

## **The Son of God Is Introduced (John 1)**

**Key Verse:** “And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” (John 1:34)

**Introduction:** The Apostle John wrote his Gospel to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He began by introducing Him as the eternal God who became a man. John then recorded a variety of ways that Jesus was introduced at the beginning of His public ministry, each introduction revealing a different facet of His person and mission.

### **I. The Apostle John Introduced the Son of God (1:1-5, 9-14)**

- A. He is the Eternal Word (1)
- B. He is Eternal God (1-2)
- C. He is the Creator (1)
- D. He is Life (4)
- E. He is Light (4-5, 9)
- F. He provides spiritual birth (10-13)
- G. The Word became incarnate (14)

### **II. The Apostle John Introduced John the Baptist (1:6-8)**

- A. He was sent from God (6)
- B. He came as a witness to the Light (7-8)

### **III. John the Baptist Introduced Jesus to His Disciples (1:15-39)**

- A. Jesus is the only begotten Son (15-18)
- B. John is not the Christ (19-28)
- C. Jesus is the Lamb of God (29)
- D. Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (30-33)
- E. Jesus is the Son of God (34)
- F. The disciples followed Jesus (35-39)

### **IV. The Disciples Introduced Jesus to Others (1:40-51)**

- A. Andrew introduced Him to Peter (40-42)
- B. Philip introduced Him to Nathanael (43-51)

**Conclusion:** Before men can believe on Jesus they must know who He is. He is God the Son who became a man.

## **Jesus' Public Ministry Is Launched (John 2-3)**

**Key Verse:** “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36)

**Introduction:** After introducing Jesus as the eternal Son of God, John recorded events that demonstrated His authority over nature and the temple, and that identified Him as the source of spiritual life and as the exalted Savior.

### **I. Two Events Introduced Jesus' Authority (John 2)**

- A. A miracle introduced His authority over nature (2:1-12)
  - 1. Jesus and disciples were invited to a wedding (1-2)
  - 2. The wedding ran out of wine (3-5)
  - 3. Jesus turned water into wine (6-8)
  - 4. The wedding master praised the wine's quality (9-10)
  - 5. The disciples believed in Jesus (11-12)
- B. An expulsion introduced His authority over the temple (2:13-25)
  - 1. Jesus drove secular businesses out of the temple (13-17)
  - 2. The Jews challenged Him for a sign of authority (18)
  - 3. Jesus gave them the sign of Jonah (19-22)
  - 4. Many believed because of His signs (23-25)

### **II. Three Encounters Identify Jesus' Mission (John 3)**

- A. The encounter with Nicodemus explained the new birth (3:1-21)
  - 1. Jesus introduced the new birth (1-3)
  - 2. Nicodemus questioned the meaning of the term (4)
  - 3. Jesus explained spiritual birth (5-15)
  - 4. Jesus explained how God's Son provides salvation (16-21)
- B. An encounter with the public introduced baptism (3:22-24)
- C. John's encounter with Jews identified Jesus' exaltation (3:25-36)
  - 1. A question arose about Jesus' baptism (25-26)
  - 2. John exalted Jesus (27-35)
  - 3. Faith in the Son gives everlasting life (36)

**Conclusion:** Jesus has authority over nature and the temple. He gives spiritual life through the new birth, and is exalted over all else.

## **Jesus Is the Messiah with Divine Authority (John 4-5)**

**Key Verse:** “And said unto the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”  
(John 4:42)

**Introduction:** John recorded some encounters that introduced Jesus' ministry as the Messiah. He then recorded two healing miracles that demonstrated Jesus' power over sickness; and he recorded a debate with the Jews that proved Jesus' divine authority over the Sabbath.

