

## Eternal Security, Part 2

### June 1, 2008 - Skip MacMillan

#### Last time - Eternal Security, Part One:

**Various Views:** Holiness Tradition, the Catholic Church, Reformers

#### Possible Scripture on the loss of salvation: Hebrews 6:4-6

##### **"If They Fall Away" is not:**

1. A bad day or season of life, see Jesus' story of the **Prodigal son, Luke 15:11-32**.
2. Not the result of **sinful behavior** (quality or quantity), see 1 Cor. 5:1-5, "hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord".
3. **Not questioning, struggling, or even doubting God**, see the book of Job.

**"If They Fall Away," must mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit.** Matthew 12:30-32 (Mark 3:29).

##### **Meaning:**

##### Problems with a lack of assurance

1. Fear, paranoia, insecurity and worrying
2. What causes the loss of a person's salvation?
3. At what point is a person's salvation lost?
4. What sustains our salvation?

##### Questions

If He **atoned** for us, chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight (Ephesians 1:4-8), if we are **justified** instantaneously and completely in Jesus Christ, if "he has **reconciled** you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Col. 1:22), and if God has **redeemed** us, that is paid the ransom with an infinitely-valued ransom, then what can take this away or reverse it?

##### 1 John 2:18-19

"They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us."

##### Feedback

"I agree with everything you have said however I do find it hard sometimes to relate this to some of my family members. They were raised in a Christian home and in their early 20's would have seemed from their outward behavior to be Christians and if asked would say they were Christians. Yet in their mid 20's they made very deliberate decisions in their lives which were directly opposed to the Bible and the Christian faith. Now in their 40's are cynical even mocking of Christians, Christianity and God.

"Were they ever really Christians? Is this just a prodigal son/ daughter season in their lives? They seem so far from God it is hard to believe they can be drawn back.

I am not looking for an answer, just expressing my struggles and I suspect I am not the only person who can relate to this situation."

See the Parable of the Sower – Mark 4.

##### Eternal Security, Part Two

Are you eternally secure; will you persevere to the end, and are you "saved" once and for all?

## **God wants us to know we have eternal life**

1 John 5:13 - "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

## **Scriptures on our security in Christ's salvation:**

### **John 10:28-30**

**I give them eternal life**, and they shall **never perish**; **no one can snatch them out of my hand**. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand**. I and the Father are one."

**How does a person gain a relationship with God? Is it through Christ or some other way?**

**God gives eternal life** "I give them eternal life"

We did not win, achieve, or gain it but God achieved it for us and gave it to us.

Therefore because it was God who gain our salvation, it is of infinite value and we who believe will therefore never perish.

**Therefore, you will "never perish".**

You have been given to the Son by the Father and the Son has given you **eternal** life.

Those who perish are those who don't accept Christ's atonement and are therefore left in their sins.

Those who believe, Christ has justified, atoned, redeemed and reconciled. How could you perish?

**"No one can snatch them out of My (Our) hand."**

There are two hands wrapped around you, the Father's and the Son's.

Nothing can pry you from the hands of God, because God's hands hold you, therefore we are secure and assured.

**God the "Father . . . is greater than all"**

**Psalm 18:1-19**

This is the God who has come for you, rescued you and has given you eternal life.

There is none greater.

Passages like these are written to alleviate fear, worry and paranoid; they are written to bring assurance and security.

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear" (1 John 4:18).

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" (Romans 8:15).

**Romans 8:29-39 (11:29)**

For those God foreknew **he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this?

**If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?** It is God who justifies. **Who is he that condemns?** Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors through him who loved us.** **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, nei-**

ther the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**You are predestined to be conformed into the likeness of God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

This is no fluke, no accident, no happenstance, but you are predestined to become like Jesus Christ.

This is bigger than you but it is for you; larger than an emotional decision, your parents, or a good argument that won you over. This is about God the Father Who has hand-picked you and given you eternal life in His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 6:44, Eph. 1, Rom. 8-9.)

"... for He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will" (Ephesians 1:4-5).

