

WCF Prayer:

Chapter 18 - Of Assurance of Grace and Salvation

Holy and Gracious God,

It is with sadness we know that some who call themselves Christian but have a false hope of your favour and that without the regenerating work of your Spirit will perish before your judgment.

However Lord God, with great thanksgiving and praise we recognise that all who are brought to truly belief in the Lord Jesus, who love Him with sincerity and give evidence of this by attempting to walk in good conscience before Him, may in this life be assured of your grace. How wonderful it is Lord to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, a hope.

Lord we know this certainty, this assurance is not based on conjecture or human persuasion but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation in the Scriptures. We praise you that we are given assurance of the truth of the Gospel because of the inward testimony of the Spirit of adoption who witnesses to our spirits that we are the children of God.

We marvel that the Holy Spirit who you have gifted us is Himself the deposit towards our final inheritance, and the one by whom we are sealed for the day of redemption.

Lord we do recognise that this infallible assurance does not however belong to the essence of faith and that even a true believer may have to wait upon such assurance.

We recognise Lord that such assurance may be conflicted by many difficulties in life. Yet Lord we also recognise that through the working of your Spirit, by the ordinary means of grace, believers will one day receive that inner assurance of your

salvation. Lord help us to be dutiful in making good use of these means of grace to make our calling and election sure.

Lord may we find that in so doing, our hearts are enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit with love and thankfulness to you the One True God. And Lord, enliven us with strength and cheerfulness to obedience in the duties you call us to. Lord we praise you that this assurance, rather than leading us into a looseness in holiness rather it leads us to your good works and ways, the true fruit of assurance.

Heavenly Father, we have come to identify that true believers may have the assurance of their salvation shaken, diminished, and even come and go, and sometimes by our negligence in preserving it, even fall into some sin which damages our consciences and grieves the Spirit;

Lord we recognise that although a true believer the assurance of salvation may be shaken for various reasons. It may be diminished and even appear intermittent. And Lord we confess that where we are negligent in the means of grace we may even fall into some sin which damages our conscience as it also grieves your Spirit. Forgive us Lord when temptation over takes us and we sin. We know sometimes in such a situation you withdraw the light of your face and we come to fear you in such a way that our walk feels in darkness rather than your light.

Yet Lord we know we are never so utterly destitute of the sense that you are our God. You never leave us entirely destitute of the life of faith, of the love of Christ or our brothers and sisters in Christ. You give to us even in these troubled moments a sincerity of heart and conscience that motivates us to our Christian duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due course be revived. We praise you Lord God for this, because in this you spare us the sense of despair in being lost.

In Jesus Name,

Amen