

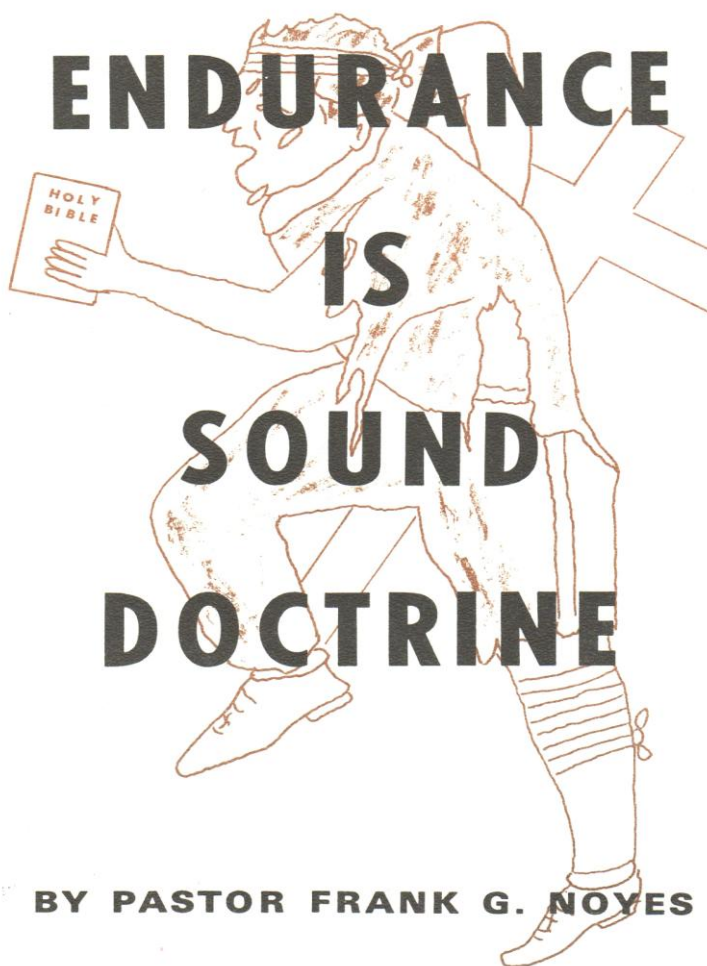
ENDURANCE
IS
SOUND
DOCTRINE

Frank G. Noyes

Pastor Frank G. Noyes

Endurance Is Sound Doctrine

Original Cover Art



*The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the LORD. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD. I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests; And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; - and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham; And **them that are turned back from the LORD** [apostatized]; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him. Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel. **Zep 1:1-8** [Emphasis mine]*

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*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. **2 Timothy 4:1-5***

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DEDICATION & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I convey my gratitude to all those who contributed their support, their time and their effort that made this book possible. A special commendation goes to the following:

First and above all I dedicate this book to The Lord Jesus Christ: my Lord, my Saviour, my King and my God. To Him who loved one, and shed His precious blood for one so undeserving. To Him be all glory, honour and praise. To the precious Holy Spirit for His comfort and guidance in all of my Christian life. To God The Father the first person of the blessed Trinity of the Godhead. This book, if He will accept such inadequate adoration from such an unworthy source, is an offering to the One true and living God revealed in three persons.

My wonderful wife, Judie, who has always prayed for me, encouraged me, and given me her love and devotion remains indispensable in my work for Christ and in the publishing of this book. She has been a blessing from the Lord and a faithful companion for over 45 years. I have never known a more devoted Christian, and soul winner for Jesus Christ. Without her sacrificial labour, especially with the first edition, ENDURANCE IS SOUND DOCTRINE possibly would never have seen the light of day.

Nathan, our son, a faithful deacon in Gethsemane Church, has been truly a blessing and

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the primary reason this expanded edition has been published. Nathan has been instrumental in many ways. It was Nathan that most encouraged me to expand on the original book. It has been Nathan who did the lion's share of the work in the promotion and publishing of this doctrinal treatise. May the Lord bless Nathan for all the time, the prayers, the encouragement and effort he invested in this endeavor.

Michael, our firstborn, also encouraged the writing and publishing of this book. His suggestions, prayers and help has been a blessing.

Rachel, our daughter, has also been a blessing by her faithful Christian life and her interest and support in our ministry for the Lord. Her prayers and support for this book, and for all of our ministry, has been constant and inspiring.

All the families' prayers have been a blessing. The Lord has truly blessed me with an entire family that has been supportive of all my ministry for Christ.

Finally, I praise the Lord for all the preachers, teachers and writers the Lord has sent to bless me with spiritual encouragement and instruction.

My prayer is that the Lord will put His blessing on this book and anoint it with the power of His precious Holy Spirit; that He will send forth ENDURANCE IS SOUND DOCTRINE to instruct and strengthen many. I pray He will use this treatise to glorify His name, accomplish His will and to help Christians to aspire to live a life of holiness.

