

THE ASSURANCE OF THE BELIEVER

JOHN 06: 37– 40

Introduction

The believer has great assurance and security.

- I. Assurance 1: God’s predestination (v. 37).
- II. Assurance 2: Jesus’ promise, His Word (v. 37).
- III. Assurance 3: Jesus’ purpose — to do God’s will (v. 38).
- IV. Assurance 4: God’s will for *those whom He gives* to Christ (v. 39).
- V. Assurance 5: God’s will for *the believer* (v. 40).

I. *John 06: 37 Assurance and Predestination*

The first assurance for the believer is God’s predestination. The meaning of the verse is clear. It is those whom “the Father gives” that come to Christ. However, note a critical fact. The stress is not predestination; it is assurance to the believer. Christ wants believers to take heart and to be assured of their salvation. It is God Himself who has drawn believers, who has moved upon and stirred them to *come to Christ*. (See *Draw*, Jn. 6:44-46.) Something should be noted at this point. There is a predestination thread that runs throughout John’s gospel. Things are controlled and happen as God means them to happen. The purpose of God is being done. He is God; therefore, He rules and controls all things (Jn. 1:12-13; 6:37; 6:44-46; 10:26; 16:8).

John 10:27-29 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

Rom 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the Firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

1 Pet 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

II. *John 06: 37 Assurance of Security*

The second assurance for the believer is Jesus’ Word. Note the enormous security given to the believer.

1. Jesus clearly said that any man who comes to Him will never “be driven away”. This is a double negative, a strong, forceful promise: “Never, no never be driven away.”
2. Jesus was claiming the authority to accept and reject men (see Mt. 8:12; 22:13). He accepts the person who comes to Him, the person who turns from the world and the flesh (sinful nature) to Him.

The point is simply this. Jesus gives His Word: “Whoever comes to me I will never, no never drive away.” The believer’s assurance and security are as good as Jesus’ Word. If Jesus is who He claimed to be, “the Bread of Life,” then the person who comes to Him for spiritual nourishment can rest assured that...

- Jesus will receive him into God’s household.
- Jesus will feed, nourish, satisfy, and fill him.
- Jesus will not cast him away.
- Jesus will keep His Word with every generation of people.

Mat 5:18 “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

Luke 21:33 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Psa 111:7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

Ezek 12:25 “But I the LORD will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. For in your days, you rebellious house, I will fulfill whatever I say,” declares the Sovereign LORD.

III. John 06:38 Assurance of the Will of God

The third assurance for the believer is Jesus’ purpose. He came to do God’s will. Note two points.

1. Jesus declared His origin: He came down out of heaven (See *Jesus Christ, From Above*, Jn. 3:31).
2. Jesus came *not* to do His own will, but the will of God.
 - a. Jesus had a mind and a will distinct and separate from the Father’s. He could will and act separately from God. In Gethsemane He prayed, “Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Mt. 26:39). He actually willed something different from God. He willed the cup to be removed, for some way other than the cross to be chosen for man’s salvation. Jesus had a distinct, separate will from God.
 - b. Christ subjected His will to God’s will. He fought and struggled to control His mind and will, to do exactly as God willed, and He conquered His will. He always succeeded. In every instance He subjected Himself totally to God. He always did what God willed — perfectly.

John 14:31 “But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave.”

John 15:10 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

Rom 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Heb 10:9 Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second.

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.

1 Pet 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect.

The believer’s assurance is Jesus’ purpose. He set out to do God’s will and He did it perfectly. The believer can rest assured — Jesus is the full revelation of God. Jesus revealed God perfectly. What Jesus did — everything He did — is a picture of the perfect will of God. Man can come to Jesus for spiritual food and nourishment and know that He is coming to God.

John 12:49 “For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”

John 14:9-10 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

John 17:8 “For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”

JOHN 03:31 JESUS CHRIST — “FROM ABOVE”

“The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.” **John 3:31**

Jesus came *out of* (ek) the spiritual world into the physical world, out of the heavenly dimension of being into the earthly dimension of being. Jesus came out of...

- the incorruptible and imperishable world into the corruptible and perishable world.
- the glorious world into the dishonourable world.
- the powerful world into the weak world.
- the spiritual world into the natural world. (See 1 Cor. 15:42-44.)

