




Answer the King: *Who Touched My Garments?*

Discussion Questions

Date: September 29, 2019 | **Scripture:** Mark 5:21-43

1. Read Mark 5:21-43. Notice the details of the story—is there anything that stands out to you that you haven't seen or considered before?
2. How are you wrestling with your assurance of salvation? What was that experience like, and what were the circumstances that caused you to question God's love for you? What did you learn in the process? In what ways have you seen spiritual warfare, spiritual immaturity, sin, or suffering impact the faith of someone in your life?
3. This account gives us a glimpse into Jesus' divinity and his humanity. Why is it important for Jesus to be both fully God and fully man? How does having an incarnate God help us make sense of the suffering in the world?
4. In the story of the woman who bled for twelve years, we see that Jesus is willing to save. Have you ever thought that Jesus was a reluctant savior? How does this account in Mark's gospel teach us that Jesus is not frustrated by broken, sick, and weary people—including you and me?
5. In the story of Jairus and his daughter, we see that Jesus is able to save. Is there anything in your life that you think he can't change? How does knowing that Christ is able to save give us confidence and assurance in his ability to trust him?
6. We get more certainty when we get more Jesus. What have you been doing in your spiritual life that has helped you look outside yourself and towards Christ? What has God been teaching you lately?



Jesus came to
disobey and
overrule reports of
death. It's as easy
for Christ to raise
the dead as it is to
wake a child up
from a nap.

Wrestling with our assurance of salvation is not a new problem; believers in all times have struggled with this as well. Because it is helpful to learn from those who have gone before us, we have included some excerpts from the Westminster standards—the confessional documents of the Presbyterian denomination—on the subject of assurance of grace and salvation in Christ.

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION CHAPTER

18.3-4

3. This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it: (1 John 5:13, Isa. 50:10, Mark 9:24, Ps. 88, Ps. 77:1-12) yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto. (1 Cor. 2:12, 1 John 4:13, Heb. 6:11-12, Eph. 3:17) And therefore it is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, (2 Pet. 1:10) that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, (Rom. 5:1-2, 5, Rom. 14:17, Rom. 15:13, Eph. 1:3-4, Ps. 4:6-7, Ps. 119:32) the proper fruits of this assurance; so far is it from inclining men to looseness. (1 John 2:1-2, Rom. 6:1-2, Tit. 2:11-12, 14, 2 Cor. 7:1, Rom. 8:1, 12, 1 John 3:2-3, Ps. 130:4, 1 John 1:6-7)

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light: (Cant. 5:2, 3, 6, Ps. 51:8, 12, 14, Eph. 4:30, 31, Ps. 77:1-10, Matt. 26:69-72, Ps. 31:22, Ps. 88, Isa. 50:10) yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; (1 John 3:9, Luke 22:32, Job 13:15, Ps. 73:15, Ps. 51:8, 12, Isa. 50:10) and be the which, in the mean time, they are supported from utter despair. (Micah 7:7-9, Jer. 32:40, Isa. 54:7-10, Ps. 22:1, Ps. 88)

LARGER CATECHISM QUESTIONS 79-81

79. May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?

True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God, (Jer. 31:3) and his decree and covenant to give them perseverance, (2 Tim. 2:19, Heb. 13:20-21, 2 Sam. 23:5) their inseparable union with Christ, (1 Cor. 1:8-9) his continual intercession for them, (Heb. 7:25, Luke 22:32) and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them, (1 John 3:9, 1 John 2:27) can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, (Jer. 32:40, John 10:28) but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (1 Pet. 1:5)

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

Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavour to walk in all good conscience before him, (1 John 2:3) 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, (1 Cor. 2:12, 1 John 3:14, 18-19, 21, 24, 1 John 4:13, 16, Heb. 6:11-12) and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, (Rom. 8:16) be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation. (1 John 5:13)

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

Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith, (Eph. 1:13) true believers may wait long before they obtain; (Isa. 50:10, Ps. 88:1-3, 6-7, 9, 10, 13-15) and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertsions; (Ps. 77:1-12, Cant. 5:2-3, 6, Ps. 51:8, 12, Ps. 31:22, Ps. 22:1) yet they are never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair. (1 John 3:9, Ps. 73:15, 23, Isa. 54:7)