

Faith Talk - August 23, 2026

Series: 1 John: Life in the Light and Love of God

Sermon: Assurance in God's Testimony

Scripture: 1 John 5:12-13

The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Summary

John wants every believer to move from "I hope so" to "I know so" when it comes to their salvation. The only way to overcome sin and death and receive forgiveness and life is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior sent to save us, and God didn't leave that up for debate.

He gave three witnesses to prove it: the Holy Spirit, the water of Jesus' baptism, and the blood Jesus shed on the cross. All three point to the same truth: Jesus is the Christ, and faith in Him gives us forgiveness and eternal life.

Saving faith has three parts: the substance is trust, the object is Jesus, and the promise is eternal life. It's not about how strong your faith is; it's about what your faith is holding onto, because a weak grip on a strong rope will hold you, but a strong grip on a frayed rope will not.

God promises that everyone who trusts in Jesus will receive eternal life. And because God always keeps His promises, we can be fully sure our salvation is secure. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all working together to hold onto us, and John says no one can ever snatch us out of God's hand.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

- Pastor Brian said John makes assurance the foundation of love and obedience — not fear or doubt. How does knowing you are secure in Christ change the way you relate to God and the way you obey Him?
- John breaks saving faith into three parts: the substance is trust, the object is Jesus, and the promise is eternal life. Is there any part of that picture that feels less settled in your own heart, and what do you think is behind that?
- Think about what usually drives your obedience to God in the day-to-day: is it more often fear of losing something or gratitude for what you already have securely in Christ? What difference does that make?

Conversations with Students

- John says it's not how strong your faith is that saves you — it's what your faith is holding onto. How does that change the way you think about doubts or weak moments in your faith?
- If a friend asked you, "Are you saved?" — what would you say, and how confident would you feel saying it? What does John say should give us that confidence?
- John says God uses love and security to motivate us, not fear and doubt. How does knowing you are permanently and securely God's child change the way you want to live?

Conversations with Kids

- John says we don't have to "hope so" about being saved — we can "know so." What's the difference between hoping something is true and knowing something is true?
- Jesus says no one can snatch us out of God's hand. What does it feel like to know that God is holding onto you, not just you holding onto God?
- John says saving faith means trusting Jesus — like grabbing onto a strong rope. What are some things people might grab onto instead of Jesus to feel safe, and why don't those things work as well?

Closing Prayer

Father, **thank You** that You didn't leave us guessing about our salvation; You gave us three witnesses in the Holy Spirit, the water, and the blood along with the promise of eternal life, so we could know with full assurance that we are Yours. Thank You that our security doesn't depend on the strength of our grip but on the strength of Your hand holding us.

We ask You to replace every "I hope so" in our hearts with a settled, grateful "I know so." Let that assurance be the fuel for how we love and obey You, not out of fear, but out of the joy of knowing we already belong to You forever.

We commit to living from that place of security this week, and to sharing the testimony of Your Son with anyone who doesn't yet know so. In Jesus' name, Amen.