

GOD'S WORD AND ETERNAL SECURITY©

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Chapter One

One of the most debated and misunderstood doctrine's in the Scriptures is that of 'Eternal Security'. When a person is truly born-again, are they, at that very moment, eternally secure in Christ; or do they have to 'do' something to preserve and retain their salvation? Although this doctrine is misconstrued and sometimes down-right mutilated with the ideologies and philosophies of man, it remains of *utmost* importance to the believers understanding.

How is it possible to live the abundant Christian life and experience the peace that passes all understanding if we continually have to worry about committing one too many sins, causing us to go from a child-of-God to a child-of-the-Devil? How many times will God allow us to switch back and forth until He says, 'Okay buddy, I've had it with you! The Devil can have you!'

From the onset of this message, I want to pledge to my Lord to remain true to the teachings of the Scriptures within the scope of my ability and comprehension, relying totally, prayerfully and scripturally upon the Sword of the Word and the Spirit of Truth. I straightaway confess that I do not possess infinite knowledge and insight into all of the awesome mysteries of God and beg forgiveness should I err from the veracity of the original manuscripts of the inerrant Word.

Moreover, I recognize there will be fellow brethren who will not agree with some of the things I say, which is predictable and perfectly acceptable. I politely respect their views and will not argue or break fellowship as a result, for we all belong to the same family through faith in the atoning sacrifice of God's Son. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, and as such, we will have disagreements from time to time. When we get to Heaven our Father will gently correct us and set us straight – then we shall know, even as He (Christ) knows.

Having said that, let's prudently delve within the Holy Scriptures and see if we can discover and deduce what the mind of the Almighty wishes us to learn about the doctrine of Eternal Security.

I. ETERNAL SECURITY FROM A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH

When God spoke the worlds into existence and created humans from the dust of the ground, He placed within them a marvelous and intricate organ called the brain. Within that piece of complex neurons (the basic building blocks of the nervous system) and over 100 billion cells with over 1000 trillion connections, there is something we refer to as 'common-sense'. That is how our Creator designed us and that is how He chooses to relate to us, *in a practical and common-sense approach*. So let's 'put on our common-sense thinking caps' and look at the doctrine of eternal security in light of that revelation.

A. Salvation Is By Grace

“For by grace [God’s undeserved favor toward us] are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”
(Ephesians 2:8, 9).

What does it mean when the Bible refers to the ‘grace’ of God? The word *grace* is a theological term used in many religions and has been defined as: ‘the divine influence which operates in humans to regenerate (salvation) and sanctify (to make holy and set apart), to inspire virtuous impulses (desires), and to impart strength to endure trials and resist temptations.’ In other words, God’s Gift of salvation is distributed freely apart from anything we can, or cannot do; that is grace – ‘God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense’. Jesus Christ purchased and paid for our salvation with His atoning, sacrificial blood – Christ cried with a loud voice from the cross and said, *“tetelestai (Greek) – It is finished”* – meaning; salvation has been made available and there is nothing that needs to be added or taken away from it.

It was at that momentous moment, that Satan sadly bowed his head in utter defeat. The jubilant party of the Devil’s evil forces turned into wailing, cursing and dejection. With those wonderful words, *‘It is finished’*, Christ redeemed creation that had been lost by man when he willingly sinned in the Garden of Eden. From that second on, Satan changed his tactics from trying to stop the Son of God at the cross, to stopping the man from accepting God’s gift of salvation.

Salvation is a free Gift given by God’s grace to an undeserving sinner through faith and faith alone, but the Apostle Paul goes on to point out that it is *“not of yourselves.”* Our salvation is in no way of our own efforts. It is not earned, bartered, or bought. If redemption from our sins could have been in some way secured by man, the Man Christ Jesus died in vain.

Grace is God’s portion in salvation – He imparts *free of charge* His Gift of redemption to us. On the other hand, *faith* is man’s portion to secure, or obtain salvation – God gives His free gift to the individual who only has to receive it by simply, but effective faith. You might say faith is the ‘spiritual arms (or mans will)’ that reaches out to God and receives His free, no-strings-attached Gift of grace. This awesome Gift, however, came with an enormous price of shed blood by the sacrificial Lamb, but nevertheless, *free* to all those who receive it by simple child-like faith. To put it another way, faith serves as a bridge, or conveyor to make the exchange of God’s Gift between Him and those who only have to accept it.

B. Salvation Is Not Of Works

“...Not of works, lest any man should boast”

God designed salvation in such a way so as man could not boast that he accomplished it. When we stand before the Judge of the Universe one day, we will not be able to ‘brag’ about our righteous acts, or good deeds getting us to Heaven, *“...But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness’s are as filthy rags”* (Isaiah 64:6). Even our best is tainted and vile before God’s holiness. When we endeavor to add to the grace of God with our “good works” we pollute the purity of God’s Gift.