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Finally, if you are a reader who has not given your life to Christ and have not been born again, this writer appeals to you to do so now. You can

be saved by believing in The Son of God, repenting of your sins and being willing to live for the Lord. Just bow your head and ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

After you have prayed and surrendered your life to Christ find a King James Bible believing church and talk to the pastor. Ask him to teach you how to faithfully follow Jesus. As a new creature in Christ, live your new life according to the Word of God.

II Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

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Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.



A Calvinist itinerate preacher who owned but preached to slaves. He preached being "born again." He preached 18,000 sermons. He said, "I had rather burn out than rust out."

George Whitefield

Dec. 27, 1714 - Sept. 30, 1770

An Arminian Methodist who opposed slavery. Known for his discipline and he co-founded the Methodist Church. He preached over 3 times a day for 50 years.

John Wesley

June 17, 1703 - March 2, 1791

Born Again Christians Love Other Born Again Christians

Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

John 13:34,35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

1 John 3:11 *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*

The doctrine of Charity should cross all barriers for Bible believing Christians. The love of God

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must be the bond that holds the true church together. Though Christians differ in their interpretation of the Bible (within orthodox limits) there must always be the bond of love and respect in God's family of believers. Churches differ on some doctrines both drastically and fervently; yet, the eternal, virgin born, perfect, crucified and risen again, only begotten Son of God, second person of the Trinity, must always be the main doctrine. Though we differ with great conviction, and sometimes speak with sharpness, let us all understand that God's will is for His children to be of the "same mind" and to have the "unity of the Spirit." There are two doctrines from which the church must never flinch. The First is the Deity of Christ, and the second is the inerrant, infallible, and preserved Word of God. This author cannot find common ground with those who compromise these sacred beliefs. Our Lord canonized these doctrines when he said, "*For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:26).*" Within these boundaries, let us differ and discuss, but let us also pray and study to come to the truth. Though we have differences, let us work together to glorify our Lord and help lost souls come to be saved.

Above are photos of George Whitefield and John Wesley, two great Christian ministers who worked together and loved each other, but disagreed vehemently over the doctrine of Eternal Security. Whitfield was a Calvinist and Wesley was Arminian. It was out of the Great Awakening that Whitefield started the Calvinistic Methodist Church

and Wesley a short time later started the Arminian Methodist.

In the book John Wesley written by C. E. Vulliamy, 1985 Barbour and Company, on page 118, paragraph two, the attitude of both men is captured. Wesley is quoted about his feelings toward Whitefield. "He breathes nothing but peace and love...Bigotry cannot stand before him, but hides its head wherever he comes." In that same paragraph Whitefield is quoted about Wesley "Lord Grant ... that he may be preferred before me wherever he goes!" In spite of their deep theological differences these mighty servants of God understood their brotherhood in the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the truth of God's Word the Holy Bible. They were able to differ passionately within the boundaries of the doctrine of Christ and yet transcend their differences to win lost souls. Their love for Christ and each other was greater than their differences. They were not ecumenical for they both stood firm against Popery but they both were able to cross denominational lines within orthodoxy. May the precious Holy Spirit give His people that same grace.

The Scripture References in this Book are all taken from the King James Bible, otherwise known as the Authorized Version

The King James Bible is not to be confused with the modern New King James Version. Furthermore, for the reasons given below, it is recommended to all readers that they use only the King James Bible.

Reasons to use only the King James or the Authorized Bible

1. The King James or Authorized Bible, as of the writing of this book, is the only translation that is not tainted by the liberalism of modern scholarship. The King James Bible was translated in 1611. Since that time, it has only had minor changes made to its text. There have been some spelling changes, (musick to music, Blinde to Blind, and sinne to sin, etc.). There have been some changes in words (towards to toward, amongst to among, etc.). The changes have been made cautiously and reverently for clarity and have not affected doctrine. [For a quick reference, see Dr. D. A. Waite's fine book, (page 237-238 *Defending the King James Bible* by D.A. Waite, Th. D., Ph.D.).] Compared to the watered down distortions of modern versions that have left out whole verses, changed meanings, and altered doctrines the changes in the words that have been updated in the KJV are virtually nonexistent. Very few alterations have been made to clarify the meaning. Nothing else has been touched. Therefore, the King James Bible stands virtually as it was originally translated from the original languages. Modern scholarship has not been able to add, delete, twist and weaken the doctrines of the Word of God. The King James Bible is the preserved Word of God for English speaking people. Modern versions are being constantly corrupted and weakened and represent Satan's attempt to dilute and corrupt the true Word of God one step and one generation at a time.

2. The King James Bible comes from the Old Testament Hebrew Masoretic Text and the New Testament Greek Received text. Both of these texts have proven to be the tried and tested Word of God down through time. Modern versions disagree with these proven texts, the King James Bible, and even disagree with each other.

