

Doubts can plague even true believers, but are answered by seeking divinely given assurances to which you can anchor your confidence. The nation of Israel may have had reason to doubt their status as God's chosen people and His continued presence with them, especially after their rebellion in worshiping the golden calf. Besetting sin and difficult circumstances may cause believers today to doubt if God is with them or even if they are born again. God did not leave Israel to their feelings, nor does He leave us to ours. The record of the events of Exodus 34 gave Israel three anchors to secure their confidence which picture even greater reasons for true believers today to have confidence that their faith is secure in God.

**I. *Anchored in the written promise of the Lord (34:1–4, 27–28).***

- A. Through Moses the LORD gave His promise to Israel in writing that He was their God and they were His people. The Decalogue (Ten Commandments) was the required response which God placed upon them. See Exodus 20:1–17.
- B. In the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:33) God writes His law on the heart, a promise which is also to us (Hebrews 10:14–22). The evidence is a desire to do what is right and a hate for our sinfulness (Romans 7:14–20). The written word of God, now made more certain (2 Peter 1:19), reveals and interprets our hearts for us.

Anchor your confidence in the evidence of God having written His word on your heart.

**II. *Anchored in the glorious character of the Lord (34:5–26).***

- A. The LORD revealed His glory to Moses and demanded the proper response from Israel.
  1. God revealed Himself as abounding in love (loving-kindness) and faithfulness (truth).
  2. The duty of Israel, who did not experience this revelation, was to give God their sole allegiance (34:11–17), remember His redemption of them (34:18–20), remember His provision for them (34:21–24), and worship in purity (34:25–26).
- B. The LORD again revealed Himself and His glory in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 1:14, 18). A proper response is also expected from people today.
  1. The same loving-kindness and truth which abounded in God at Sinai is fully in Jesus and is realized through Him (John 1:14, 17).
  2. All who believe and become God's children (John 1:12) can remember and celebrate the person and work of our Lord through baptism, the bread & cup, regular confession of sin, and the "sacrifice" of praise and thanksgiving.

Anchor your confidence in the person of the Lord and remind yourself regularly of His person and work.

**III. *Anchored in the glorious transformation by the Lord (29–35).***

- A. When Moses returned from speaking with the LORD his face was radiant. Though Moses would subsequently veil his face when not speaking with the LORD or with the people, the radiance was a continual reminder that the LORD was indeed present with them and speaking to them through Moses.
- B. The experience of new testament believers is described in similar terms, though the effects are spiritual rather than physical. As believers look at the glory of the Lord, they also are transformed "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). God is continually making true believers more Christ-like. The transformed life of the believer, e.g. obedience and love, is evidence of having eternal life (1 John 5:13).

Anchor your confidence not in empty words, but in the glorious change which God works in the believer.

It is possible to have the Word and not see Christ in it. It is possible to practice the rituals and fail to comprehend their meaning. It is possible to be confronted with the Lord of glory, and still be concerned more with maintaining one's own sense of power. The Jews anchored their confidence in the wrong places, as can people today. Anchor your confidence in the work of God in your life and most of all in Jesus Christ. Your relation to Him, lived out day by day, will provide the most secure anchor when doubts attack.

***Questions for reflection and discussion:***

- What causes you to doubt God's presence and working in your life?
- How do you normally respond to uncertainties in life? To whom or to what do you turn to feel more confident?
- Do you seek to deaden your feelings? ... control the situation? ...blame people around you?
- Are you aware of sin in your life? If not, why not? If so, how do you react? What is the evidence of God's law on your heart?
- What evidence of spiritual growth can you observe in your life?
- How can we as a body of believers more regularly and consistently remind ourselves of Jesus Christ, who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing? What would help you? What can you do to help others?