### **I. Four Encounters Introduce Jesus' Ministry (John 4)**

A. The encounter with a Samaritan woman identified Jesus as Messiah  
(4:1-30)

1. Jesus spoke to her of the water of life (1-15)
2. Jesus revealed her guilt (16-17)
3. Jesus explained true worship (18-24)
4. Jesus revealed Himself as Messiah (25-30)

B. The encounter with the disciples identified the harvest (4:31-38)

C. The encounter with the Samaritans introduced discipleship (4:39-42)

D. The encounter with a nobleman introduced healing (4:43-54)

1. A nobleman asked Jesus to heal his son (43-47)
2. Jesus tested his faith (48-49)
3. Jesus granted healing at a distance (50-51)
4. The nobleman and family believed on Jesus (52-54)

### **II. Healing a Man Demonstrated Jesus' Divine Authority (John 5)**

A. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day (5:1-15)

1. Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda (1-4)
2. Jesus healed an infirm man there (5-9)
3. The Jews condemned work on the Sabbath (10-15)

B. Jesus defended His divine authority over the Sabbath (5:16-39)

1. The Jews condemned Jesus because of the Sabbath (16)
2. Jesus explained that His Father works on the Sabbath (17)
3. The Jews protested Jesus' claim of deity (18)
4. Jesus defended His divine authority (19-30)
5. Jesus gave the evidence of His authority (31-39)
  - a. He does not depend on man's witness (31-35)
  - b. He depends on superior evidence (36-39)

C. Jesus rebuked those who rejected His authority (5:40-47)

**Conclusion:** Jesus is the Messiah who came to harvest souls and disciple them. He has divine power and authority over sickness and the Sabbath.

## **Feeding Five Thousand Illustrated the Bread of Life (John 6)**

**Key Verse:** “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” (John 6:51)

**Introduction:** After demonstrating His power over diseases and his authority over the Sabbath, Jesus miraculously fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. This demonstrated His creative power and served as the occasion for His discourse on the bread of life.

### **I. Jesus Fed Five Thousand with Five Loaves and Two Fish (6:1-14)**

- A. Jesus went to a mountain by the Sea of Galilee (1-4)
- B. Jesus wanted to feed the multitude (5)
- C. There were only five loaves and two small fish (6-9)
- D. Jesus miraculously multiplied the food (10-11)
- E. There were twelve baskets of fragments (12-13)
- F. Many believed on Him (14)

### **II. Jesus Avoided Being Made King (6:15-21)**

- A. Jesus departed the crowd who would make Him King (15)
- B. The disciples departed on a stormy sea (16-18)
- C. Jesus walked on the water to comfort them (19-21)

### **III. Jesus Taught the People about the Bread of Life (6:22-59)**

- A. The people came to Jesus (22-25)
- B. Jesus admonished them to seek the bread of life (26-27)
- C. The people asked how to do the work of God (28-29)
- D. The people asked for a sign like manna (30-31)
- E. Jesus identified Himself as the bread from heaven (32-35)
- F. Jesus rebuked their unbelief (36)
- G. Jesus discussed God's will about salvation (37-40)
- H. The Jews murmured in unbelief (41-42)
- I. Jesus taught more on the bread of life (43-59)

### **IV. Jesus Taught the Disciples about Faith (6:60-71)**

- A. The disciples were disturbed by Jesus' doctrine (60-61)
- B. Jesus explained the significance of the Spirit and the Word (62-63)
- C. Jesus discussed the problem of unbelief (64-66)
- D. The disciples confessed their belief in Jesus (67-69)
- E. Jesus spoke of the betrayer (70-71)

**Conclusion:** Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven; He is the source of eternal life and the sustenance of that life.

## **Jesus Defended His Doctrine and His Deity (John 7-8)**

**Key Verse:** Jesus said unto them, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”  
(John 8:58)

**Introduction:** As Jesus' public ministry developed, opposition arose among the Jews. He declared Himself and His doctrine to be from God and offered evidence to defend this truth. He declared Himself to be the eternal Son of God and condemned those who refused to believe.

