

Perseverance or Preservation of the Saints (1)

- Some other ways of putting it:
 - Eternal Security; “Once saved, always saved;” “If we have it, we never lose it. If we lose it, we never had it.”
- Definition: *All those who are truly born again will be kept by God’s power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.*

I. Perseverance and Preservation

- **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him *should not perish* but have eternal life.
- **John 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- **John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
- **John 6:35-40** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
- **John 6:47** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.
- **John 10:27-29** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, *and they will never perish*, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ 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.
 - **Literally – “and they shall certainly not perish forever.”**
- **John 17:11-12, 15** And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled... ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.
- **Romans 5:8-10** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be *saved by him from the wrath of God*. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- **Romans 8:29-30** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- **1 Corinthians 1:7-9** so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- **2 Corinthians 4:14** knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

The Holy Spirit is Sealing

- **Ephesians 1:13-14** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
 - **Guarantee – legal term meaning “first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge”**
 - **It represents “a payment which obligates the contracting party to make further payments**
- **Ephesians 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

God is Guarding

- **1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - **Literally – both kept from escaping and protected from attack**

Other Perseverance Passages

- **Isaiah 43:1-3** But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
- **Isaiah 54:10** For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.
- **Jeremiah 32:40** I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.
- **Matthew 18:12-13** What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.
- **Colossians 3:3-4** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

- **2 Timothy 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- **Hebrews 9:12, 15** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption...¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.
- **Hebrews 10:14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe
- **1 John 2:19, 25** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us...²⁵And this is the promise that he made to us--eternal life.
- **1 John 5:4** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.
- **1 John 5:11-13** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³¶ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.
- **1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
- **Jude 1:1** Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
- **Jude 1:24-25** Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

3 Points Concerning Perseverance

1. Only The Saved Will Persevere To The End

- See above Scriptures

2. Only Those Who Persevere Are Truly Saved

- **John 8:31-32** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- **Colossians 1:22-23** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,
- **Hebrews 3:14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
 - **One way we know that we have come to genuine faith is if we continue in faith until the end of our lives**

3. External Signs Of Conversion Are Not A Guarantee Of Salvation

- Judas – three years with Jesus; no one suspected him to be a traitor
- Gal. 2:4; 2 Cor. 11:26 – speak of *false brethren*
- 2 Cor. 11:15 – speak of servants of Satan *disguising themselves* as servants of righteousness

II. CAN I HAVE ASSURANCE?

1. Do I have a present trust in Christ for salvation?

2. Is there evidence of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in my heart?

- a. Is there a testimony of the Holy Spirit bearing witness that I am God's child?
- b. Am I exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)? Do I notice them at work? Do others notice them at work?
- c. Am I continuing to believe and accept the sound teaching of the church?
- d. Do I have a continuing present relationship with Jesus Christ? (prayer, worship, trust, obedience)

3. Do I see a long-term pattern of growth in my Christian life?

- **2 Peter 1:5-10** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
- We confirm our election by continuing to grow in these things