

## “Blessed Assurance”

“Blessed Assurance” is the title of a song which Christians often sing. It was written in 1873 by Fannie J. Crosby. Even though she was blind she wrote over 8,000 songs and hymns. As it relates to “Blessed Assurance,” we acknowledge that those words in that precise order do not occur in the Bible. However, the **idea** of “assurance,” yea of “**blessed** assurance” is repeatedly set forth in the Scriptures. We will now cite just a few such Scriptures:

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day,”* 2 Cor. 4:16. *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, **a house not made with hands**, eternal in the heavens,”* 2 Cor. 5:1. *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing,”* 2 Tim. 4:6-8. *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that **we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is,”* I John 3:1-2.

Clearly, for the faithful Christian, “blessed assurance” is set forth in the scriptures just cited. It is assuring to know that while the physical body is “*perishing*,” the “*inward man is being renewed*.” It is assuring for a Christian to know that he has “*a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*.” It is assuring for a Christian to know that there is laid up for him a “*crown of righteousness*.” It is assuring for a Christian to know that when Jesus is revealed he will “*be like Him*,” that he shall “*see Him as He is!*”

I verily believe that each Christian can enjoy the “blessed assurance” which is depicted in the verses just cited. I believe that, even though we live in an ungodly world, even though we are often tempted to do wrong, even though we live in a world of disappointment, discouragement, and suffering, and even though the devil is our “*adversary*,” and that he “*walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*,” I Peter 5:8.

### Upon What is “Blessed Assurance” Based?

**1. Faith in the existence of God!** The evidences that God exists, that “*He is*,” Heb. 11:6, are so great that one is called a “*fool*” even if he says in His heart “*there is no God*,” Ps. 14:1. If “*God*” is removed from the equation, then any kind of “assurance” becomes an impossibility.

**2. Faith that God is in ultimate control.** There was a time when Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, bragged about his own greatness and what he had accomplished. But God let him know that he would be made to “*eat grass like oxen*,” and be “*wet with the dew of heaven*” until he began to “*know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses*,” Dan. 4:25. God is “*Almighty*,” Gen. 17:1, and His “*understanding is infinite*,” Ps. 147:5. In today’s world, with so many unprincipled maniacs able to put their finger on nuclear weapons, it would be difficult to have any lasting peace of mind were it not for the assurance that God “*is*,” and that **He** “*rules in the kingdom of men!*”

**3. Faith that Jesus died for my sins!** “*All have sinned*,” Rom. 3:23; “*the wages of sin is death*,” Rom. 6:23, and sin separates man from God, Isa. 59:1-2. However, “*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*,” Rom. 5:8. Jesus came “*to give His life a ransom for many*,” Matt.

20:28. Jesus was “*set forth as a propitiation by His blood,*” having made the supreme sacrifice which would enable a “*just*” God to be a **justifying** God, Rom. 3:23-25. The question “what can wash away my sins” is correctly answered by the reply “nothing but the blood of Jesus!” Yes, Jesus “*by the grace of God,*” tasted “*death for everyone,*” Heb. 2:9.

**4. Faith that one has correctly obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ.** Yes, “*the gospel of Christ...is the power of God unto salvation...*,” Rom. 1:16. But the gospel must be **obeyed!** The apostle Peter posed the question, “*what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God,*” I Peter 4:17. And the apostle Paul affirmed that Jesus in that last day will “*take vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,*” 2 Thess. 1:9. Yes, the gospel must be obeyed. According to the New Testament, the covenant under which we live, one has to: **believe** in God, in Jesus Christ, and he must believe the gospel (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Mark 16:16. One must **repent** of sins, Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3,5, **confess** his faith in Jesus as the Son of God, Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37, and “*be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,*” Acts 2:38. Upon being buried with Christ in baptism, one must then “*walk in newness of life,*” Rom. 6:4, and be “*faithful unto death,*” Rev. 2:10.

**5. Faith that one is a part of that “one body”** wherein a person is reconciled unto God, Eph. 2:16. The “*one body*” is “*the church*” over which Jesus reigns as head, Eph. 1:22-23, which He “*purchased*” with His own blood, and of which He is “*the Savior,*” Eph. 5:23-25.

**6. Faith that the Lord is “with” His people,** Matt. 28:20; Rev. 1:12,13,20. A faithful child of God has a lot of help. He has the encouragement of fellow Christians, Heb. 10:24,25, the “*intercession*” of Jesus Christ, Heb. 7:24-25, “*the comfort of the Holy Spirit,*” Acts 9:31, and even the unseen aid of angels, Heb. 1:14!

**7. The assurance that “God is faithful,”** I Cor. 10:13. He “*cannot lie,*” Tit. 1:2; and what He has promised He will honor!

Life on earth is short. The pressures of life are not easy to bear. Unless the Lord comes first, all will die, Heb. 9:27. Even so, in the midst of all this, one can enjoy that “*blessed assurance,*” or that “*peace of God which surpasses all understanding,*” Phil. 4:7. But only if he submits to God’s law of pardon in scriptural obedience, and then lives and serves as God has ordained. Friend, do **you** have that “*blessed assurance?*” —Bobby Witherington