### **I. Jesus Defended His Doctrine (John 7)**

- A. Jesus refused to promote Himself (7:1-9)
- B. Jesus defended the authority of His doctrine (7:10-24)
  - 1. The Jews murmured against His doctrine (10-15)
  - 2. Jesus proved His doctrine is from God (16-18)
  - 3. Jesus accused the Jews of law breaking (19-20)
  - 4. Jesus defended His healing on the Sabbath (21-24)
- C. Jesus declared Himself to be from God (7:25-36)
- D. Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Holy Spirit (7:37:52)

### **II. Jesus Defended His Eternal Deity (John 8)**

- A. Jesus forgave an adulteress (8:1-11)
- B. Jesus defended Himself as the Light of the World (8:12-20)
- C. Jesus declared the importance of His Deity (8:21-36)
  - 1. He is from heaven (21-23)
  - 2. Faith in His deity is necessary (24-27)
  - 3. The cross would demonstrate His deity (28-29)
  - 4. Many believed on Him (30)
  - 5. Jesus commended them to the freedom of truth (31-36)
- D. Jesus denounced the unbelievers as sons of Satan (8:37-47)
- E. Jesus defended His eternity (8:48-59)

**Conclusion:** Jesus received His doctrine from God, and valid evidence supports His eternal deity.

## **The Divine Shepherd Taught about Spiritual Sight (John 9-10)**

**Key Verse:** “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)

**Introduction:** The healing of a blind man revealed that Jesus is the Light of the World who gives spiritual sight to believers and confirms unbelievers in spiritual blindness. Jesus claimed to be the true Shepherd, the Good Shepherd, and the Divine Shepherd who is equal with the Father.

### **I. Jesus Demonstrated the Doctrine of Spiritual Sight (John 9)**

- A. Jesus healed a beggar born blind (9:1-12)
  - 1. The disciples questioned the cause of the blindness (1-2)
  - 2. It was to reveal Jesus as the Light of the World (3-5)
  - 3. Jesus healed the blind man (6-12)
- B. The Jews excommunicated the man healed of blindness (9:13-34)
  - 1. The Jews questioned the man about Jesus (13-17)
  - 2. The Jews questioned the man's parents (18-23)
  - 3. The man confessed Jesus' heavenly origin (24-33)
  - 4. The Jews cast him out of the synagogue (34)
- C. Jesus taught about spiritual sight and blindness (9:35-41)
  - 1. The man confessed his faith to Jesus (35-38)
  - 2. Jesus explained spiritual sight and blindness (39-41)

### **II. Jesus Declared Himself to Be the Divine Shepherd (John 10)**

- A. Jesus is the True Shepherd (10:1-6)
- B. Jesus is the Door of the Sheep (10:7-10)
- C. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (10:11-21)
- D. Jesus is the Divine Shepherd (10:22-30)
  - 1. The Jews asked if Jesus is the Christ (22-25)
  - 2. Jesus rebuked their unbelief (26)
  - 3. Jesus described the blessings of His sheep (27-29)
  - 4. Jesus claimed equality with the Father (30)
- E. Jesus defended His claim to deity (10:31-39)
- F. Many believed beyond Jordan (10:40-42)

**Conclusion:** As the Light of the World, Jesus gives sight to the spiritually blind. As the Divine Shepherd, Jesus provides direction, protection, and security for His sheep.

## **Jesus' Power over Death Demands Fearless Faith (John 11-12)**

**Key Verse:** “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” (John 11:25)

**Introduction:** Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead and used this miracle to teach His power over death. He then taught that He Himself would die and rise again. The Jewish leaders disbelieved and plotted to kill Him. Others believed on Him secretly through fear; these Jesus encouraged to be fearless believers.

