

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?

A Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him,¹ may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made,² and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God,³ be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.⁴

1. 1 John 2:3; Heb. 10:19–23. 2. 1 Cor. 2:12; 1 John 3:14, 18–19, 21, 24; 1 John 4:13, 16; Heb. 6:11–12.
3. Rom. 8:15–16. 4. 1 John 5:13; Heb. 6:19–20; 2 Pet. 1:5–11.

Q 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?

A Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith,¹ true believers may wait long before they obtain it;² and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions;³ yet are they never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair.⁴

1. Eph. 1:13. 2. Isa. 50:10; Ps. 88:1–3, 6–7, 9–10, 13–15. 3. Ps. 77:1–12; Ps. 51:8, 12; Ps. 31:22; Ps. 22:1; Eph. 4:30; Luke 22:31–34. 4. 1 John 3:9; Ps. 73:15, 23; Isa. 54:7–10; 1 Pet. 4:12–14.

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