"What, then, shall we say in response to this?" The 4 "Whos":

1. **Who can be against us?** Is it God, who did not spare His own Son for us and who is now interceding for us?
2. **Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?** Who or what can bring any charge against you when God chose you to be His and paid the price in full for all charges against you?
3. **Who is he that condemns?** Who is able to condemn you? Only Christ who sits on the throne and judges all mankind. No one else. So if Christ is the Judge and He is the one who chose us, predestined us, elected us, made atonement for us, then who is left to condemn us?
4. **Who will separate us from the love of Christ?** Difficult times, questions, doubts, threats, fears, angels nor demons, the present nor the future, any power, anything in all creation, will be able to separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Nothing can remove you from your relationship with God.***

**John 6:37-40**

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

**God will never drive you away**

God is not fickle; He does not change His mind. "I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6).

**"I shall lose none of all that He gives Me".**

**What can override the will of God the Father?**

The Father's will: "I shall lose none of all that He has given me, but raise them up at the last day."

You cannot be lost, Who is sovereign over God? Who is more powerful? Who has dominion over God?

**Jude 24-25**

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Contrast with Hebrews 6:4-6.)

Ephesians 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

**Hebrews 13:5**

"Never will I leave you or forsake you"

**1 Peter 1:3-5**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

**Summary:**

1. God alone is sovereign over all and He alone is the giver of eternal life.
2. God is greater than all else and therefore no one can snatch you out of His hand.
3. God does not change and therefore His love for you will never change.
4. God predestined you to be with Him and to be in His likeness and nothing is going to change that.
5. Therefore:  
You will never perish but live eternally with Him.  
Who can be against us, who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen, who will condemn you, who will separate you from the love of Christ? No one, no being, no doubt, not the present or the future, no power, no nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

**The KEY:**

Our salvation, our relationship with God is founded on Jesus Christ, because He called us, redeemed us, took all the punishment due our sin, invited us into an eternal relationship with Him, because He is the judge of the world and at the same time our savior, we stand secure, free and assured that we who are in Christ will always be in Christ, no matter what we may feel, go through or what may be thrown at us.

**Because of these passages and the Biblical statement of how salvation is obtained through Jesus Christ, the church developed the phrase "Perseverance of the Saints" or "eternal security".**

"All who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ and given faith by the Spirit are eternally saved. They are kept in faith **by the power of the Almighty God** and thus persevere to the end" - Synod of Dort.

"They, whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved" -Westminster Confession of Faith.

**Personal Assurances:** (Akin)

Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin? John 3:36 - "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Do you feel convicted when you sin? 2 Cor. 7:10 - "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret".

Do you see new desires, perspectives, attitudes and a changing life that resembles Christ?  
Romans 7:18-19.

"Another proof of the conquest of the soul for Christ will be found in a real change of life. If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance need to be repented of, and his conversion is a fiction" -Spurgeon.

Do you have a growing love for God and your neighbor?

### **Assurances in God:** (Hodge's and Berkhof)

God the Father is faithful to His Scripture: "never will I leave you or forsake you" (Heb. 13:5).

God is immutable (unchanging): "I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6).

God the Son's atonement has infinite merit and He continuously intercedes on our behalf (Romans 8:34).

"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:16).

### **Results of our security in Christ**

1. God creates a body of believers who are loved, confident, strong, and in awe of God's salvation.
2. Our **motives** are right, not to "earn" or to "do" out of fear but out of gratitude, love, and thankfulness.
3. Our security being founded in Christ Jesus, we are now able to **enjoy the LORD**.  
How can you enjoy God or your salvation if you're concerned with losing your salvation? God wants you to enjoy **His work of salvation for you**, to stand firm in the conviction that God will bring to completion what He started in you. This is the God you believe in, follow, and serve.
4. We are **moved** to get on with God's mission to love God and love our neighbor and to make disciples of all nations, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

### **God says:**

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

"Being **confident** of this, that **He** who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

You have been chosen by God the Father, redeemed by Jesus Christ and given faith by the Holy Spirit and are therefore eternally saved. You are sustained by the power of the Almighty God and thus will persevere to the end. God is the author and finisher of our salvation. (Synod of Dort and Hebrews 12:1-3).