

Full Assurance

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 03 May 2026

Preacher: Mike Scrivani

[0 : 00] Would you please stand with me as we honor the reading of God's Word together in Hebrews chapter 6 verses 9 through 12.

! May God add a blessing to the reading of His Word.

Would you please be seated? Amen. I'm thankful for the transparency and the honesty of the Bible. The writers of Scripture don't try to hide, cover up, exclude, or excuse sinful attitudes and actions to make themselves look better.

For example, Matthew's Gospel written by Matthew, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, records the instruction Jesus gave to him and the remaining disciples before he ascended to heaven.

[1 : 40] Before reciting those instructions, Matthew tells us in chapter 28 verses 16 through 17, Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed.

And when they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. And it's that phrase, but some doubted that I'm thankful for.

Think about it. Think about it. Think about it. Think about it. Here are the eleven disciples with hundreds of others whom Jesus appeared to after his resurrection. Prior to his crucifixion, they heard him say that he was the divine Son of God.

They saw him perform miracles which supported that claim. They heard him say that he came to die and rise again. They knew that he did. They knew that he died.

They knew that he had risen. He had appeared to them over a period of forty days after those events. They were eyewitnesses to all of these things, and yet some doubted.

[2 : 44] We can read this and think, what is there to doubt? You heard. You saw. You touched.

What more evidence could you need to alleviate your doubt? Doubt. Matthew doesn't tell us who specifically had these doubts, and he doesn't tell us what exactly they doubted.

Just that some doubted. I'm thankful for Matthew's honesty here because sometimes, as Christians, we have doubts, don't we? Sometimes we experience the circumstances that cause us to doubt God's plan, God's sovereignty, or God's ability.

Sometimes we have doubts about what God commands of us in his word. We doubt if loving our enemies and forgiving those who have wronged us is the best course of action for us to take.

And sometimes when we sin, we have doubts. We have doubts. Wondering. Does God still love me? Has God truly saved me?

[3 : 58] I'm grateful that Matthew doesn't hide the doubts of some of those believers. But what truly encourages me most is what he records Jesus doing and saying next.

As Jesus no doubt knew the doubts that some of his followers were having. Verse 18 says in Matthew 28, Notice what Jesus does.

He comes to them. And then notice what Jesus doesn't say. He doesn't say, I know some of you have doubts.

Are you kidding me? After all you've seen me do, how can you still have doubts? You know what? You doubters, you're going on the B team. You are B team Christians. I'll let you wear the uniform, but you are not going to get on the field. Jesus doesn't do that.

[5 : 08] He speaks to them all. Whether they have doubts or not. What they need to know is that he's got all authority.

He's in charge. He's the boss. And his authority is unlimited. He focuses their attention on himself. Some of them have doubts, but Jesus doesn't. He doesn't doubt that this group of men and women, some who were formerly fishermen and tax collectors, some who were formerly demon-possessed and prostitutes, some who had formerly been his self-righteous opponents, some who had doubted

him and still had doubts about him would be his witnesses who would turn the world upside down. Not because of who they were, but because of who Jesus is. And so he instills them with confidence in verses 19 and 20.

He says to them, go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. [6:27] And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age. In other words, because I am the sovereign Lord of lords and King of kings, because I have conquered all of your enemies, because I have called you, saved you, and will keep you, because I will always have this authority, because I will always be with you, because I love you and will never leave you or forsake you, because I am the bread of life who will always sustain you, because I am the light of the world who will guide you, because I am the door through whom you've entered, I will preserve you, because I am the good shepherd who laid down his life to save you, because I am the resurrection of the life who has power over death and will raise you, because I am the way, the truth, and the life, because I am the true vine who will enable you to bear much fruit, because I am the alpha and the omega, because I am the God who redeems you, forgives you, transforms you, and gives you the power of the Holy Spirit who will indwell you.

