

ACS Study – Assurance, Confidence, Steadfastness

Introduction

This writer believes that three conditions must be fulfilled for today's believer who seeks to fulfil Micah 6:8 **“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”** In sum these conditions are as follows supported by over-arching scriptures that will be augmented below.

Assurance

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” 2 Peter 1:19.

Confidence

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6.

Steadfastness

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Note that:

- Assurance focuses on **“the words of the LORD”** Exodus 4:28, 24:3, 4, Numbers 11:24, Joshua 3:9, 24:27, 1 Samuel 8:10, 15:1, 2 Chronicles 11:4, 29:15, Psalm 12:6, Jeremiah 36:4, 6, 8, 11, 37:2, 43:1, Amos 8:11, 18 references.
- Confidence focuses on **“the way of the LORD”** Genesis 18:19, Judges 2:22, 2 Kings 21:22, Proverbs 10:29, Isaiah 40:3, Jeremiah 5:4, 5, **“the way of the Lord”** Ezekiel 18:25, 29, 33:17, 20, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4, John 1:23, Acts 18:25, 16 references.
- Steadfastness focuses on **“the work of the LORD”** Exodus 34:10, Isaiah 5:12, Jeremiah 48:10, 51:10, **“the work of the Lord”** 1 Corinthians 15:58, 16:10, 6 references.

Assurance – In Depth

Concerning Assurance with respect to **“a more sure word of prophecy”** and **“the words of the LORD”** the greatest assurance that today's believer has is that of salvation as John sets out. **“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”** 1 John 5:9-12.

“The record that God gave of his Son” 1 John 5:10 with respect to assurance of salvation is the written scriptures. The term **“record”** appears 30 times in scripture, 23 times in the New Testament, of which 16 are in the writings of John. Although the term mostly refers directly to a verbal witness e.g. John 1:34 **“And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God”** it is also used explicitly of written records.

1 Chronicles 16:4 **“And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel.”**

Ezra 6:2 **“And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written.”**

Isaiah 8:1, 2 **“Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning Mahershalalhashbaz. And I took unto me faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest, and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.”**

1 John 5:13 reinforces the written “record.” “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.” That is why Paul is definite for today’s believer along with “Clement also, and...other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life” Philippians 4:3 on the pre-eminence for assurance of salvation of “a more sure word of prophecy” 2 Peter 1:19 and “the words of the LORD.”

Confidence – In Depth

Concerning *Confidence* with respect to “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6 and “the way of the LORD” today’s believer has a threefold confidence with respect to predestination, the priesthood of all believers and “the promise of his coming” 2 Peter 3:4 as Paul, Peter and John state.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” Romans 8:29.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” 1 Peter 2:9.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” 1 John 3:2.

Steadfastness – In Depth

Concerning *Steadfastness* with respect to “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:58 and “the work of the LORD” today’s believer may draw encouragement from Isaiah’s evaluation.

“And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me...Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God...And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldst be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” Isaiah 49:2, 4, 6.

Noting the outcome the New Testament fulfilment at the outset of the Church Age and as a pattern for the Church Age of Isaiah 49:2, 4, 6 with respect to *Steadfastness* and “the work of the LORD” is Acts 13:47-49, 52 “For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region...And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”

Conclusion

To fulfil Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” according to

- Assurance and “a more sure word of prophecy” and “the words of the LORD”
- Confidence and “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6 and “the way of the LORD”
- Steadfastness and “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:58 and “the work of the LORD”

the summary of scripture is Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”