



**Losing Faith:
Counseling Believers Who Struggle with the Assurance of Their
Salvation**

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Assurance is the result of a competent spiritual knowledge of the person and work of Christ as revealed in the gospel, and a consciousness of dependence upon him and his work alone for salvation.

–John Newton, Sermon XX “Of the Assurance of Faith”

- Understanding the problem
 - Common experiences of doubt
 - William Cowper, a case study
 - When doubt is debilitating

- Reasons for the struggle
 - Physical
 - Emotional
 - Spiritual

- Why would a loving heavenly Father allow his children to struggle with assurance?
 - For his glory

- For our good

- Holding on to the weak
 - Community
 - Sacraments
 - Pointing doubters to Christ