3. The scholarship of those who translated the King James Bible, their diligence, the technique they used, and their willingness to consult the best of scholars outside of their committees, has not been equaled in modern times.

4. The King James or Authorized Bible has been and still is the greatest English soul winning Bible of all time. It is the greatest revival Bible of all time, and the champion missionary Bible of all time.

5. The King James or Authorized Bible has the seal of the Holy Spirit on it. Christians and churches that use it and believe it know they have the infallible, inerrant, providentially preserved Word of God.

6. Some modern publishers are beginning to peck away at the King James Bible. They are beginning to slip in changes like broided to braided (**I Tim. 2:9**), travail to travel (**Num. 20:14**), lender to leader (**Prov. 22:7**). These changes are being made with no notification to the reader. What will be next? The time when people will not endure sound doctrine is here. This author encourages Christians to get a true King James Bible, without changes, and hang on to it. Don't use a corrupted bible!

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7. Modern versions are not strengthening the church, they have and are contributing to confusion and are weakening peoples belief in the infallible, inerrant, preserved Word of God. They are not bringing revival. They are promoting liberalism, and are a major ingredient in the falling away. Churches are being liberalized with modern versions, carnal music, immodesty and even ungodliness. The compromise and confusion will get worse. People need to stick to their King James Bible. As a pastor of over 45 years this author is an eye witness to these changes.

Isaiah 66:2 *For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

Revelation 22:18-19 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

8. "Thee" and "Thou" in the King James Bible are there for accuracy. Without these pronouns the Hebrew and Greek pronouns cannot be translated into English with the upmost accuracy. These Pronouns are also sentinels that help genuine Bible believing Christians know when they hear the true Word of God. When they are removed people know the Bible has been tampered with. The English of the King James Bible represents the zenith of the English language.

2 Corinthians 2:17 *For we are not as many, which corrupt the*

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word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

9. Crucial Verses are left out of other bible versions. Different versions change different verses. Here are a few examples: **Acts 8:37**, **Matthew 6:13b**. If the word "yet" is omitted from **John 7:8** Jesus statement is not accurate (see verse 10). The name Lucifer is deleted in **Isaiah 14:12**. The devils name Lucifer is not given anywhere else in the Bible. Multitudes of other examples could be sighted. Multiple versions that disagree with each other causes confusion. The devil is ripping up the Bible, diluting it and playing "fast and loose" with it. What will it take for people to understand what is happening to the Bible? The King James Bible does not cause confusion and leave out verses. People need to get a King James Bible and believe it.

Deuteronomy 4:2 *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

During the Revolutionary War, a 34-year old man enlisted in the Continental Army. Born in Connecticut, he proved himself a good soldier. He distinguished himself in several battles and displayed great courage. He was promoted to brigadier general and then on to major general. In 1775, after being wounded in battle, this war hero was praised before Congress by Thomas Jefferson with the country's thanks (Creighton, 2008). Nevertheless, Benedict Arnold betrayed his country and forfeited his birthright.

The question is often raised, "Once a person is saved can he turn back to the world and be lost again?" There are two major positions in regard to salvation. They are the Arminian and Calvinistic doctrines. Each is named respectively after its most famous apologist, and both claim to be the only correct view. There are extremes to both positions; however, most Christians hold to a modified Calvinism or a modified Arminianism. The positions have become identical and indistinguishable in many points. Nevertheless, there is a marked and pointed difference on the subject of security. In this book, the terms "Calvinist," "eternal security," and "once saved, always saved" will designate those who teach the doctrine of unconditional security. The term "Arminian," "free will" and "perseverance" will identify those who teach the possibility of falling from grace.

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It is herein intended, not only to prove that the sacred Scriptures warn that it is possible to fall from grace, but also to refute the arguments of those who teach otherwise.

Chapter 2

GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Grace Does The Saving

The term saved means deliverance or preservation. When a person is saved, he is delivered from the following:

- His past sins
 - ❖ **Romans 3:25** *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*
- The dominion of sin
 - ❖ **Romans 6:14** *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*
- The oppression of the law
 - ❖ **Romans 7:16** *If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.*
- The lordship of Satan
 - ❖ **Acts 26:18** *To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*
- The condemnation of judgment
 - ❖ **Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

This is all accomplished because of God's grace.

- **Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

Grace is God's love directed toward those who do not deserve to be loved. GRACE IS WHAT SAVES LOST MEN. Without grace NONE could be saved. Grace is the complete plan of redemption secured for men by God's only begotten Son.

Jesus Christ secured a full inheritance for all those who meet the condition of the New Covenant. Figuratively speaking, redemption is already secured and in the bank for all men.

