

Eternal Security

The preservation and perseverance of the saints

View #1

Once a person comes to genuine faith they will not and cannot lose their salvation.

John 10:27-30

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them; and **they shall never perish**, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.**”

View #2

Confessing believers can “fall away” and lose their salvation (or indicate that they never really believed).

Hebrews 6

“4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then **have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance**, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.”

Where do most Christians agree?

The basis of the believer’s security

- The loving intent of God the Father.
- The finished redemption of God the Son.
- The indwelling help of God the Spirit.
- The genuine faith (in Christ) of God’s people.

Apostasy is real

- Some people repent of their faith confession.

Some false basis for security

- Membership in a church
- Confession of faith & water baptism
- Diligence in good works and moral discipline
- Signs and wonders, fruitful ministry, good witness

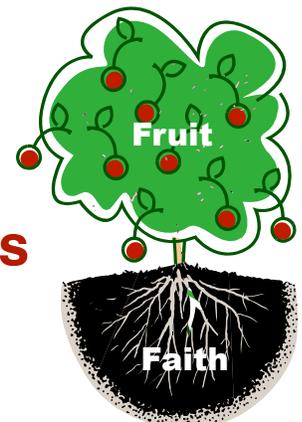
Where is the disagreement?

1. What is the relationship between faith and works?
2. Who is responsible for abiding faith?
3. What is the significance of the warnings in Script.?
4. How can a person know that they are secure?

Issue #1

- What is the relationship between faith and works?

Good works are a fruit of faith.



Challenging questions
for those who define faith
in terms of faithfulness to the Law.

- **GRACE** - If we are saved by grace apart from works of the Law, are we then kept by obedience to the Law?
- **PEACE** - Can there be any peace and joy when we know that we are not yet perfected in holiness?
- **PERFECTION** - How holy must we be to be safe? How pure must our motives be?
- **OLD COVENANT** - How is this distinct from the Old Covenant with its fear, from which Jesus came to set us free?
- **CARNALITY** - How are we to understand the worldly saints in Corinth?

Issue #2

• Who is responsible for abiding faith?

God's
preserving power
(Decree)

Phil.2:12
"God is at work in you"
Jn.1:13
"who are born of God"
Rom.11:5
"according to God's choice"
2 Thess.12:13
"God has chosen you"

Man's
persevering power
(Diligence)

Phil.2:13
"work out your salvation"
Jn.1:12
"as many as received Him"
Rom.11:20
"you stand by your faith"
2 Thess.12:13
"through faith"

1 Peter 1:4-5

"... to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are **protected by the power of God through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Romans 11

"19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." 20 Quite right, they were broken off **for their unbelief**, but you stand **by your faith**. . . 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, **if you continue** in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, **if they do not continue in their unbelief**, will be grafted in; for **God is able to graft them in again.**"

John 10:27-30

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and **they follow Me**; and I give eternal life to them; and **they shall never perish,**"

Christ's sheep, in following him, are guaranteed eternal life.

and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**"

Christ followers will have their salvation protected from all predators.

Issue #3

• How are we to understand the warnings in Scripture?

1. Those who emphasize the **sovereignty** of God.

The warnings are to distinguish the true believers from the false.

2. Those who emphasize the **free will** of man.

The warnings are to keep us from losing our salvation.

3. Those who emphasize the **radical grace** of God and the **abiding faith** of man.

The warnings are to keep us from neglecting our faith.

Hebrews 6

“¹ Therefore leaving the elementary (**beginning**) teaching about Christ, let us press on to maturity, **not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**, ² of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we shall do, if God permits.”

Not repeating one's initiation into the faith is the subject.

“⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

True believers are in view.

Hebrews 6

“⁶ and then have fallen away (**stumbled, sinned**), it is impossible to renew them again to repentance (**conversion**), since they again crucify to themselves (**as with Jewish sacrifices**) the Son of God, and put Him to open shame (**mocking the Gospel**)”

Keys to understanding this text:

1. The Jewish system involved repeated atonement.
2. The word “again” is used often (6:1, 6:6a, 6b).
3. The phrase “once for all” in Hebrews (ch.7,9,10)
4. The word “impossible” means impossible.
5. The phrase “falling away” = misdeed or trespass.

The Christian who sins cannot and need not be reconverted.

Issue #4

• How can a person know that they are secure in Christ?

1. Those who emphasize the **sovereignty** of God.

Only time can assure them.

Secured by God's secret decree

2. Those who emphasize the **free will** of man.

Only a holy life can assure them.

Secured by their holy life

3. Those who emphasize the **radical grace** of God and the **abiding faith** of man.

Only an abiding faith can assure them.

Secured by grace through faith

An analogy



• Our salvation is secure in God's bank.

• So long as we don't withdraw it by unbelief.

An analogy



• **The Holy Spirit is a Helper not a Surrogate. He works with us, not around us.**

• **Believers are soldiers not spectators in Spiritual warfare.**

Lessons to be learned

1. **Faith** - The blessings of Christ are offered to all who truly believe and persevere in faith.
2. **Works** - We do not obey in order to be saved by Christ nor do we obey in order to be secure in him.
3. **Apostasy** - Those who retract their trust forfeit their experience of hope and recognition as Christians.
4. **False believers** - Not all who appear to be Christians truly believe and some who start believing do not finish.
5. **Warnings** - We must nurture faith and persevere in it lest we fall from grace and incur God's discipline.