The danger we face from time to time is that we want to ‘help the Lord out’. Surely, we postulate, are required to do this or that to be saved and stay that way, but the fact is, Jesus cried out, “It is finished”! Salvation is perfected now and forevermore. Nothing needs to be added to it on our part, or taken away. When we seek to supplement our ‘righteous works’ (which are as filthy rags, even after we are saved) we pollute the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. Suddenly salvation, which was deemed finished by Christ Himself, becomes of none effect and contaminated by our efforts.

Adam and Eve were the first to attempt this scheme after eating of the forbidden fruit. After only one bite, they realized they were naked before a holy God and what did they do? They tried to cover up their nakedness and sin by their own labors with leaves. Something holy and pure, as the innocence of our first parents became instantly polluted by their sin, prompting them to devise and employ a ‘cover up’!

To recap what we have learned so far: salvation is given by God’s grace, apart from the efforts of man, solely through man’s faith in the sacrificial atoning blood of Jesus Christ – period! Thus, in a common-sense approach, salvation by grace alone rules out any work – good or bad – as a means of maintaining eternal security of one’s soul.

C. Salvation Is A New Birth

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12, 13).

The Apostle John teaches us that when we receive God’s Gift of salvation through His Son, we are empowered [present tense] to become the “*sons of God*”. If that is the case, and it certainly is, we are miraculously birthed into the family of God and instantaneously become His children. As a result, we are granted rights, privileges, birthrights, citizenships, and a shared inheritance from the Father!

It makes for common-sense, consequently, that we cannot become God’s child for a time, and then become a child of the Devil. We cannot hip-hop back and forth when we get the hankering for some sinful activities, or if we want to grace the church picnic and act holy. Salvation is not like a wardrobe – something you put on and take off. It’s not like a light switch in which you can flip on the Light of God at your convenience and then flip it off for the cloak of Satan’s darkness. Either you are a child of God or a child of the Devil – permanently.

Let me also insert; if you are one of those who can flip-flop back and forth between living for God one day and then living for the Devil the next; you, my friend, have never really experienced the new birth. The Devil has simply blinded you and is providing a ‘false’ salvation! Yes, we all are going to sin at times, but to ‘live’ in sin, never feeling remorse or sorrow toward God is a danger signal that should not be avoided.

It is also noteworthy to point out that we have been made brothers and sisters in Christ through our Heavenly Fathers ‘family ties’. We cannot become un-brothers and sisters in God’s family, just like we cannot become un-brothers and sisters in our earthly family. We are permanent siblings regardless of

our character – good or bad, like it or not! I cannot be your brother one day, and an unrelated stranger the next. Remember now, we are looking at eternal security from a common-sense approach. God does not cover up His revelations concerning something as important as salvation to us with secrecy. He simply makes the plan of salvation plain and simple – so simple a child can understand and partake of its riches.

Some of you reading this may have a wayward brother or sister. They may be outcast, druggies, drunkards, and sexual deviants, but regardless of where they are, what they have done, and how they are living; they are still related to you via blood. Nothing can ever change that – family ties are bound by an unbreakable bond. In like manner, our ties with our Heavenly Father are bound by an unbreakable bond through the blood of Christ via the new birth!

We can no more become unborn from our heavenly family, than we can become unborn from our earthly Father and Mother. Don't forget, the Lord used these types of analogies (comparing our relationships of our heavenly family to that of our earthly) for a reason and we are compelled to use 'good ole common sense' when we read and study them. Christ is the "first-fruits" of a grand and glorious family which are, at this very moment, gathering one by one as the Father calls each of His children home. *Not one* of them will be lost, save the "son of perdition".

WARNING: It goes without saying, when we as God's children fall out of line, the Heavenly Father is going to 'correct' and 'teach' us. Like an earthly father, our Heavenly Father will get out the "rod of correction" if necessary and coax us to live a decent and prudent life, maintaining our relationship in a way that will bring honor and glory to the Father. Make no mistake; you will not get by with habitual sin without a 'spanking' from the Father. If you never feel guilty and never receive correction from the Lord, then in all likelihood, Satan has slipped you a counterfeit salvation.

Think for just a moment, look back over your Christian life; there were times when you neglected your walk with the Lord. Self-reliance and independence momentarily replaced God and you began to drift aimlessly like a ship without a rudder floating here and there navigating via the mercy of the winds. All of a sudden you crash into a 'Titanical' iceberg and suddenly find yourself in dire distress. Waters churn and begin rushing in as the coldness of the sea rises around your ankles, sending a shuddering chill through your body while fear grips your heart. With helpless abandonment you cry out to God for help as your life is facing imminent danger.