- **Hebrews 2:9** *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
- **Hebrews 9:12** *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Nevertheless, this does not mean individual salvation is unconditionally secured at conversion. Men only possess salvation by meeting God's conditions

- **Luke 14:26** *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

Hence, the condition of salvation is twofold: lost men must receive Christ as Saviour and be faithful to Him as LORD to inherit the Kingdom of God.

- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- **Revelation 17:14** *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

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Those who teach it is impossible for a saved person to turn away from God commit serious error by ignoring scriptures that do NOT support their doctrine.

Faith Does The Receiving

Grace alone will not save one lost sinner.

- **Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

Christ died so every man could be saved. It is God's will that all men would be saved.

- **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

BUT EVERY MAN WILL NOT BE SAVED! To be saved, one must receive God's grace by FAITH.

- **Hebrews 11:6** *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Even though God has provided every man with a degree of faith,

- **Ephesians 4:7** *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

it is up to man to exercise that faith. Man cannot save himself, not by good works or good intentions. The Bible teaches: MAN + GOOD WORKS = NOTHING!

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Salvation is a free gift, but man must receive that gift by faith. God's grace is sufficient to save everyone, but God will not save the unbelieving.

A Believer Can Lose His Faith

The Bible definitely teaches that it is possible for a person who has faith to lapse into unbelief and be lost again. God has promised to keep the sheep who hear and follow;

- **John 10:27-29** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

but there is no promise in the Bible stating God will keep those who will not listen, will not follow, and will rebel against God's Word. OH! Someone may say: "If a person is truly saved in every case he will hear and follow." That's all very nice to say; but it simply IS NOT BIBLE TRUTH. Even those who teach "once saved, always saved" don't believe that. Their own doctrine teaches that a born-again Christian can become so rebellious and backslidden that God will allow him to be killed before he completely apostatizes. It is no reproach on the LORD if a person constantly refuses the council of the Holy Spirit and becomes so involved with sin that faith is "cast off."

- **1 Timothy 5:12** *Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.*

The Bible teaches it is possible for a person to eventually become so "entangled" in the world his faith will be "overcome".

- **2 Peter 2:20** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

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Make no mistake, BACKSLIDING IS THE ROAD TO APOSTASY. The Word of God warns that faith can be wrecked.

- **1 Timothy 1:19** *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*

Scriptures That Prove It Is Possible To Lose Faith

BELIEVE FOR A WHILE THEN "FALL AWAY"

Luke 8:13 *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

DESTROY ANOTHER'S FAITH

1 Corinthians 8:11 *“And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?”*

2 Timothy 2:18 *“Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”*

LIVE UNFAITHFULLY

1 Timothy 6:10 *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

FAITH CAN BE DESTROYED

1 Timothy 1:19 *“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:”*

FAITH CAN BE "CAST OFF"

1 Timothy 5:11-13 *“But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to*

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house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."

1 Timothy 1:5-6 *"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;"*

FALSE DOCTRINE CAN DESTROY FAITH

1 Timothy 4:1 *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"*

ACTIONS CAN DENY FAITH

2 Peter 2:20 *"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."*

1 Timothy 5:8 *"But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*

Jesus Taught Faithfulness

Our Lord Jesus Christ very plainly taught that Christians must remain faithful in their walk of life to inherit God's Kingdom.

Jesus said: *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."* (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

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There is a gate that must be entered, and a way that must be traveled. A person must accept (strait gate) or reject (broad gate) Jesus Christ. A person must be faithful (narrow way) or unfaithful (broad way). Notice, Jesus did not say, "enter the strait gate and salvation is complete." Jesus taught one must also live a faithful Christian life and "narrow is the way" to enter Heaven. Surely, the message is clear to any who really wants to know Bible truth. It is sad that many are so blinded by biased teaching that they cannot see the truth.

Faithfulness Is Not Works

Those who teach "once in grace, always in grace" often falsely accuse those who disagree with them of believing in salvation by works. They claim that because those who believe in "free will" teach one must remain faithful to Christ that they are depending on their own merits to be saved. This is not correct! The real fact is the "once saved, always saved" doctrine only teaches half of the truth. If it is not works that a person must accept Christ by faith (for this certainly requires man to do something) then it is NOT works if a person must continue to live for Christ by faith.

- **Romans 1:17** *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.*

As a bride is expected to remain faithful to her husband, and her works are simply the evidence of her love and devotion to him, so it is with the Christian.

Works To Damnation

A person cannot work his way to Heaven, but A PERSON CAN WORK HIS WAY TO HELL!! Here is one of the most dangerous mistakes of the doctrine of "once saved, always saved." To teach people that once they are truly converted they can never get themselves into enough trouble to become lost again is a grave misrepresentation of the teachings of the Bible. The Apostle Paul warns Christians not to be DECEIVED by such teaching.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

[Emphasis mine]

Nothing could be said more clearly, [Notice the Bible did not say a saved person who practices these sins will miss his reward, or be killed so he can go to Heaven, but only an unsaved person is condemned by these sins.] NO! This covers everyone! Brethren, the unsaved are condemned already!

