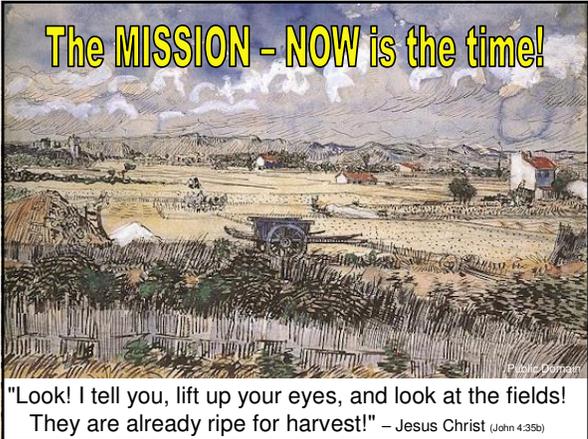


Assurance of Salvation  
Part 15  
The LACK of assurance (1)



We're almost ready to look at:

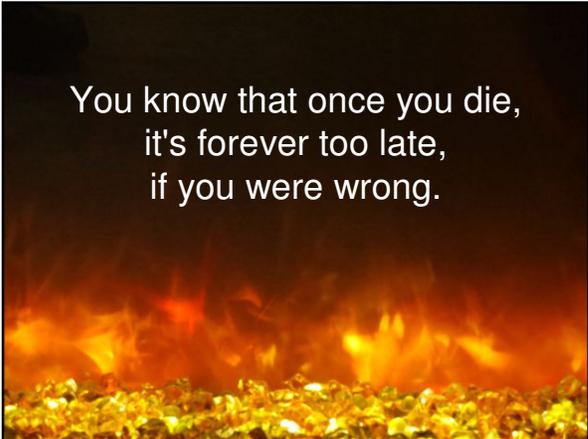
Things that prove you are saved.

