

## **Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 63: The Foundation of Christian Assurance**

**May 27, 2026**

This study guide explores the biblical basis for Christian assurance as presented in 1 John 3:19. It examines why believers often struggle with doubt, how the character of God influences our confidence, and the importance of knowing that salvation is secure. By understanding the "marks of a true believer," Christians can find peace and tranquility even in the presence of a holy God.

### **Short-Answer Quiz**

1. According to 1 John 3:19, what is the primary goal of knowing we are "of the truth"?
  2. What does the text describe as a shepherd's privilege when caring for the "flock of the Lord"?
  3. Why did the Apostle John write about the "marks of a true believer" in his epistle?
  4. What is the meaning of the Greek word *ginōskō* in the context of gaining assurance?
  5. How does the phrase "of the truth" connect to both the Bible and Jesus Christ?
  6. According to the lesson, why is the presence of God often "intimidating" to people?
  7. What are the two "moral tests" mentioned that help verify a person's salvation?
  8. Why does the Roman Catholic Church discourage its members from having an "absolute" assurance of salvation?
  9. How does the "Arminian" or "Wesleyan" view affect a person's sense of security in their faith?
  10. According to the author, how does the assurance of eternal life affect a believer's ability to praise and serve God?
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## Answer Key

1. The primary goal is to "assure our hearts before Him," which means having confidence and peace as we stand in the presence of God.
2. A shepherd has the privilege of providing comfort, confidence, and peace to sheep who are struggling with fear and doubt regarding their salvation.
3. John wrote these things so that believers could evaluate their own condition and discern who among them is a false teacher or a false claimant of salvation.
4. It means to come to know, learn, find out, or realize, suggesting that assurance is not always intuitive but is something a believer discovers through truth.
5. Being "of the truth" means existing out of the "in-scripturated" truth of the Bible and the "incarnate" truth found in Jesus Christ.
6. God's presence is intimidating because He is perfectly holy, righteous, and omniscient, which makes people aware of their own sin, weakness, and failure.
7. The two moral tests that verify salvation are obedience toward God and showing love toward Him and toward others.
8. They believe that knowing one is definitely headed for Heaven might make a person careless about sin, which could then lead them to lose their salvation.
9. This view suggests that salvation can be lost or forfeited, which prevents a believer from having real assurance because they might do something to lose what they have.
10. True assurance allows a believer to love God with all their heart and serve Him with passion because they know His love and the gift of eternal life are permanent.

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## Essay Questions

1. Explain the meaning of the Greek word *peithō* and how it relates to tranquilizing or soothing an "alarmed conscience."
2. Compare the biblical command to "make your call and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10) with the views expressed by the Council of Trent.
3. Discuss why the author believes that the question "Is salvation revokable?" is essential to the entire discussion of Christian assurance.
4. Using examples from the Old and New Testaments, describe why humans are often "traumatized" by the manifest appearance of God.
5. Analyze the relationship between God's holiness and the "wonderful promise" found in 1 John 3:19.

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## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anathema:** A formal curse or a pronouncement that a person is damned or cut off from the church.
- **Assurance:** The conviction or confidence that one is truly saved and possesses eternal life.
- **Council of Trent:** A 16th-century meeting of the Roman Catholic Church that defined core doctrines and rejected Protestant teachings.
- **Epistle:** A formal letter, such as those written by the Apostle John or Paul in the New Testament.
- **Incarnate:** Embodied in human flesh; used to describe Jesus Christ as God in human form.
- **In-Scripturated:** The process of God's truth being recorded and preserved in the written words of the Bible.
- **Moot:** Subject to debate or uncertainty; in this context, it means a discussion that has no practical relevance.
- **Omniscient:** All-knowing; the attribute of God by which He knows everything perfectly.
- **Predestination:** The divine foreordaining of what is to happen, especially regarding the salvation of some and not others.
- **Revokable:** Capable of being taken back, cancelled, or reversed.
- **Sacrament:** A religious ceremony or rite recognized by the church as a means of divine grace, such as Baptism or the Eucharist.
- **Salvific:** Leading to or intended to provide spiritual salvation.

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## Greek Vocabulary and Pronunciation

The following Greek terms appear in the study of 1 John 3:19 to provide deeper insight into the original meaning of the text.

- **ginōskō** (ghin-ocē'-ko) [1]: A verb meaning to come to know, to learn, to find out, or to realize. It indicates that knowledge is gained through experience or observation.
- **peithō** (pi'-tho) [2]: A verb meaning to persuade or to be confident. It can also mean to tranquilize, calm, or soothe a heart that is troubled or fearful.

[1] Footnote: This word highlights that assurance is a learning process, not always a sudden feeling. [2] Footnote: This word is used to describe how a believer's heart is "assured" or "persuaded" when standing before God.