- **John 3:18** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

The Word of God says NOBODY, Christian or unbeliever, who unrepentantly does these things will go to Heaven! The inerrant Word of God says NOBODY! NOBODY who is unsaved! NOBODY who is a Christian! N-O-B-O-D-Y, but NOBODY who practices ungodliness without repenting will inherit the Kingdom of God.

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“Once in grace, always in grace” believers often object to this by pointing out that Christ paid for all sin, past, present, and future. Hence, they claim the sins of a believer cannot cause him to fall from grace because all of his future sins are covered.

This line of reasoning is difficult for some to refute because it contains truth, but it is not the whole truth. It is true that Jesus Christ paid the full redemptive price for all sin: past, present, and future.

- **Isaiah 53:5** *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*
- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- **Hebrews 7:27** *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*
- **Hebrews 10:10-14** *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.*

It is true that the child of God is in a condition of complete security because he is IN CHRIST. However, that is not the whole truth. The whole truth is that actions are evidence of condition. The person who is in the proper condition with God (in Christ) will produce fruit and those good works that flow from God's Holy Spirit.

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- **Galatians 5:22-25** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Good works are evidence of faith,

- **James 2:18** *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.*

and those who have faith are faithful.

- **Galatians 3:9** *So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

However, the reverse is also true. The person who is not in the right condition with the LORD will produce fruit, or evil works, that do not flow from God.

- **Galatians 5:19-20** *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*

Evil works are evidence of unbelief.

- **Romans 14:23** *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*
- **1 Timothy 5:12-13** *Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*

Habitual sin in the Christian life is evidence of backsliding, and backsliding can lead to apostasy. If the Christian turns his back on God, and consequently, through unfaithfulness or a life of sin, despises his condition IN CHRIST;

- **Hebrews 10:26** *For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

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he has fallen back to his old condition.

- **Galatians 5:4** *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

To this attests all the scriptures. Hence, the LORD will chasten backsliders,

- **Hebrews 12:16** *Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.*

and He longs for them to repent so He can restore them to fellowship.

- **Hebrews 12:17** *For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*
- **Hosea 14:4** *I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.*

Nevertheless, backsliders who continue to rebel and, consequently, apostatize “fail” God’s grace.

- **Hebrews 12:15** *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

They are “rejected”.

- **Hebrews 12:17** *For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

Those living a life of sin believing that because they have been saved, they can willfully practice that which dishonors and mocks Christ’s precious blood atonement,

- **Hebrews 6:6** *If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

and the very purpose of redemption,

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- **1Peter 2:9** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

and still be joint heirs with God's dear Son, are deceived.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

They are denying the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- **2 Peter 1:9** *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

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Heb. 3:14

SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Salvation is **fellowship** with Christ John 17:3 and I John 1:5-7

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lost <u>without faith</u> Rom. 3:23 | Saved by Grace through faith Eph. 2:8-10 Beginning of faith. Heb. 3:14 Rom. 12:3 | Assurance of salvation By faith Heb. 10:22 I Jn. 5:13 | Live, walk and secure by <u>faith</u> Rom. 1:17, II Cor. 5:7, I Pet. 1:5 | Some do <u>lose</u> their <u>faith</u> . II Pet. 2:20-22 I Tim. 5:12 | Some have great faith Mt. 8:10, Mk. 11:22-24 | Receive the end of our faith when Christ comes. Heb. 3:14 I Pet. 1:9 I Pet. 1:13 |
| Life | | | | | | |
| Faith is tried from time of being born again to time of death or The coming of Christ - temptations, tribulations-sickness-persecution I Pet. 1:7 | | | | | | |
| God's will is for all to be saved through Jesus Christ Jn. 3:16 Eph. 1:3-5 II Pet. 3:9 Heb. 2:9 | Rom. 8:15 –waiting for the adoption to be completed -----Rom. 8:23 Gal. 4:5 | | | | | |
| | Rom. 2:1-16 Heb. 6:12 | | | | | |
| | Heb. 11:6 | | | | | |

| Faith = Heb. 11:1 | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Faith is believing in Jesus Christ, the son of God. | John 3:16 |
| 2. Faith is hearing the word of God | Rom. 10:17 |
| 3. Faith is continuing in God's Word | Jn. 8:31,32 |
| 4. Faith is overcoming the world | I Jn. 5: 1-5 |
| 5. Faith is living a holy life | Heb. 10:38 |
| 6. Faith is trusting in God's promises | Heb 11:20,21 |
| 7. Faith is obedience to God | Heb. 11:4, 7 |
| 8. Faith is security | Heb. I Pet. 1:5 |
| 9. Faith is proven by works | James 2:14-26 |
| 10. Faith is spiritual growth | Jn 6:27 |
| 11. Faith is suffering for the Lord | I Pet. 1:7 |
| 12. Faith is power | Mk. 11:22-26 |
| 13. Faith is witnessing | Phm. 1:6 |
| 14. Faith shows love for Christ | Gal. 5:6 |
| 15. Faith will be tried | I Pet. 1 7 |
| 16. Faith can be lost | I Tim. 5:12 |
| 17. Faith is the key to the kingdom of God | Acts 14:22 |