John 3:13 *No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man.*

John 6:33, 38 *“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

John 6:41-42 *At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”*

John 6:50-51 *But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

John 6:58 *This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”*

John 6:62 *What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!*

John 8:23 *But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”*

John 13:3 *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.*

John 16:30 *“Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”*

John 17:5 *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

1 Cor 15:47 *The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. □*

IV. *John 06:39 Assurance for Those Given to Christ*

The fourth assurance is God's will for *those whom He* gives to Christ. Note: the fact that God sent Christ is stressed again (v. 38). Note also that Jesus calls God His "Father." This stresses the love and care of God. God's will is like the will of a father for His children. He wills only good and loving things.

1. God wills to give some followers to His Son: "All that he has given me." This has to do with predestination, but in the sense covered before (v. 37). God wills that His Son Jesus be the first, that is, the most preeminent Person, among many brothers. Jesus is to have many brothers and sisters (See *Assurance of God's Purpose*, Rom. 8:29). The follower of Jesus can rest assured that he is chosen by God to follow Jesus; therefore, he will not be lost, not ever.
2. God wills that Jesus should *lose nothing*. The words "I shall lose none" (*me apoleso ex autou*) mean that He will not lose anything, not even a fragment, not any part of what God has given to Him. No person, not a single one, will be lost. It was true while He was on earth: He lost none (Jn. 17:12). It will also be true of every believer throughout history.

John 17:11 *"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one."*

Phil 1:6 *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Phil 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

2 Th 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*

2 Tim 1:12 *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Jude 1:24 *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.*

Rev 3:10 *Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.*

Prov 2:8 *For he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*

***Psa 31:23** Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.*

***Psa 37:28** For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off.*

***Isa 49:8** This is what the LORD says: “In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances.*

3. God wills a most wonderful thing: Jesus shall save every true believer through all, even up until the final hour of the very last day — the day of the resurrection. The Lord’s salvation is complete, ultimate, and final. No matter the trials, the heartaches, the hurts, the attacks of the enemy and the evil persecutors, Christ will save His dear follower through all; and He will raise him up at the last day. The *genuine believer* is assured and secure in the will of God. God wills that His Son lose no one — that each one will be saved through all circumstances — saved right up to the point of being raised up at the last day.

ROMANS 08:29 ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PURPOSE: SALVATION

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 08:29

God has determined to fulfil His purpose for the believer. This is the assurance of deliverance. Note three significant points.

1. This passage is often abused and misused. It is not dealing so much with theology or philosophy, but more with the spiritual experience of the Christian believer. If the pure logic of philosophy and theology are applied, then the passage says that God chooses some for heaven and others for a terrible hell. But this is simply not the meaning God intends for the passage. What God wants believers to do is to take heart, for He has assured their salvation.

God knows the suffering that believers go through daily (see Rom. 8:28-39). God “foreknew” even before the foundation of the world (v. 29). But no matter how great the suffering, no matter how great the opposition, no matter how great the struggle, God is going to complete His purpose for believers. God has “predestined [believers] to be conformed to the likeness of His Son,” and absolutely nothing can change that. Why? “That Christ might be the firstborn [have the pre-eminence] among many brothers” (Rom. 8:29).

God loves His Son in the most supreme way possible. God has ordained that His Son shall have many brothers (adopted brothers) who will love and serve Him as the firstborn, that is, as the first Person or the most preeminent Person of the universe. God has ordained that Jesus Christ shall hold the highest rank and position: that He be the exalted Head of all creation and the One to whom all men look (see Col. 1:15, 18). Therefore, God is going to allow nothing to permanently defeat believers. God is going to allow no fallen child of His to ever remain down permanently. God is going to fulfil His purpose in every child of His, and nothing can stop His purpose. Jesus Christ, His Son, will have a *multitude of brothers and sisters* who worship and serve Him throughout eternity.