You see, at times God will redirect our focus on Him by allowing things to come into our lives to set us back on our way. God says, 'get on course, my child – keep your eyes on the prize and remain focused on it.' You never lost your ship; the Lord simply redirected your concentration and corrected your navigation to stay true to the route.

RECAP: Common-sense tells us that once we are born into God's family and become His children; we cannot be 'unborn' no more than we can be unborn from our earthly parents. Our biological parents may not like the road we have chosen and despise the sins we commit; they may even disown us, but we are still by means of a natural birth, their children. Their blood flows through our veins and nothing can alter that fact. Likewise, when we are born into the Royal family of God, we become His children and

nothing can ever change that – we cannot be ‘unborn’! It is impossible to flip-flop back and forth between a child of God and a child of the Devil. Furthermore, the blood of Christ flows through the veins of our souls and confirms who we are and always will be – God’s child.

D. Salvation From A ‘Fortiori’ Argument

A fortiori argument is an "argument from a yet stronger reason" [source: Wikipedia.org] – If God will do such and such, **how much more** will He do this! The Apostle Paul uses this reasoning many times in his writings. Let me give an example from Romans 5:9:

*“**Much more then**, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.. .”*

In other words, from a fortiori argument, Paul says since we are saved from wrath through Jesus Christ while we were enemies of God, **how much more then**, are we *kept* saved by the ‘life’ of Christ. If Jesus Christ loved us so much when we were still His enemies, **how much more** does He love us now that we are His children! **How much more** will He keep us safe and secure for all eternity through His life! You see, it is not our life that keeps us saved to begin with, but the life of Christ!

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Romans 3:3).

Our life died with Christ on the cross and now we have life ‘in’ Jesus Christ! On top of that, Paul says that Christ is “hid in God”! This is a good place to rejoice, my friends! What can snatch us out of Christ who is hidden in God? What can snatch us away? Absolutely nothing! Paul pointed this out in Romans 8:38, 39,

“I am persuaded [absolutely sure], that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us [snatch us away] from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Pause and read that again! Let it become ingrained in your soul and burned above the mantle of your heart. Believe the Word of God, my friends! Cast all those pre-conceived notions and hand-me-down traditions of man where they belong, in hell! Embrace the truth of God’s written, infallible Word that is able to save and keep your souls saved until Christ appears in glory! And when He does appear, we will appear “with Him”, why ... because we are in Christ and Christ is in God! Glory!

There isn’t any parent worth their salt who would not protect and defend their children. Regardless of what they have done in the past, deep down you still love them and would not allow anything to harm them. That is how our Heavenly Father sees us. He loves us far more than any earthly parents could; so **how much more** will He protect us from anything and all things that would cause us harm! We are His children and we have the greatest Father there is!

Let's test our knowledge of what we have learned thus far:

A) Salvation is entirely the Gift of God's _____ apart from and secured by the individual through _____ in the sacrificial atoning payment of the blood of Christ.

B) Salvation is not of _____ least we become braggers before God. Nothing we can do, or not do can redeem our lost souls; and nothing we can do, or not do can give or take away our eternal security. We are secure in Christ – He has hold of us, not vise-versa! Don't be misguided, we do not hold on to Jesus, He holds on to us. It is His power that saves and secures us.

C) Salvation immediately places us into the family of God through the operation of the _____ and we will remain God's child permanently – we cannot be 'unborn' no more than being unborn of our biological birth. We cannot, moreover, become 'un-brothers and sisters in Christ.

D) Salvation from a fortiori argument teaches us that since God loved and saved us while we were yet vile and wretched sinners, how much _____ does He love us now that we are His children. There is nothing in heaven or earth that is able to separate us from the love and security of the Father, which is through Christ Jesus, or Lord.

Be sure to watch for CHAPTER TWO COMING SOON.

II. ETERNAL SECURITY FROM A POSITIONAL TRUTH APPROACH

While we have learned that Eternal Security can be seen in the Scriptures from a Common-Sense Approach, the Bible simply comes right out and asserts it.

A) Through A Direct statement

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1)

Paul is simply saying, since you have been saved through faith in Christ's redemptive work, "There is therefore now [present tense] no condemnation!" All condemnation has been removed from your past, present and future! Christ Himself said, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 9:17). Our eternal security rest in the fact that nothing can be laid to our charge; nothing can condemn us, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..."!

B) Through The Love Of God

The love of God for the believer is equal to God's love for His natural Son, Rom.8:38,39; cp. Eph.1:58, especially vs.6.

We already share Christ's resurrection, Eph.2:6.

The head cannot repudiate members of the body and continue to have a complete body, 1Cor.12:13,21.

The family approach, Gal.3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus"; cp. Jn.3.