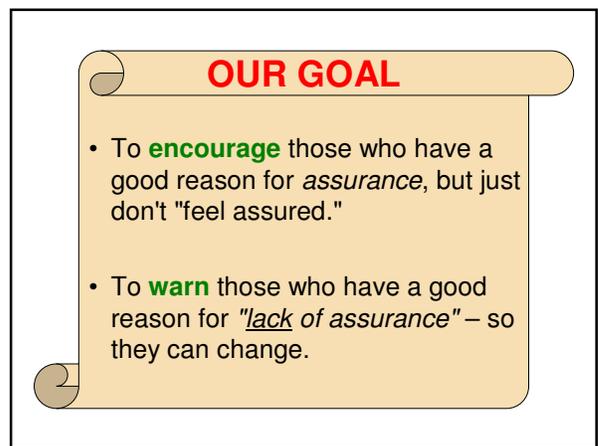
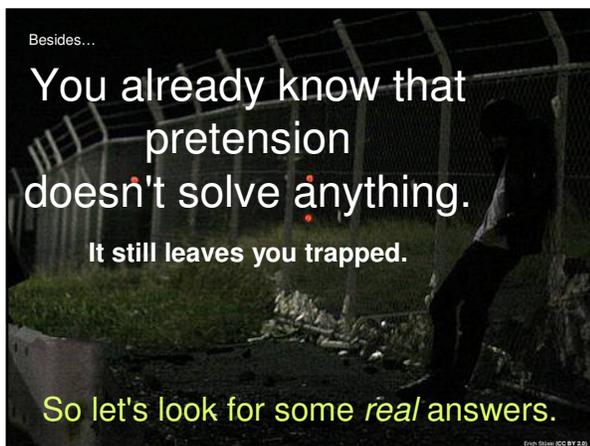
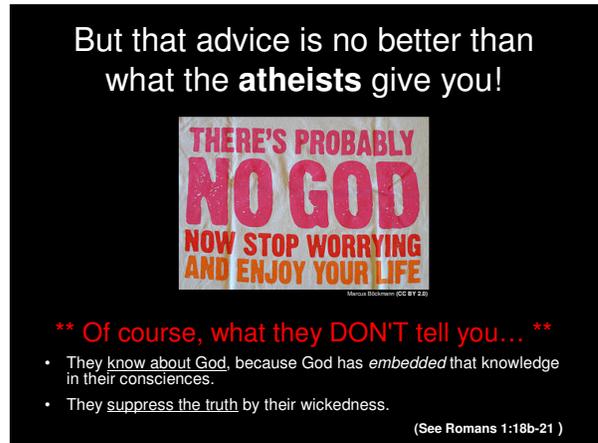
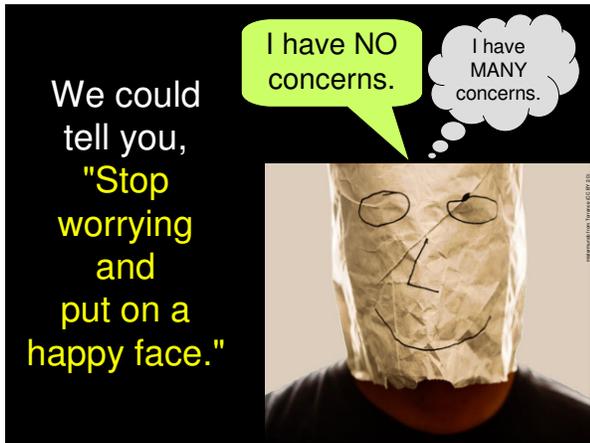
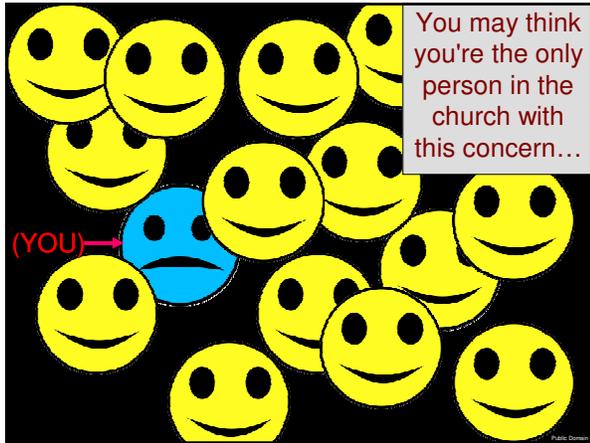
But first,  
one more important issue –  
Dedicated to those who **LACK**  
assurance,  
but who desperately want it.

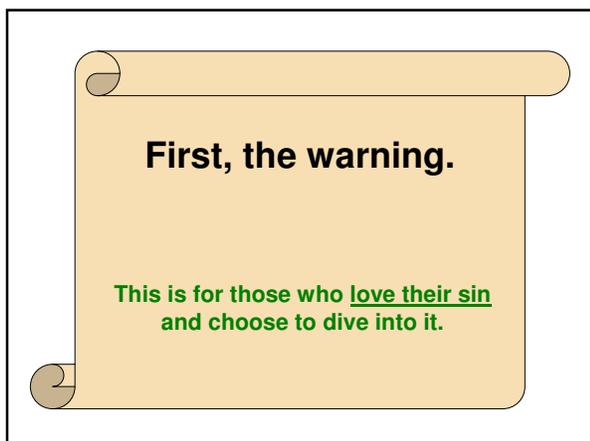
For those who **don't** feel "assured"

- Perhaps *sometimes*.
- Perhaps *never*.

It can be lonely...  
it can be terrifying.







**First, the warning.**

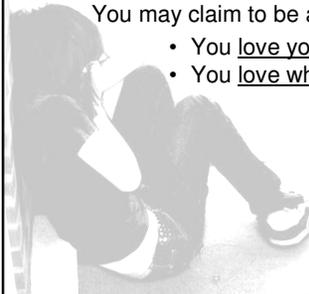
This is for those who love their sin and choose to dive into it.

**Is there a *good* reason for your lack of assurance?**

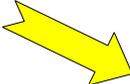
You may claim to be a "Christian," but...

