

Intro. Dan Heinrichs and I in restaurant. Saw lady said brain tumor, no peripheral vision, enlarged feature, head covering. Home he poked me and told all the things he could discover. Spiritual diagnosticians. Have to decide when talking to people 1 of 3 things: unsaved, out of fellowship. Don't give wrong vs, Jn 3:16 or 1 Jn 1:9. Or could lack assurance of sal.

## I. Distinctions.

- A. Ass. is not sal. Can be saved but not assured.
- B. Ass. is not security. One depends on God; other on man. Even if think not secure are.
- C. Assurance and growth.
  - 1. Could be backsliden. If so then 1 Cor 3:3 as men and might not be seeing the fruits of normal Xn life. Assurance sometimes linked with fellowship.
  - 2. Could be immature and assur grows as knowledge grows.

## II. Doubts.

- A. Reality of committal. Can't say 2 Tim 1:12.
  - 1. Understand what gospel is. Go back to childlike explanation of it. Receiving gift. Rev 3:20. Jnl:12. If doubt reality then do again.
  - 2. Sometimes doubt comes from desire to erase past. Need 1 Jn 1:9. But if doubt genuine be saved again.
- B. Correctness of method of committal.
  - 1. Didn't go forward. Usually confession behind this. Rom 10:9-10. How can deaf and dumb man be saved.
  - 2. Didn't commit all. Goes back to message. Gift, from God not from me.
  - 3. Didn't pray.
    - All these based on fallacy of (1) imitating some one else's experience and (2) you deal with men and not with God. He offers gift, not man.
    - Lyle's experience.
- C. Faithfulness of God. Confusion of security and ass. 2 Tim 2:13. 1 Cor 3:15. *Sealed. Lyle's X*
- D. Reality of carnality and backsliding. If out of fell may lose real assurance.

### III. Helps to Assurance.

#### A. Have doctrine straight.

1. Message
2. Method
3. Security
4. Carnality.

#### B. Believe the Word.

1 Jn 5:12-13. Rev 3:20. Illus how used to deal with kids.

#### C. Repeat experience in private. Shouldn't happen often and if in private then can't mix it up so easily.

#### D. Experience normal Xn life.

1. Hate sin and love brethren, 1 Jn 3:10.
2. Lead of Lord, Rom 8:14.
3. Answered prayer continually, Rom Jn 16:24.

AB related to Word; CD to experience.

Concl. To new students. Diagnose your own case, 2 Cor 13:5--examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith. If any doubt settle it as suggested. Don't delay.

#### Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes:

Perpetual self-inspection leads to spiritual hypochondria. If a man insists on counting his pulse 20 times a day, on looking at his tongue every hour or two, on taking his temperature morning and evening, he will soon find himself in a doubtful state of bodily health. It is just so with those who are perpetually counting their spiritual pulse, taking the temperature of their feelings, weighing their human and necessarily imperfect characters against the infinite perfections placed in the other scale of the balance.

—The Wit and Wisdom of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Father and Son, edited by Lester E. Denonn (Beacon)