

Power points for faith: #3 Assurance - John 20.19-31

**Title / intro:** New series - power points for faith - re: sharing good news - what is it, how do we live it, how do we share it?

Started at very beginning.... Jesus. How to become a Christian? 'believe in Jesus' - Saving faith.

**2 massive questions** - answer them in your head -

1) If you died tonight do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?

2) If God asked you 'why should I let you into my heaven?' what would you say?

second question first: last week we saw the answer is not works (earned) or goodness (deserved) but God's grace - saying yes, and thank you to the gift offered in Jesus. Received: thank you for pen given, thank you for pen given but not seen. Saving faith. Let go of wreckage, trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

first question: assurance, how can you know / be sure. 1 Jn 5.11-13

you can know - it's not presumption

John 20 - an example of seeing and believing (given the pen & seeing it)

description of promise (Word) and believing - cp pen given but not seen.

so the basis for our trust is **God's Word** - not our feelings:

Do not depend upon feelings. Tied as they are to your ever-changing circumstances, feelings are unreliable in evaluating your relationship with God. The unchanging promises of God's Word, not your feelings, are your authority. The Christian is to live by faith, trusting in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word.

A **train** is a good illustration of the relationship between fact, faith and feeling. Explain that the engine, "Fact," represents what we know to be true on the basis of the Word of God.

The coal car, "Faith," represents our beliefs, our confidence in certain truths, which leads to opinions and actions. When we say we have faith in something, we are saying we believe it to be absolutely true, and we are willing to take action based on that belief. If I say I have faith that a certain chair will hold me up, I won't hesitate to sit down on it. CP Blondin illustration in all age talk.

The carriage, "Feelings," represents our subjective, emotional sensitivities and impressions. The train will run with or without the carriage, but it goes nowhere without the engine.

Also, the train moves only if you shovel coal from the coal car into the engine. In the same way, our Christian lives will move only if we place our

faith in the facts of God's Word. Now, as the engineer, you could hop up into the carriage and start hollering, "OK! Let's get this train moving! Start shovelling that coal back into here! Fire up this carriage and we'll get rolling! C'mon, everybody, SHOVEL!" Just as the carriage has no ability to power a train, so your feelings have no ability to empower or direct your life as a Christian. It doesn't matter how much faith you put in your feelings, they won't get you anywhere. The facts will. Jesus said in John 8:32, "Then you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Feelings are like the carriage - they are important but are designed to follow a life of faith and obedience.

In the same way you, as a Christian, should not depend upon feelings or emotion to know you have received eternal life. Rather, God wants you to simply place your faith in his trustworthiness and the promises of His Word.

After wedding keep saying I wish I could believe we were married, will you marry me? Jn 6.47 he who believes HAS

Back to 1 Jn 5.11-13 - this morning let's settle the question once and for all time:

**2 circles:** which one are you - if you have asked Jesus into your life (not using a particular form of words but by saying 'Yes' and 'Thank you' to God - prayer is simply talking to God. If you have asked Jesus into your life, you don't need to again, you can thank him that he is in your life and will never leave you.

If you haven't, it doesn't matter about works or goodness, but about receiving a gift - inviting Jesus in.

Simply saying 'yes' to God - the facts of who Jesus is, his call to follow him, and his promise 'no-one who comes to me I will never turn away' John 6.37 'Listen, I stand at the door and knock - if anyone hears my voice and opens the door - I *will* come in' Rev 3.20

I **prayed:** Lord Jesus thank you, sorry, please, thank you.

"Lord Jesus, I need You. I thank You for dying for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Take control of the throne of my life. Change my life and make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen."

Could you pray a prayer like that and mean it?

let's do that now - tell me after the service, trust God's word & not your feelings.