2. Believers will be conformed to the likeness of God's dear Son. The words "conformed to the likeness" (summorphous tes eikonos) mean both an inward and an outward likeness.
 - a. "Conformed" (summorphous) means the very same form or likeness as Christ. Within our nature — our being, our person — we shall be made just like Christ. As He is perfect and eternal — without disease and pain, sin and death — so we shall be perfected just like Him. We shall be transformed into His very likeness.
 - b. "Likeness" (eikonos) means a derived or a given image. The image of Christ is not something which believers merit or for which they work; it is not a likeness that comes from their own nature or character. No man can earn or produce the perfection and eternal life possessed by Christ. The likeness of Christ, His perfection and life, is a gift of God. To be conformed to the likeness of God's Son means...
 - to become a participant in the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
 - to be adopted as a son of God (Eph. 1:5).
 - to be holy and blameless in His sight (Eph. 1:4; 4:24).
 - to bear the image of the heavenly: which is an imperishable, immortal body (1 Cor. 15:49-54; see 1 Cor. 15:42-44).
 - to have one's body transformed just like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21).
 - to be changed (transformed) into the same likeness of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18).
 - to be recreated just like Him (1 Jn. 3:2-3).
3. Note what it is that assures the believer's deliverance from the suffering and struggling of this world. It is two things.
 - a. The foreknowledge of God. The word "foreknew" (proginosko) is used three different ways in Scripture. It means...
 - to know something beforehand, ahead of time.

- to know something intimately by loving and accepting and approving it.
- to elect, foreordain, and predetermine something.

The present passage is interpreted differently by scholars. Note that the second and third meanings are much the same. When a person is loved and approved, selection or election is involved. The person becomes a very special or select person.

Again, the point to see is not the pure logic of the theological or philosophical argument. This is not God's purpose in this passage. God's purpose is to assure the believer: the believer is going to be conformed to the likeness of Christ, and nothing can stop the glorious process. God foreknew the fact, saw it even before the world was ever founded. He has always loved and approved the believer, electing and ordaining him from the very beginning.

Acts 15:18 That have been known for ages.

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Rom 11:2 God did not reject his people [Israel], whom he foreknew.

1 Pet 1:18-20 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

1 Pet 1:2 Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

- b. The predestination of God. The word predestination (proorisen) means to destine or appoint before, to foreordain, to predetermine. The basic Greek word (proorizo) means to *mark off or to set off the* boundaries of something. The idea is a glorious picture of what God is doing for the believer. The boundary is marked and set off for the believer: the boundary of being conformed to the likeness of God's dear Son. The believer shall be made just like Christ, conformed to His very likeness. Nothing can stop God's purpose for the believer. It is predestined, set, and marked off. The believer may struggle and suffer through the sin and shame of this world; he may even stumble and fall or become discouraged and downhearted. But if he is a genuine child of God, he will not be defeated, not totally. He will soon arise from his fall and begin to follow Christ again. He is predestined to be a brother of Christ,

to worship and serve Christ throughout all eternity. And Christ will not be disappointed. God loves His Son too much to allow Him to be disappointed by losing a single brother. Jesus Christ will have His joy fulfilled; He will see every brother of His face to face, conformed perfectly to His image. He will have the worship and service of every brother chosen to be His by God the Father. The believer's eternal destiny, that of being an adopted brother to the Lord Jesus Christ, is determined. The believer can rest assured of this glorious truth. God has predestined him to be delivered from the suffering and struggling of this sinful world.

Eph 1:4-5 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.*

Eph 3:11-12 *According to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. □*

V. **John 06: 40 Assurance of the Will of God**

The fifth assurance is God's will for *the believer*. This verse also concerns God's will, but it differs from the former point in that it centres upon those who *look to Jesus and believe* in Jesus. In the former verse the stress is upon *God choosing* those who come to Christ, whereas in this verse, the stress is upon *man choosing* Christ. Both are necessary steps in salvation as already discussed (v. 37. Note Jn. 6:44-46.)

A person must "look to" (behold, grasp) and believe Jesus...

- that God "sent" Him to spiritually feed and nourish man (to save and to give life)
 - that He is "the Son," the Saviour of the world
1. God wills that a person who *looks to Jesus and believes* Jesus should have eternal life (See *Saving Faith*, Jn. 2:24; *Life in Jesus Christ*, Jn. 10:10; *Eternal Life*, Jn. 17:2-3).
 2. The result of looking to Jesus and believing Jesus is being *raised up from the dead*. Jesus said very emphatically, "I will raise him up at the last day." "I" is emphatic. Jesus and no one else can raise the dead, and He will take the person who looks to and believes and raise him up. The believer is assured of three very significant things.
 - a. The believer is assured of eternal life.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*
 - b. The believer is assured of victory over death.

1 Cor 15:52-57 *In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Heb 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

c. The believer is assured of the resurrection.

