

Introduction:

1. How often do you think about God's promises? In uncertain times, we need to always consider them. There's one in John 10:27-28 that I've been pondering.
2. Question: What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear these words? Peace? Comfort? Confidence? Assurance? Doubt? What if's? Can we really be confident in our salvation? Let's see what we can learn about Jesus and the confidence we can have in our Good Shepherd.

The Lesson:

I. The context of John Chapter 9

A. Jesus is speaking, but who exactly is He speaking to in John 10:1?

1. We must go back to the events of John 9. Jesus healed a blind man, John 9: 1-4. **Do we believe we've sinned when bad things happen? Do we believe we're constantly punished?**
 - a. Jesus performed the miracle on a Sabbath Day, John 9:14. The Pharisees rejected the miracle, John 9:15. A division arose because a notable miracle had occurred.
 - b. John 9:22: The man's parents were afraid of the Jews. **Are we afraid of what others will think? Are we afraid of being kicked off social media, jobs, family?**
 - c. John 9:34: The Pharisees eventually rejected the man who was healed.
 - d. John 9:35-38: Jesus heard of these events and spoke to the man who He had healed.
 - e. John 9:39: Jesus came into the world for judgment.
 - (1) "Those who do not see (honest but spiritually blind) may see (believe)."
 - (2) "Those who see (think they see and are self-righteous) may become blind (help them to see they are blind)."
2. John 9:40: The Pharisees heard these words and asked, "We are not blind too, are we?"
3. John 9:41: Jesus answered them. "If you were blind (honest but spiritually blind), they would have no sin (be made right). But since they said, "We see" which means they were self-righteous their sin remained. It remained because they rejected Him.

B. This leads us to into John 10. Jesus is speaking to the same people in John 9.

II. The context of John Chapter 10.

A. Jesus is going to use figurative language to describe who He is, John 10:6.

1. Let's read the first 10 verses and see what we can conclude.
2. **The Sheep Fold**: A sheep fold is a roofless enclosure in the open fields, often made of stones. Several flocks might be brought to the same sheepfold for keeping overnight. This was a place of safety and protection.
3. **Thieves and Robbers**: Those who seek to enter in some other way than the door.

4. **Jesus being the door:** Jesus is the source of eternal life (safety). He is the means or entrance into eternity and a relationship with the Father. One who doesn't listen to Him will not enter. Those who do listen to Him will enter and follow Him.
 - a. **As the door, Jesus knows His sheep.**
 - b. **They know Him as well.**
- B. Now consider how these words would have been received? There will be a great division, vs 19.
 1. We know the Pharisees rejected the miracles of Jesus. They did not hear His voice.
 2. We know Satan is opposed to Jesus. All of those opposed to Jesus will be not have life more abundantly. They will be lost.

III. I am the good shepherd

- A. Jesus said He is the door and now He says He is the Good Shepherd.
 1. Verse 11: As the good shepherd Jesus came to sacrifice His love for His sheep. This should give us confidence in God's love for us. He's demonstrated it.
 2. Verses 12-13: Unlike a hired hand who flees in danger, the good shepherd remains. Jesus knows His sheep and they know Him.
 3. Verses 14-15: Jesus speaks of relationship with His sheep. He speaks of His love.
 4. Verse 16: Others would enter His fold: The Gentiles.
 5. Verses 17-18: Jesus came to die. He had the power to raise it up again.
 6. Verses 19-22: A division occurred because of these words. **What do you believe?**
 7. Verses 23-26: The Jews requested more evidence. It had been given to them.
- B. It's here we return to our original verses. Let's consider our confidence in our Shepherd.
 1. Verse 27: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. His sheep are those in Him. Are you in Christ? If you have obeyed the gospel, then you are? You are His sheep. That should bring you comfort. He knows you. Contrast that with Matthew 7:21-24. As His sheep we also listen to Him. We seek to please Him. We keep His commandments. When we sin, we listen to Jesus, repent, and confess to the Father. We continue with Him.
 2. Verse 28: What does Jesus say He will give us? Eternal Life? Is there any reason to doubt?
 3. The reality is, we often do struggle with doubt. We are not alone when we do.
 - a. **John the Baptist did:** Luke 7:18-23. What caused his doubt? Fear? Impending Death? Not seeing the entire picture. Jesus responded with evidence.
 - b. **Thomas the apostle did:** John 20:24-31: What caused his doubt? Evidence? Jesus gave Him plenty of evidence. He gives us plenty of evidence to help our doubts.
 - c. **Sin is a source of doubt:** Luke 15:17-24: When we repent, we will be forgiven.
 4. Do you see why we can have confidence? The Good Shepherd loves us! Do you love Him?

Conclusion:

1. If you do, you will listen to Him. If you do, you will follow Him! He gives life more abundantly!
2. Do you believe His promises? We have every reason to believe!