- You love your sin.
- You love what the world offers you.

- **Your conscience condemns you.**
- **You know you deserve eternal death – and that's what bothers you.**



**Learn this well!**



**You CANNOT serve two masters!**

(See Matt. 6:24)



**YOUR MISSION**  
(if you're trying to love Christ and the world)

**You need to decide:**

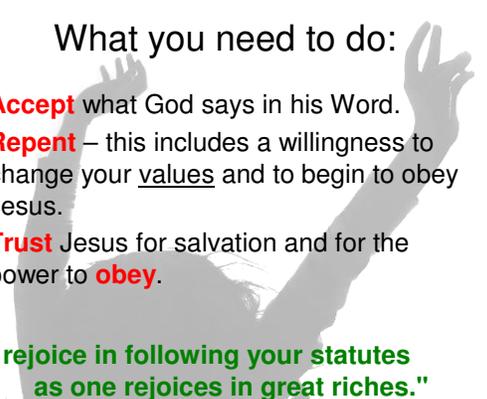
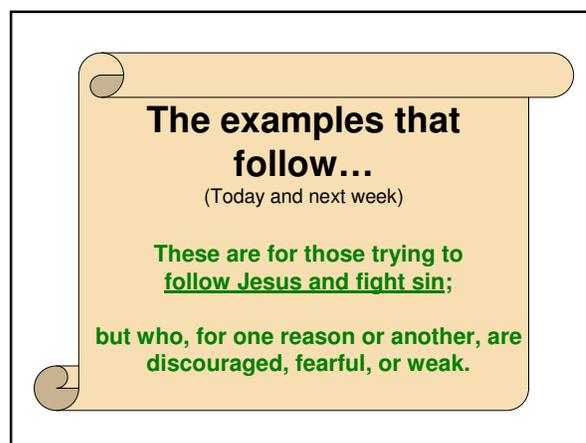
- Are you willing to "count the cost" of following Jesus?
- Or are your pleasures and possessions more important to you?

**What you need to do:**

- **Accept** what God says in his Word.
- **Repent** – this includes a willingness to change your values and to begin to obey Jesus.
- **Trust** Jesus for salvation and for the power to **obey**.

**"I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches."**

(Psalm 119:14, NIV)

**The examples that follow...**  
(Today and next week)

**These are for those trying to follow Jesus and fight sin;**

**but who, for one reason or another, are discouraged, fearful, or weak.**

**The examples that follow...**  
 (Today and next week)

**These assume you are NOT trying to "serve two masters."**  
 (as in Matt. 6:24)

**Do you have the wrong expectations about your spiritual growth?**

- You seem to be constantly struggling with sin.
- You try to serve God, but so often seem to fail.

**Do you have the wrong expectations about your spiritual growth?**

**You know that we must "strive for perfection,"**

**but it's taking longer than you expected.**

**You are not the only one to experience a struggle with sin.**

**The apostle Paul also struggled –**  
**the desires of his spirit**  
**vs.**  
**the impulses of his flesh.**

"What a wretched man I am!"  
 (Romans 7:24a NIV)

**But Paul did not stop there – and neither should you!**

**HIS QUESTION:**  
 "Who will rescue me from this body of death?"  
 (Romans 7:24b NIV)

**HIS ANSWER:**  
 "Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!"  
 (Romans 7:25a NIV)

The reason for Paul's success! →

**Be patient & don't give up.**



**You need to remember that growth takes time.**

**YOUR MISSION**  
(if you're present struggles discourage you)

**Strive for growth** – keep fighting sin.

**Keep focused on Jesus** – the only one who is sinless!  
– And the source of our growth.

**Keep fighting sin... but keep focused on Jesus!**

Therefore let us ... lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with **patience** the race that is set before us,

**\*\* looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, ... \*\***

(Hebrews 12:1-2a, WEB)