You will go. You will declare the good news of who I am and what I have done. You will make disciples who demonstrate with their lives the ability I have and only I have to give new life to dead things, because all of that, you can be confident in who I am, confident in what I've done, and be confident that I am always with you as you carry out this mission I've given to you, because I am for you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God tells us repeatedly in his word of his desire for you to have an unwavering confidence in him.

God wants every one of his children whom he purchased with the blood of his son, Jesus Christ, to be gripped, captivated, and fully assured of the certainty of the hope that they have in Jesus Christ. He wants you to be confident in his love to save you and to keep you. He wants you to rest in the salvation he has graciously given to you.

[8:49] The confidence in him should give you an unshakable assurance until the very end of your life so that you will not become spiritually sluggish, but instead be a focused, faithful follower of Christ who lives confidently and joyfully in God's saving love.

As you live confidently in this assurance, God says his love for you will flow through you and out of you to others and you will for him impact their lives.

this is God's desire for you as expressed in our text this morning. The main idea is this.

God desires you to live confidently in the full assurance of your salvation. God desires you to live confidently in the full assurance of your salvation.

You know, a few things hinder a Christian's assurance of God's love for them and the joy that comes from that more than feelings of fear, anxiety, uncertainty, and doubt regarding their relationship to God.

[10:15] If you go to bed each night and wake up each morning wondering whether or not God really loves you, is for you, has saved you, or is truly there, it's hard to find the strength you need to resist temptation, to have the passion to obey him, and to have the confidence that comes through knowing that you are in a right relationship with God, your creator.

But when your heart is overflowing with the rock-solid assurance that your hope in Jesus will not disappoint and that your relationship with God is based on his love and grace to save you, there is no limit to the joy, the peace, the satisfaction, and the confidence that is available to you in Christ. This is what God through the writer of Hebrews is saying to us in chapter 6 verses 9 through 12. Now remember, this encouragement comes on the heels of the discouraging warning that he had just given in verses 4 through 8.

There we read a sobering assessment of a certain sort of people who have tasted, they have sampled the goodness of God, they heard the gospel, they made professions of faith in Jesus, they experienced the Lord working in and through his church, they also experienced persecution. Jesus said that following him came at a cost. In becoming aware of that cost, they were drifting away from Jesus because they had not truly trusted him for salvation.

[12:13] They were not genuinely saved and so they had no root in Christ and as a result of that, no assurance, no confidence in him. They had no hope to face and to endure the suffering that came with being identified with Jesus.

In those verses, verses 4 through 8, the writer of Hebrews talks about such men and women who eventually drift completely away from Jesus Christ, rejecting him and thus putting themselves beyond the hope of repentance and salvation.

That was the case for some in the audience Hebrews is addressed to, but not all. The aim of Hebrews chapter 6 verses 4 through 8 was not to cause those who are truly saved to be fearful that they weren't.

Its aim is to cause those who are not truly saved but think that they are to repent. I've shared with you before that a common question I get from Christians is about whether or not they are truly saved.

That's an incredibly important question. When they ask me that question, we talk, we look at Scripture and what God says marks someone who he's truly saved.

[13:33] But what I've come to learn over the years that I've pastored is that there are a lot of people who are truly saved, but who live in fear that they aren't.

Conversely, I've learned that there are a lot of people who are not truly saved but who live in the false assurance that they are.

Hebrews 6:9 through 12 is written to those Christians who are truly saved but fear that they aren't. In it, we see that God desires those who are truly saved to live confidently in the full assurance of their salvation.

The writer of Hebrews has already expressed this desire a few times in this letter. In chapter 3 verse 6 and in verse 14, he writes about how a believer is one who holds fast to their confidence in Christ.

In chapter 4 verse 16, he encourages believers to confidently draw near to the throne of God, to the throne of grace. confidence. And so, a mark of a true believer is confidence in Christ.

[14:43] And God desires that we live in the confident assurance of our salvation. So, now the question is this. How can we, how can you, live confidently in the full assurance of your salvation?