### **I. Jesus Demonstrated His Power over Death (John 11)**

- A. Jesus' friend Lazarus died (11:1-16)
- B. Jesus taught that He has power over death (11:17-37)
  - 1. He promised that Lazarus would rise again (17-24)
  - 2. He explained that He is the resurrection and life (25-37)
- C. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (11:38-45)
  - 1. He commanded the stone to be removed (38-40)
  - 2. He prayed for Lazarus' resurrection (41-42)
  - 3. He commanded Lazarus to come out (43-44)
  - 4. Many Jews believed on Jesus (45)
- D. The Jewish rulers plotted to kill Jesus (11:46-57)

### **II. Jesus Encouraged Fearless Faith (John 12)**

- A. Resurrected Lazarus caused division among the Jews (12:1-11)
  - 1. Jesus and Lazarus were honored at a supper (1-8)
  - 2. Many Jews came to see Lazarus (9)
  - 3. The chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus (10)
  - 4. Many Jews believed in Jesus (11)
- B. Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem (12:12-19)
- C. Jesus taught about His death on the cross (12: 20-41)
  - 1. Jesus spoke the parable of the grain of wheat (20-26)
  - 2. God spoke from heaven of Jesus' glory (27-29)
  - 3. Jesus spoke of His death on the cross (30-36)
  - 4. The people disbelieved, fulfilling Scripture (37-41)
- D. Jesus encouraged fearless faith (12:42-50)
  - 1. Many believed on Him secretly (42-43)
  - 2. Jesus encouraged them to believe openly (44-50)

**Conclusion:** Because Jesus has power over death, and is the resurrection and life, we may be fearless in expressing our faith openly.





## **Serve and Love until Christ Returns (John 13-14)**

**Key Verse:** "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

**Introduction:** Jesus taught that some would betray or deny Him, but that service of love would overrule this disloyalty. He taught that He would leave to prepare a place for believers and then return for them. In the meanwhile, the Holy Spirit would indwell them along with the Father and the Son.

### **I. Servitude and Love Overrule Betrayal and Denial (John 13)**

- A. Jesus illustrated true servitude (13:1-17)
  - 1. Jesus washed His disciples' feet (1-6)
  - 2. Jesus taught a lesson cleansing (7-11)
  - 3. Jesus taught a lesson on service (12-17)
- B. Jesus announced Judas' betrayal (13:18-30)
- C. Jesus gave a new commandment of love (13:31-35)
  - 1. Jesus announced His glorification (31-32)
  - 2. Jesus announced His departure (33)
  - 3. Jesus commanded mutual love (34-35)
- D. Jesus announced Peter's denial (13:36-38)

### **II. Jesus Will Depart and Return (John 14)**

- A. Jesus promised to return for believers (14:1-6)
- B. Jesus is the only revelation of the Father (14:7-11)
  - 1. Knowing Jesus is knowing the Father (7-8)
  - 2. Seeing Jesus is seeing the Father (9)
  - 3. Believing Jesus is believing the Father (10-11)
- C. Jesus promised great accomplishments (14:12-15)
  - 1. The disciples will do greater works (12)
  - 2. They can ask anything in prayer (13-14)
  - 3. They must keep His commandments (15)
- D. Jesus promised the indwelling Trinity (14:16-31)
  - 1. He promised the indwelling Holy Spirit (16-18)
  - 2. He promised the indwelling Father and Son (19-24)
  - 3. The Holy Spirit will teach all things (25-26)
  - 4. He promised peace for troubled hearts (27)
  - 5. He announced His departure and return (28-31)

**Conclusion:** Christians should faithfully serve the Lord and love one another until Christ returns for them. Humble service and genuine love are the highest virtues.

## **Fruitfulness and Joy Result in Hatred and Persecution (John 15)**

**Key Verse:** “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

**Introduction:** Jesus used the grape vine as an illustration of fruitfulness. A vital living union with Christ is necessary for a fruitful Christian life. An abiding love produces permanent full joy, but the world will hate and persecute fruitful joyous Christians.