**God's Word and the Spirit can strengthen you.**

I have hidden **your word** in my heart that I might not sin against you.  
(Psalm 119:11 NLT)

In the same way, **the Spirit helps us** in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.  
(Romans 8:26 NET)

**YOUR MISSION - For all:**

**As you grow in Christ, your assurance can also grow.**

"... imitate those who through faith and **patience** inherit what has been promised."  
(Hebrews 6:12b NIV)

(God willing)

**Next week:**

**We will look at some more reasons for not having assurance of salvation.**

**Credits (1)**

**SCRIPTURE**

- John 4:35b – my translation.
- Hebrews 12:1-2a – Scripture quoted from the World English Bible (public domain). ([www.englishbible.org](http://www.englishbible.org))
- Psalm 119:11 – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. ([www.sev.org/sev/content.asp](http://www.sev.org/sev/content.asp))
- Romans 8:26 – Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. (<http://net.bible.com>) All rights reserved.
- Other Scripture passages – Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. ([www.zondervanbibles.com](http://www.zondervanbibles.com))

**PICTURES**

- Harvest – By Van Gogh (VG Gallery) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons ([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harvest\\_1890carp.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harvest_1890carp.jpg)) (cropped)
- GREEN LIGHT – By max7 (Image:Ampel.svg) [CC-BY-SA-2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>)] via Wikimedia Commons ([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3ATraffic\\_lights\\_dark\\_green.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3ATraffic_lights_dark_green.svg))
- Green smiley – By Cool tap (File:Smiley.png) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons ([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apoccol\\_Smiley.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apoccol_Smiley.png))
- Fire - Dennis Hinks © 2013

## Credits (2)

### PICTURES

- Happy face (smiley) - By Roman 82 [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Happy\\_face.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Happy_face.svg)
- Sad face (smiley) - By FML [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sad\\_face.ai](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sad_face.ai) (modified)
- Bag over head - By mistermundo from Torrance [CC-BY-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brown\\_paper\\_bag\\_with\\_happy\\_smiley\\_over\\_head.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brown_paper_bag_with_happy_smiley_over_head.jpg) (modified)
- Atheist slogan - By Marcus Bökemann (Flickr: Happy Darwin Day!) [CC-BY-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Happy\\_Darwin\\_Day.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Happy_Darwin_Day.jpg)
- Standing along a fence - By Erich Sidasi from van city, canada (050/365) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Loneley\\_man@Toychashi.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Loneley_man@Toychashi.jpg) (cropped)
- Girl on the floor - By Baker131313 (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Depression-loss\\_of\\_loved\\_one.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Depression-loss_of_loved_one.jpg) (modified)
- Girl with raised hands - By Candilux ▼ from Concepción, CHILE (Colours) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Colours\\_of\\_Happiness\\_3.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Colours_of_Happiness_3.jpg) (modified)
- Man sitting alone - Arief Rahman Saan (Ezagren) [B, used with permission], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Loneley\\_boy.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Loneley_boy.jpg) (modified)

## Credits (3)

### PICTURES

- Oak apron - By Max Reinertj5 (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oak\\_apron.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oak_apron.jpg)
- Oak tree - By Cayambe (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fraxinus\\_oxe\\_Steud\\_01.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fraxinus_oxe_Steud_01.jpg)
- Man jogging - By U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joe Kane [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:US\\_Navy\\_110904-N-20046-819\\_Sailors\\_assigned\\_to\\_the\\_amphibious\\_assault\\_ship\\_USS\\_Borhomme\\_Richard\\_%28LHD\\_6%29\\_run\\_on\\_the\\_flight\\_deck\\_during\\_the\\_escape.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:US_Navy_110904-N-20046-819_Sailors_assigned_to_the_amphibious_assault_ship_USS_Borhomme_Richard_%28LHD_6%29_run_on_the_flight_deck_during_the_escape.jpg) (modified)
- Sunset - Dennis Hinks © 2006
- Presentation and any backgrounds not listed above (i.e., not a solid shade) - Dennis Hinks © 2013
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.