Well, our text this morning answers that question by giving two proofs. And my hope and my prayer is that this morning the Lord will either prove to you or show you through his word that he has saved you.

And I hope that that proof will light a fire within you to live confidently for Christ. But if not, if we look at these proofs and you realize that these things aren't true of you, I hope that today the Lord will reveal that to you and then will save you.

That's why you're here. That's why he's brought you here. That's why he's caused you for whatever reason to listen to this sermon if you're at home. To tell you the truth and to offer you salvation and to give you an unshakable confidence in him that will give you the full assurance of hope in this life and for the life to come.

How can you live confidently in the full assurance of your faith? Well, the first proof from verses 9 through 10 is by the evidence of your conduct. By the evidence of your conduct.

[16:21] Let's look again at verse 9. Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things, things that belong to salvation.

It's important for us to notice first here the word beloved. The Greek word translated beloved appears 60 times in the New Testament.

The first nine times it's used by God the Father in speaking of Jesus, his beloved son. Everywhere else in the New Testament where it's used, whether referring to Jews or Gentiles, it's used only of believers.

So here the writer of Hebrews turns his attention to those in the church, those who are truly saved. And he knows these people. He knows them well. He has observed their conduct as Christians in their lives, their actions provided compelling evidence that they have truly been born again.

They were like the good soil Jesus spoke about in Matthew chapter 13 verse 23. As for what was sown on the good soil, and that's talking of the seed, and the seed here is symbolic of the gospel.

[17:44] This is the one who hears the word and understands it, and he indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold and another sixty and another thirty. They are also like the faithful servants.

in Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew twenty-five, who took what the Lord gave to them and invested it. They multiplied it. They are also like the wise man in Jesus' closing illustration in the Sermon of the Mount in Matthew seven, twenty-four through twenty-five.

Everyone who then hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall that had been founded on the rock.

The writer of Hebrews is confident that God has saved many in this church because he has witnessed how the gospel has transformed their lives.

He's seen how the love of God has motivated them to serve him, yielding fruit, producing outcomes that demonstrate the authenticity of their salvation, and so he is sure of better things for them, the things that accompany salvation.

[19 : 00] And so now we ask, what are these things that accompany salvation that he's talking about? Well, in the immediate context, I think that he's referring to all the things which contrast with the things that accompany those who eventually commit apostasy in chapter 5 verses 11 through chapter 6 verse 5.

For example, accompanying salvation is not spiritual infancy, but maturity, not milk, but solid food, not being unskilled, but skilled in the word of righteousness which results in the ability to discern good from evil.

They are not just being enlightened, but made new, not just tasting salvation, but feasting on it, not just partaking of the Holy Spirit, but having him indwell them, not just seeing miracles, but being one.

Because in salvation, they have undergone what only God can do, saving a person, changing a person, and giving that person an unshakable hope that endures all things.

The writer of Hebrews is confident that many of his readers are saved because he's seen the evidence in their conduct which is motivated by their love for God's name, as he says in verse 10.

[20 : 23] Look at verse 10 again. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints as you still do.

This is a really important sentence and it contains some critical truths that we need to reflect on.

First, the writer of Hebrews is confident in the spiritual condition of many of the believers he is writing to because of the love that they have for God's name.

To love God's name is to love it when God's name is worshipped. To love it when God's name is honored and revered. To love God's name is to rejoice when all of the attention is given to him and when all the credit goes to him.

In college our coach used to tell us you guys you play for the name on the front of your jersey not the name on the back. In other words we played and we conducted ourselves on the field and off the field in ways that reflected well on the school that gave us scholarships to play baseball for them.

When you've experienced the grace of God to save you when you know the depths of humiliation Jesus went through to save you because of his love for you you want him to receive all the glory.

[21 : 55] You serve him not to make him look good but because he is good. These people conducted themselves in ways that showed that they were Christ centered Christ honoring and Christ saturated.

second it would be unjust for God to overlook this devotion and conduct which was motivated by their love their desire for his name to be glorified.

