

7/8 November 2023 //

1 John 5:11-13

Intro

Watch the *Friends* 'theme song 'I'll be there for you, when the rain starts to fall..' [here](#)

Is that desire for Someone who's there for us come rain or shine something we can relate to?

In what ways do we or don't we personally see and feel an assurance of God -Father, Son and Spirit - saying 'I'll be there for you' to us His people?

1. The one where... we can know in the deepest parts.

Read 1 John 5:13:

What's the difference between us believing in Jesus and knowing in our bones that we have eternal life ?

From Ed's sermon on Sunday, did the illustration of the distinction between faith and assurance resonate with you? (*His niece and nephew both, by faith, clipped into the zip wire and so were safe; but his nephew had a richer experience: he was deeply assured that he was safely held by his Dad and the strong steel cable - and so was full of joy and passion...*)

FURTHER READING

(For some this can be a very delicate, wrestling issue, so see the paper on Assurance by the great Bishop JC Ryle of 19th century)

"Faith, let us remember, is the root, and assurance is the flower. Doubtless you can never have the flower without the root; but it is no less certain you may have the root and not the flower."

www.gracegems.org/Ryle/assurance.htm

2. The one where... we can live out of that assurance.

If we had a deeper assurance of being safely held by Christ for ever and a day, what difference would it make to :
(pick one or two maybe and go deep..!)

A)how we go about our daily work and the performance treadmill culture so common in London?

B) how we'd respond when others let us down or we let others down ?

C) how we relate to God (v.14 may help).

D) our own ambitions

3. The one where.. the fruit of our hope can be enjoyed now.

V.11-12 What do we make of the fact that eternal life in Christ is a present reality not just a future hope?

Have you seen it like that before?

How could we rest and remind one another of this better as family together ?

How would this reality on life reshape our priorities and perspectives in daily life this week ?

Pray

Take some time now to **pray together** for this assurance to resonate deeply within us – to such an extent that it changes the way we engage with life – whether it's all sunshine or the rain starts to fall. Come what may – oh blessed assurance!

Looking ahead:

18 November Connect Group leaders day - please sign up on [this link](#)

Please remind folks in your CGs about the upcoming events at church and to sign up this week to help with catering etc