Chapter 3

TWO SIDED DOCTRINE

Calvinistic Propaganda

1. "The spirit of Arminianism is the spirit of modernism (Simmons, 1979, p.192)."
2. Arminian doctrine is venomously labeled "ungodly false doctrine (*The Baptist*, 1983, p.7)."
3. "Arminianism is the slickest lie the devil has ever invented...(Fuller, 1890, p. 193)."

The above quotes are taken from Calvinistic writings. Other like sources could be given. It is partially in response to such harsh and unchristian attacks as this that makes this expose necessary.

Strict "once in grace" advocates often attempt to give the deceptive impression that they are the only ones qualified to interpret the Bible. They try to make those who disagree with them seem ignorant of the scriptures and ridiculous for considering the doctrine of perseverance. They attempt to class those who differ with them as second-class Christians. They try to act as though God never gave Arminian Christians (who use the same Bible they do, and are just as born again as they are, and have just as much assurance as they do, and are filled with the Spirit and bought with the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ just like they are) enough intelligence to consider the scriptural context prayerfully and rightly divide "the word of truth." It is therefore the intention of this

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treatise to present without apology or timidity a rebuttal of a doctrine that is an erroneous interpretation of scripture. A doctrine this author is convinced causes backsliders who believe in "once in grace, always in grace" to have a false sense of security. Christians who believe in perseverance are not heretics or second-class. They are simply practicing and preaching what the Bible teaches about the doctrine of salvation. **ENDURANCE IS SOUND DOCTRINE!**

Favorite Proof Text

There is one text in the Bible this writer has encountered more than any other as a proof text for "once saved, always saved."

John 10:27-29 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Calvinists contend the words "eternal life" and "never perish" prove that salvation is unconditional. However, this is a perfect example of attempting to force the scriptures to fit into a scheme by dwelling on one text while ignoring others. **John 10:27-29** is, without controversy, one of the most beautiful promises of the Bible. It will strengthen and comfort every true child of God. God promises every loyal and faithful subject of the Lord Jesus Christ complete and total security. It does NOT, however, teach salvation is unconditional. Jesus never! ever! not once! anywhere in the Bible stated

that born-again people could live willfully disloyal, unfaithful, and wicked lives and be acceptable when He comes.

- **Hebrews 12:14** *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Comparing The Scriptures

In order to properly understand the Bible, it is important that all that is taught on a subject be prayerfully and carefully considered. Although every scripture on the subject at hand cannot be listed and explained here because of a lack of space, the evidence that is given should be sufficient to clarify the Biblical teaching about salvation.

The words "eternal life" and "never perish" DO NOT prove salvation is unconditional. In **Genesis 9:16**, God made an "everlasting covenant" with "all flesh."

- **Genesis 9:16** *And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.*

The word "everlasting" carries the same definition as eternal. Both terms mean never ending. If one considers only the ninth chapter of Genesis, this covenant seems to be unconditional; therefore, one might think man could not affect it in any way. Nevertheless, **Isaiah 24:5** plainly states that man has broken "the everlasting covenant."

- **Isaiah 24:5** *The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.*

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God did not fail. Men failed! God never promised that it was impossible for men to forfeit their part in the covenant of **Genesis 9:16**. This does not mean that God canceled His promise. Indeed, He is still honoring the everlasting covenant. However, those who broke the conditions of that covenant have forfeited their right to its blessings. Here is one of the momentous errors of those who teach unconditional security. To attribute to the most Holy God promises He did not make, and to fail to include the conditions the Bible clearly indicates concerning eternal life is most serious indeed.

This is readily illustrated by examining a simple verse in the book of James:

- **James 2:24** *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

If this verse were emphasized and others neglected one could possibly fall into the error of teaching justification by works. However, by comparing scriptures such as **Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 3:24, and Romans 5:1,**

- **Ephesians 2:8-10** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
- **Romans 3:24** *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*
- **Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

the Biblical teaching about justification is clarified. Men are justified by grace through faith, and works is evidence of a living faith. It is dangerous to accept a doctrine formulated from the Bible that

does not honestly seek to properly balance the teaching of all the scriptures.

John 10:27-29 Interpreted

John 10:27-29 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

If a coin is held perpendicular between two people, one will see the image displayed on one side, and the other will see the image displayed on the opposite side. Hypothetically, the two could have a great argument about how that coin should be described. This illustrates what happens when men argue from their own narrow point of view instead of taking into consideration the facts of **all** of the Word of God.