God is holy his justice is perfect he's never unjust. What's intended for us to understand here is that God knows all things he knows what you've done for the glory of his name and he will not overlook it.

Sometimes we do good things for those we love and they overlook it don't they? We hope they'll take notice of this gesture this kindness that we've done but sometimes they don't and so we might say to them hey did you notice that I did this or that I did that for you and it's not that we want to be thanked as much as we just want them to see what we did to show them our love for them.

Brother sister God always takes notice he always sees and he always remembers the things you did or are doing which are motivated by your love for his name third our love for God's name is most evidenced by our service to other Christians it's seen in the work we do that benefits others because we love God's name no matter how big it seems to you no matter how small it seems to you no matter whether if a lot of people see you doing it a few people see you doing it or more importantly no one sees you doing it but God God will not overlook it God is not unfair uncaring or indifferent to the things that you've done to serve others out of an overflow of the love you have for him because of the love he has for you last week

[24 : 37] Danny and I tackled a closet in my office at home that still had some unpacked boxes from our move and we separated things into piles there was a keep pile there was a giveaway pile there was a garage sale pile and then there was a trash pile there was one box that I opened and I automatically knew I didn't need to ask Danny where this goes it was a box full of pictures and crafts that our kids had made when they were little and had gifted to Danny and myself they were scribbles and scratchings of our family of pets and other things somewhere they'd written on some of those things love Jack love Hazel and I didn't have to ask Danny where to put those they went right into the trash

I'm totally joking totally joking because this is what would have happened if I put those things in the trash she would have rebuked me thoroughly and she would have said you cannot get rid of those we are keeping them forever brother sister you may think that your works done in service to the Lord whom you love for his glory you may think that they're poorly done insignificant maybe even garbage compared to what you see others doing but if you are saved you are God's child and he loves you he treasures you and he delights he takes pleasure in all the things that you've done and are doing for his glory because you love him if you are truly saved you truly love

God and you serve other Christians because you want to be like Jesus who was the ultimate servant we should serve in such a way that it's just natural to us to do it we're not thinking about even what we're doing when we're doing and it's just natural to us and in a way we almost sort of forget about it we don't keep score we don't well I did this for that person they better do this for me or I did this for that person I can't believe that they would do this to me we don't do it for ourselves we do it for the Lord and Jesus said a day will come when those who have conducted themselves in this way will be rewarded in Matthew 25 37 through 40 he speaks of this coming day when he will separate the sheep from the goats from those who were truly believers from those who were truly saved from those who were not the righteous will answer him saying

Lord and again it's almost like they've forgotten it's just their nature to do these things because they love him Lord when did we and when did we see you a stranger and welcome you or naked and clothe you and when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you and the king king Jesus will answer them truly I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me the writer of Hebrews was convinced that many of his readers were truly saved because not only had they demonstrated love for God that caused them to serve in ways that showed a supernatural love for their brothers and sisters in Christ but because they were things they were still doing they didn't think that they'd reached their quota of service and that what they'd done was sufficient or enough the

Christian life isn't about paying back a debt to God but knowing what God did through Jesus Christ to pay your debt to atone for your sins to adopt you as his child the Christian life is about living in the freedom in the joy in the peace in the love of God we continually serve others in the church not to put God in our debt but because God has set us debt to him it gives him pleasure to see you his child serving his children your brothers and your sisters in Christ in his church if you're a parent and you have multiple children you understand don't you that when you see your children loving each other doesn't it make you feel good doesn't it give you pleasure to see your kids getting along and loving one another you don't forget those things do you neither does

[30 : 09] God every time you love our children in the nursery God remembers every time you speak a word of encouragement to someone in our church who is discouraged God remembers God God remembers it and he takes pleasure in it thankfully those things happen in our church but we still must be doing them and we should strive!