John 5:25-29 *“I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.” (see Jn. 11:25)*

Acts 24:15 *And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

2 Cor 4:14 *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

1 Th 4:16 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ■*

JOHN 02:24 SAVING FAITH: BELIEVE; COMMIT; ENTRUST

The word commit or entrust is the very same word “believe” (see Jn. 2:23). This gives an excellent picture of *saving faith*, of what *genuine faith* is — of the kind of faith that really saves a person.

1. Saving faith is not head knowledge, not just a mental conviction and intellectual assent. It is not just *believing the fact* that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. It is not just believing history, that Jesus Christ lived upon earth as the Saviour just as A J Abdul Kalam lived upon earth as the President of India. It is not just believing the words and claims of Jesus in the same way that a person would believe the words of Abdul Kalam.

2. Saving faith is believing in Jesus, *who* and *what* He is, that He is the *Saviour* and *Lord* of life. It is a man giving and turning his life over to Jesus. It is a man casting himself upon Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
3. Saving faith is commitment — the commitment of a man's total being and life to Jesus Christ. It is a man's commitment of all he *is and has* to Jesus. It gives Jesus everything; therefore, it involves all of a man's affairs. The man trusts Jesus to take care of his past (sins), his present (welfare), and his future (destiny). He entrusts his whole life, being, and possessions into Jesus' hands. He lays himself upon Jesus' keeping, confiding in Him about his daily necessities and acknowledging Him in all the ways of life. He follows Jesus in every area and in every detail of life, seeking His instructions and leaving his welfare up to Him. It is simply commitment of a man's whole being, all he is and has, to Jesus.

There are three steps involved in faith, steps that are clearly seen in this passage.

1. There is the step of *seeing* (Jn. 2:23) or *hearing* (Rom. 10:16). A man must be willing to listen to the message of Christ, the revelation of truth.
2. There is the step of *mental assent*. A man must agree that the message is true, that the facts of the case are thus and so. But this is not enough. Mere agreement does not lead to action. Many a person knows that something is true, but he does not change his behaviour to match his knowledge. For example, a man knows that eating too much harms his body, but he may continue to eat too much. He agrees to the truth and knows the truth, but he does nothing about it. A person may believe and know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and yet do nothing about it, never make a decision to follow Christ. This man still does not have faith, not the kind of faith that the Bible talks about.
3. There is the step of *commitment*. When the New Testament speaks of faith, it speaks of *commitment, a personal commitment to the truth*. A man hears the truth and agrees that it is true and does something about it. He commits (entrusts) and yields his life to the truth. The truth becomes a part of his very being, a part of his behaviour and life. □

JOHN 10:10 LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Life is one of the great words of the Scriptures. The word *life* (zoe) and the verb *to live* or *to have life* (zen) have a depth of meaning.

1. Life is the energy, the force, the power of being.

2. Life is the opposite of perishing. It is deliverance from condemnation and death. It is the stopping or cessation of deterioration, decay, and corruption (Jn. 3:16; 5:24, 29; 10:28).
3. Life is *eternal* (aionios). It is forever. It is the very life of God Himself (Jn. 17:3). However, eternal life does not refer just to duration. Living forever would be a curse for some persons. The idea of eternal life is also quality, a certain kind of life, a life that consistently knows love, joy, peace, power, and responsibility .
4. Life is satisfaction (Jn. 6:35).
5. Life is security and enjoyment (Jn. 10:10).
6. Life is found only in God. God is the source and author of life, and it is God who has appointed Jesus Christ to bring life to man. Jesus Christ gives the very life of God Himself (Jn. 5:26; 6:27, 40; 10:28; 17:23).
7. Life has now been revealed. It has been unveiled and is clearly seen in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ shows man what life is (Jn. 1:4-5; 5:26; 1 Jn. 1:2).
8. Life only comes to a man by believing in Jesus Christ. A man outside Jesus Christ only exists. He merely has the existence of an animal. Real life is found only in God. This is to be expected and it is logically true, for God is the creator of life. As the creator of life, He alone knows what life really is and what it is supposed to be (Jn. 3:36; 5:24; 6:47). This is the reason He sent His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, into the world: to show men what life is. When a person looks at Jesus Christ, he sees exactly what life is, exactly what it involves (Gal. 5:22-23):
=> love => patience => faithfulness => joy => kindness
=> gentleness => peace => goodness => self-control □