Salvation is a two-sided covenant, and it is the conviction of this Christian that Jesus promised eternal security to those who believe in Him as Saviour and are faithful to Him as LORD. He did not promise unconditional security to those who desert Him. Nevertheless, it is not necessary to belabor the point, because Jesus interpreted **John 10:27-29** and other like passages in a way to present both sides of the issue. Jesus plainly pointed out that salvation is conditional:

- **John 15:1-2** *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch **in me** that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he*

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purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
[Emphasis mine].

Verse six of that same chapter says:

- **John 15:6** *If a man abide not in me, **he is cast forth** as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.* [Emphasis mine]

The “my sheep” of **John 10:27-29** are the same as the “branches” of **John 15:1-6**.

- **John 15:1-6** *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

Two Groups

“Once in grace” advocates contend that a professing Christian who “falls away” was not truly saved. Such a teaching is obviously inconsistent. It is impossible for a person to fall away from faith he never possessed. That would be like saying a man fell out of an airplane he never boarded, or quit eating an apple he never tasted. It is true the Bible points out unconverted church members in such scriptures as **1 John 2:19** and **Jude 1:19**.

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- **1 John 2:19** *They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*
- **Jude 1:19** *These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*

However, the scriptures do not say these “fell away.” They simply left the church, and they never displayed the mark of a true Christian. They did not possess “the Spirit.”

In the book of Galatians, Paul clearly emphasized that his words were a warning to truly converted Christians.

- **Galatians 4:7** *Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Jesus was plainly referring to saved people who apostatized in **John 15:1-2**.

- **John 15:1-2** *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch **in me** that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. [Emphasis mine]*

Also, Jesus taught a person who is truly converted can BECOME unfruitful and be lost.

- **Matthew 13:22** *He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he **becometh** unfruitful. [Emphasis mine].*

Jude explains that there is a difference between those who only profess and live unrighteously and those who are truly converted, but backslide and are in danger of apostasy.

- **Jude 1:22-23** *And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

Failure to differentiate between these two groups throughout the Bible will lead to error.

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Calvinists teach that when a person is saved he receives eternal life and even if he is unfaithful he cannot lose his eternal life. This is contrary to the very nature of salvation.

1 John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

Eternal life is not a privately owned possession. It is not like a Christmas gift that God gives to the believer at conversion to do with as he pleases. Eternal life is IN JESUS CHRIST, and the right to the possession of eternal life is conditional to fellowship with the Son of God.

- **John 6:53** *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*

When a person is saved he receives eternal life BECAUSE he receives JESUS CHRIST. If a person TOTALLY breaks fellowship with JESUS CHRIST he stops receiving life.

- **1 John 1:6** *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

The truth is very obvious. Jesus promised eternal life to those who are converted and follow Him. However, those, even though they have been saved, ("every branch in me") if they desert Him ("abide not in me") forfeit their inheritance of eternal life. The warnings of God's Word on this subject are clear and cannot honestly be denied.

Hebrews 12:25 *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: [Emphasis mine]*

Don't be deceived! Heaven is made up of those who are "called and chosen and faithful".

- **Revelation 17:14** *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

There will be no deserters there.

Chapter 4

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

Rationalism

When the doctrine of perseverance is discussed, a certain type of illustration is often employed by “once in grace, always in grace” proponents:

Pastor: “This little boy sitting beside you is your son. Correct?”

Prospect: “Correct.”

Pastor: “Then nothing he could ever do could change the fact that he is your son, could it?”

Prospect: “No.”

Pastor: “We are God’s sons. We have been born into God’s family. Right?”

Prospect: “Right.”

Pastor: “Well then, if we are God’s Sons, nothing we can ever do can change that.”

This is typical of the type of rationalism employed to prove “once in grace” doctrine. Many Christians accept this type of logic, and because they often possess only a superficial understanding of the Bible, they fail to perceive the misapplication of such rationale.

The Son of God

The illustration above is logical, but it is

misapplied. It attempts to compare Christians to natural-born children of God. That is a mistake! God has but one, and only one, natural-born Son. The Lord Jesus Christ is God's ONLY Begotten Son [Emphasis mine].

- **John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.* [Emphasis mine]
- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* [Emphasis mine]
- **1 John 4:9** *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.* [Emphasis mine]

Now Jesus is God's Son like no one else is or ever can be. The reader needs to grasp this truth! Nothing Jesus could ever do would change the fact that HE IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. It is true that Christians are the sons of God,

- **1 John 3:1-2** *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

and they are joint heirs with Christ;

- **Romans 8:17** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

however, it should be obvious to everyone that Christians do not hold the same position as does Jesus Christ.

Sons of God

Men are ADOPTED into the Family of God. Now tell that to the average "once in grace" believer, and he will probably strongly disagree. He will probably insist he is BORN into God's Family. He may point out that adoption refers to Israel and to the Gentiles collectively. You see, Calvinists don't like this word adoption, and they usually don't say much about it. It is very true that adoption pertains to Israel.

