfectly.***