in this place to demonstrate even more so the new life we have in Christ as we encourage one another to do the same the writer of Hebrews will get to this point in chapter 10 verses 24 through 25 but let's look at it now and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near you know when someone for whatever reason is not with us when we gather to worship when we see them again we shouldn't say where were you we should say we miss you and we need you we need to be together to meet together to live life to do life together so that we can serve one another how are we going to practice all of these one another if we're not here to do that with each other and to encourage one another we've been through a difficult season as a church we can be tempted in it to leave to quit to stop doing things to stop encouraging to blame to discourage and all other kinds of things we have things to fix and change and we will do

that but we must do so in a way that sees us still stirring each other up to love to do good in encouraging ways because the day of our

Lord is drawing near we have a mission to be doing declaring the gospel making disciples and demonstrating transformed lives that bear fruit for Christ's glory because we love his name if you conduct yourself like Christ you will have confidence in your salvation and you will bear much fruit because you love his name and because you are longing for that day when your eyes will behold the author of your salvation confidence in your salvation is grounded in the person and the work of Jesus Christ to save you and as a result of that in the transformed life that he's given you in your desire your want for his name to be praised through the good that you are doing for others in the hopes that as we share the gospel the good news will go people will be saved disciples will be made and we'll continue to disciple them as we demonstrate lives together that show what only God can do to save someone change someone now the second proof by the earnestness of your character by the earnestness of your character verses 11 through 12 and we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end so that you may not be sluggish but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promise the Greek word translated earnestness is *spude* it means hurry haste diligence zeal and eagerness the Greek word translated sluggish is *nathros* it means dull slow to learn and lazy so these two words are pitted against one another right here to demonstrate what the Christian life should look like and what the Christian life should not look like

I've already mentioned Jesus' parable of the talents the good servants are the ones who truly know the master they love their master they take privilege that their master has given them something and they don't take that lightly they use it they work with it they invest it they multiply it they make a profit which when the master returns they happily give it all right back to them because without the master multiply Jesus told two other parables that have a similar point in Matthew chapter 13 verses 44 through 46 he said the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which a man found and covered up then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and he buys that field again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls!

[36 : 04] finding one pearl of great value went and sold all that he had and bought it both parables picture salvation as something hidden from most people but so valuable that people who have it revealed to them are willing to give up all that they have to possess it there's joyful action in these parables finding selling buying probably looking like a fool looking like a crazy person to everyone else but knowing whatever is lost is nothing compared to what is to be gained brother sister the Lord calls us to action we are to go we are to make disciples we are to teach we are to be the salt and the light of the world we are to be men and women of action we are to train ourselves for action we have a mission we have a purpose we have a hope which is not wishful thinking we know that what

God says he'll do he's going to do it and so we stir one another up to do stuff for God's glory we have a mission that we need to be earnest about doing we can't let ourselves become sluggish and you know it's hard because we live in a culture that encourages sluggishness don't we we live in a culture that encourages us by saying things like well just go with the flow just go with the flow or take it easy yes patience is a fruit of the spirit it is through faith and patience we read that we inherit the promises of God but patience and laziness are not the same thing we are to imitate the lives of the faithful who came before us and who are still among us we are to demonstrate the love of Christ to those in the church there's a battle going on right now where I live and it's between me and chickweed and chickweed is not a nickname for any of my family members it is a weed that has spread throughout my lawn the previous owner of my house took really good care of the lawn and when we moved in last summer end of last summer

I'm not a take your shoes and socks off outside type of person but I would take my shoes and socks off and go walk in the grass it felt like outdoor carpet it was so thick and lush and green and chickweed less and so I've tried I've tried to do things to imitate the previous owner's work on the lawn that is now mine I know it's possible I know it's possible to make the lawn that I have look great and that gives me hope you can look to the life of someone in scripture like Paul you can look to the life of someone in the church who possesses!

a character like Christ and you can be discouraged that you aren't the same and I still have this sin I still have this chickweed popping up everywhere understand this the Holy Spirit hasn't saved anyone more than he saved anyone whom he has saved understand that it wasn't that that great

man or woman of the Christian faith had more of the Holy Spirit than you do I think it's that the Holy Spirit had more of them they were killing the sin in their life they were focusing on Christ they were choosing to be obedient to him they were being active were are doing those things that's the difference killing the weeds killing the sin becoming a person who looks more and more like Jesus we are called and we are enabled all of us to grow in holiness to be more like Jesus Christ and so let me ask you some questions are you active are you eager are you earnestly are you are you practicing the spiritual disciplines!

