

Faith and Assurance**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7**

1. THE NEED FOR FAITH: The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ through the gift of _____, by which we _____ all the benefits of salvation in Christ (Q&A 20).

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17)

2. THE CONTENT OF FAITH: While faith includes _____, and is therefore *more* than true belief, it certainly *includes* _____ (Q&A 21-23).

a. The aspects of faith: _____, _____, and _____.

b. The catholic _____ of our faith matters, a faith that is shared with the Christian church throughout history.

³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)

3. THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH: Faith includes _____, and therefore _____ faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ is sufficient for the _____ of salvation (Q&A 21).

a. Threats to assurance...

- The first threat: assurance by _____ (Romans 8:13).
- The second threat: assurance by searching out the _____ of God (Romans 8:30).
- The third threat: assurance by special _____ (Romans 8:16).

b. The way of assurance is faith in the _____ of _____: “not only to others but to me also.”

“...this assurance does not derive from some private revelation beyond or outside the Word, but from faith in the promises of God which he has very plentifully revealed in his Word for our comfort, from the testimony of the Holy Spirit testifying with our spirit that we are God's children and heirs, and finally from a serious and holy pursuit of a clear conscience and of good works.” (Canons of Dort V.10)

Let us encourage one another: you get to _____ by _____ in the _____ of God *for you*.