### **I. Abiding in Christ Produces Fruitfulness (15:1-8)**

- A. Jesus is the True Vine (1)
- B. The Father is the vine dresser (1)
- C. The branches are plucked and pruned (2)
- D. Abiding is the key to fruitfulness (3-7)
- E. Much fruit glorifies the Father (8)

### **II. Abiding in Love Produces Joy (15:9-17)**

- A. Disciples must abide in love (9)
- B. Keeping Christ's commandments is abiding in love (10)
- C. This produces permanent full joy (11)
- D. Love should be like Christ's sacrificial love (12-14)
- E. Disciples are friends not servants (15)
- F. Disciples are chosen for fruitfulness (16-17)

### **III. Hatred and Persecution Will Result (15:18-27)**

- A. Disciples will be hated by the world (18-19)
- B. Disciples will be persecuted by the world (20)
- C. This will be because of Jesus (21)
- D. The world's sin is retained because of their hatred of Jesus (22-24)
- E. This fulfills the Scripture (Psalms 69:4) (25)
- F. Apostles will bear witness of Jesus (26-27)

**Conclusion:** Christians should permanently abide in Christ and continually exercise Christ-like love in order to be fruitful and joyful.

## **Jesus Promised the Holy Spirit and Victory (John 16)**

**Key Verse:** “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

**Introduction:** Jesus forewarned His disciples of coming persecution and promised to send the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide. He forewarned of coming sorrow and promised peace and ultimate victory.

### **I. Jesus Forewarned of Persecution (16:1-4)**

- A. The disciples were forewarned (1)
- B. There will be persecution (2)
- C. Because people are ignorant of God (3)
- D. The disciples will remember the warning (4)

### **II. Jesus Promised the Coming Holy Spirit (16:5-15)**

- A. Jesus must go away (5-6)
- B. Then the Holy Spirit will come (7)
- C. The Holy Spirit will convict the world (8-11)
  - 1. He will convict of sin (8-9)
  - 2. He will convict of righteousness (10)
  - 3. He will convict of judgment (11)
- D. The Holy Spirit will guide into truth (12-13)
- E. The Holy Spirit will glorify Christ (14-15)

### **III. Jesus Forewarned of Sorrow (16:16-24)**

- A. Jesus will go away and return (16-19)
- B. The disciples' sorrow will become joy (20-22)
- C. The disciples will pray in Jesus' name (23-24)

### **IV. Jesus Promised Peace and Victory (16:25-33)**

- A. Jesus promised to teach in plain language (25)
- B. Jesus will return to the Father (26-28)
- C. The disciples believed Him (29-30)
- D. Jesus foretold their forsaking of Him (31-32)
- E. Jesus spoke of peace and victory (33)

**Conclusion:** Christians can have victory over the world and peace in times of tribulation because of the Holy Spirit who indwells and empowers them.

## **Jesus Prayed for Believers (John 17)**

**Key Verse:** “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3)

**Introduction:** After promising to send the Holy Spirit as Comforter and Helper, Jesus prayed for His disciples, not only for those currently with Him, but also for all future believers.

### **I. Jesus Prayed for Glory through Eternal Life (17:1-5)**

- A. Jesus asked the Father to glorify the Son (1, 5)
- B. Because the Son gives eternal life (2)
- C. Eternal life is knowing the Father and Son (3)
- D. The Son has finished His work (4)

### **II. Jesus Prayed for His Disciples (17:6-19)**

- A. Jesus has manifested the Father to the disciples (6-8)
- B. Jesus prayed for the disciples (9-17)
  - 1. He prayed for their unity (9-11)
  - 2. He prayed for their security (12-15)
  - 3. He prayed for their sanctification (16-17)
- C. Jesus has sent them into the world (18-19)

### **III. Jesus Prayed for All Believers (17:20-26)**

- A. He prayed for their unity (20-23)
- B. He prayed for their future presence with Him (24)
- C. He prayed for their mutual love (25-26)

**Conclusion:** Because Christ is our Intercessor, Christians may have unity, security, sanctification, hope, and love.

## **The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of Jesus (John 18-19)**

**Key Verse:** “But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate said unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.” (John 19:15-16)

**Introduction:** Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was tried by the Jews and accused of blasphemy. He was condemned to death by Pilate and crucified by Roman soldiers. He died for our justification.