[41 : 03] are you spending time with the Lord whose name you love in prayer in studying and reading his word are you eager to share your faith? are you praying and looking for those opportunities where your light can shine and that you can share the good news of Jesus Christ do you want to make disciples?

do you want to be someone the Lord uses to encourage a new believer or another believer more mature believer in their faith? if not maybe what you need is just to be stirred up and I hope that this morning through his word God has stirred you up if you're doing those things then great keep doing it keep doing it more encourage others to do it don't look down on them for not doing it but stir them up in an encouraging way be like Jesus who came to all of his disciples even to those ones who doubted boosted their confidence but friend if you're here and you have heard this message and you know the proof of that and my conduct and my character it's just not there and you know that you haven't truly turned to Christ in repentance of your sin seeking him for salvation today is the day and again becoming a

Christian isn't about who you are or the things that you need to do before Jesus will save you it's acknowledging your sin that you're a sinner that all of your sins have been committed against God and knowing that you need him to save you because there's no other hope for you Jesus Christ the eternal word of God came to this world he added a human nature to his divine nature he lived the sinless life that none of us is capable of living and he died on the cross to atone for our sins and he rose again on the third day as proof that his atonement was sufficient that God received it that now through Christ we can be made righteous we can be declared God's child and we can have a hope and a confidence in this life no matter what we face that is unshakable because Jesus lives and he reigns and he's coming back and until then he's given us a mission let's be confident as we go out and do it how do we adjust our lives as believers based upon what we've heard

I think it's this confirm your calling your election be active be doing what a Christian is called and commanded to do and do it because you love God's name because you know how good he's been to save you how good he's been to keep you how good he is to preserve the inheritance that he's promised to you and so I want to close again with God's word having the last word in 2 Peter 1 5-10 which says this very thing for this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge and knowledge with self control and self control with steadfastness and steadfastness with godliness and godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love for if these qualities are yours and are increasing they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord

Jesus Christ for whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins therefore brothers be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election for if you practice these qualities you will never fall let's pray Lord again we're thankful for this day that you've given us we are thankful for this opportunity that you have provided to us to gather in this place and to worship you to pray to you to read your word and to meditate on it reflect upon it God we know that through your word today you remind us you call us to be confident in you that you Lord desire us to be bold witnesses that Lord in your word we know you desire us not to fear anyone or anything because there is no power that is able to take us from you [46 : 06] Lord you've called us to be confident not in who we are not in what we've done but in what you have done and in who you are and God as your people we more than any other people or person in this world we Lord have reason to be confident and so Lord help us to understand even more so more deeply who you are and what you've done that that would give us confidence that Lord in knowing your grace to save us that we would be more gracious and knowing your love to save us that we would be more loving and knowing all that you did to save us Lord that we would also be people of action that we would not be sluggish that we would be earnest to obey you earnest to declare the good news of who you are and what you've done earnest to make disciples and to teach one another and to encourage one another and stir one another up to love and good

works because we love you and we love your name and we want other people to love your name so Lord help us as a church to do that more and more help us

Lord as individuals to do that more and more that the love that we have for you would overflow out of us into others in our houses in our places of work in our neighborhoods wherever you would have us to go that people would see the confidence that we have and they would know that the confidence that we have is because of you and so Lord we pray for your help to make us confident people and we trust that you'll provide it and we hope that you will be pleased and glorified by what results and we ask these things in the name we love in the name of Jesus Amen