

## *Assurance: One word from God can change us.*

First thing in the morning I was praising God to overcome a sense of oppression. As I sought him, the Holy Spirit spoke to my spirit one word:

“ASSURANCE.”

It was spoken very firmly and I kept repeating it out loud. One word from God to change us. I checked the scriptural context:

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full **assurance** of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:22-23

He [Epaphras] is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Colossians 4:12

The dictionary definition of assurance is: a statement or assertion intended to inspire confidence or give encouragement; freedom from doubt, certainty.

Later in the day I had a good example of this assurance. I was working on my daughter's and son-in-law's house. My daughter was already out at work but due back at lunchtime and my son-in-law was working from home. He answered the phone when it rang towards lunchtime. As soon as the phone rang, I knew that it was my daughter ringing to see if I was still here and that she was stopping to get pasties for lunch.” When I told my daughter that I knew she was coming with pasties and that she was ringing to see if she needed to get three, she was amazed. “How did you know that?” “Because I know my daughter,” I responded.

It is the same with God. Because we know him, his character and goodness we have an assurance.

This is the assurance [confidence] we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15.

[In the NIV version, the translation changed from ‘assurance’ to ‘confidence’ between the dates of my Concordance (1983) and my Bible (1986).]

Concerning ‘assurance’, Paul writes:

Therefore we are always confident [assured] and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

‘Therefore’. Why ‘therefore’? Because Paul wrote in the previous verse that God has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (verse 5b). A guarantee is an assurance.