### **I. Jesus Was Arrested and Tried for Blasphemy (John 18)**

- A. Jesus was betrayed in Gethsemane (18:1-11)
  - 1. Judas betrayed Him to the soldiers (1-3)
  - 2. Jesus identified Himself to the soldiers (4-11)
- B. Jesus was questioned by Annas, the High Priest (18:12-14)
- C. Peter denied Jesus three times (18:15-18, 25-27)
  - 1. He denied being Jesus' disciple (15-18)
  - 2. He again denied being a disciple (25)
  - 3. He denied being in the garden with Jesus (26-27)
- D. Jesus was interrogated by Annas (18:19-24)
  - 1. Annas questioned Jesus' doctrine (19)
  - 2. Jesus appealed to His public teaching (20-21)
  - 3. They struck Jesus for His reply (22-24)
- E. Jesus was interrogated by Pilate (18:28-40)
  - 1. The Jews condemned Jesus before Pilate (28-32)
  - 2. Pilate questioned Jesus about kingship and truth (33-38)
  - 3. The Jews demanded Barabbas instead of Jesus (39-40)

### **II. Jesus Was Condemned, Crucified, and Buried (John 19)**

- A. Jesus was condemned by Pilate (19:1-16)
  - 1. The soldiers crowned Him with thorns (1-3)
  - 2. The Jews demanded that Pilate crucify Him (4-15)
  - 3. Pilate delivered Him to be crucified (16)
- B. Jesus was crucified by the soldiers (19:17-24)
- C. Jesus died on the cross (19:25-37)
  - 1. He arranged for His mother's care (25-27)
  - 2. He gave up His spirit in death (28-30)
  - 3. His death fulfilled Scripture (31-37)
- D. Jesus was buried in the garden (19:38-42)

**Conclusion:** Because Jesus died in our place we have the sure hope of forgiveness and eternal life.

## **Jesus Arose and Appeared to His Disciples (John 20-21)**

**Key Verse:** “Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.” (John 20:19)

**Introduction:** Jesus arose from the dead and appeared to His confused and discouraged disciples. He instructed them in doctrine and encouraged them in service. His resurrection authenticated His message and mission.

### **I. Jesus Arose from the Grave (20:1-10)**

- A. Mary found the stone removed (20:1)
- B. Peter and John found the tomb empty (20:2-10)
  - 1. Mary told them about the stone (2)
  - 2. Peter and John found the grave clothes (3-7)
  - 3. John believed in the resurrection (8-10)

### **II. Jesus Appeared Alive to His Disciples (20:11-29)**

- A. He appeared to Mary Magdalene (20:11-18)
- B. He appeared to the disciples (20:19-23)
  - 1. He appeared on the first day of the week (19)
  - 2. He gave them a heavenly commission (20-21)
  - 3. He gave them the indwelling Holy Spirit (22)
  - 4. He instructed them about forgiveness (23)
- C. He appeared to doubting Thomas (20:24-29)
  - 1. Thomas doubted the resurrection (24-25)
  - 2. Jesus showed Thomas His hands and side (26-27)
  - 3. Thomas believed the resurrection and Christ's deity (28-29)

### **III. John Wrote the Book to Promote Belief (20:30-31)**

- A. Jesus did many things not written (20:30)
- B. John wrote the book that people might believe (20:31)
  - 1. Believe that Jesus is the Christ
  - 2. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God
  - 3. Believing this brings eternal life

### **IV. Jesus Appeared Again to His Disciples (21:1-23)**

- A. He appeared to them at the Sea of Tiberias (21:1-14)
- B. He encouraged Peter and John (21:15-25)
  - 1. Jesus restored Peter to service (15-19)
  - 2. Peter asked about John's future (20-21)
  - 3. Some misunderstood about John's death (22-23)
- C. John verified the certainty of the book (21:24-25)

**Conclusion:** Because Jesus arose from the dead, Christians can be certain of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.