- **Romans 9:4** *Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;*

It is true that the Gentiles were grafted in;

- **Romans 11:17** *"And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;*

however, any attempt to relegate the term "adoption" to only these groups in general is futile. Christians are adopted into the Family of God by being born spiritually.

Romans 8:15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

A person is saved when he is born again of the "water and the Spirit."

- **John 3:5** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

Incidentally, Jesus was speaking to Nichodemus, a Jew, when He spoke the message of the new birth.

Are men then to suppose that only Jews should be born again? No! The Bible says to all: "Ye must be born again."

Spiritual Adoption

A person is assured that he is born again when he receives the Holy Spirit of God. Besides being "the Comforter," the Holy Ghost is the following:

1. "The earnest of our inheritance"
 - **Ephesians 1:13-14** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*
2. God's seal of authentication
 - **Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
3. The agent of adoption
 - **Romans 8:15** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

To be one of God's children no matter a person's pedigree,

- **Romans 10:12** *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

an individual must be BORN AGAIN, and he must be ADOPTED. It is not only important who claims to be one of God's children, but it is equally important who God claims His children to be. Men claim to be God's children by claiming Jesus Christ as Saviour. God claims men by giving them His Holy Spirit.

An individual is born again by receiving the Holy Spirit of God. God adopts an individual by

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sending His Holy Ghost into a person's heart, hence being born again and being adopted is the same experience.

- **John 3:5** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

The fact that all individuals must be adopted to become true Christians and that the adoption will be complete when Jesus returns is the unquestionable testimony of the Word of God.

Romans 8:23 *“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”*

The apostle Paul, a Jew converted to Jesus Christ, stated that he and all creation was waiting for the adoption to be completed. Paul preached the same message to the Galatian Churches.

Galatians 4:4-6 *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

That which is true of Jewish converts is true of Gentile converts.

- **Ephesians 1:5** *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

There are definitely times in the Bible when Jews and Gentiles must be separated; however, this is not one of them. Men are begotten by the Holy Spirit into God's Family.

- **1 Corinthians 4:15** *For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.*
- **1 Peter 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
- **1 John 5:18** *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

Men are adopted by way of the spiritual birth.

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

Grace Is Not For Granted

The point must not be missed. Christians are sons of God, but they do not hold the position in Heaven that Jesus does. The Bible warns Christians NOT to take God's grace for granted.

- **Hebrews 2:3** *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

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The Bible repeatedly warns Christians of the danger of abusing God's grace. If God did not spare Israel, His chosen people, when they rebelled against Him, He will not tolerate backsliders who do the same things.

Romans 11:21 *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.*

In the Old Testament, a son that was incurably "stubborn" and "rebellious" was stoned to death.

Deuteronomy 21:18 *If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.*

In **Deuteronomy 21:18**, when loving parents had done all they could to correct their son by chastening him many times, and he still refused to be corrected, God commanded the parents to drag him to the gate of the city where he was to be stoned to death! These heartbroken parents did not do this to keep their son from falling from grace; they did it because he had gone too far. The same principle concerning God's children is given in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews. If a backslider

responds to God's loving chastisement, he is restored to fellowship.

- **Hebrews 12:7** *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

However, if he proves to be incurably rebellious, he is "rejected".

- **Hebrews 12:17** *For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

That "evil servant" will be cast into hell.

- **Matthew 24:48-51** *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Just as Esau sold his earthly birthright, it is possible for Christians to sell their heavenly birthright.

- **1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
- **Hebrews 12:15-16** *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.*

In 1912, the British built what many experts believed to be an unsinkable ship. The best expertise of the day was engineered into this magnificent sea liner. It was the largest sailing vessel in the world. Over 2,200 persons were aboard for her maiden voyage. The ship's crew sailed with complete confidence even though darkness fell and the dangers of the sea were well

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known. The ship's passengers were not concerned. The Titanic was "unsinkable." That night, on April 14th, the Titanic struck an iceberg. The world received the shocking report: over 1,400 of her unsuspecting passengers were lost.

Those who base their security in the Lord Jesus Christ, living faithfully to Him, are completely secure. Backsliders who believe the LORD will tolerate rebellion and will wink at sin because they have been "saved" are sailing under a false sense of security.

Sins Against Grace

1. Receive in Vain

- **2 Corinthians 6:1** *We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*

2. Frustrate

- **Galatians 2:21** *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

3. Fail of

- **Hebrews 12:15** *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

4. Fall from

- **Galatians 5:4** *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

5. Despise

- **Hebrews 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant,*

*wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing,
and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

To constantly claim that a Christian cannot commit these sins or to say God will not allow a saved person to backslide so far as to totally fall away is a stubborn refusal to believe the simple and clear language of the Word of God.

6. Turn to lust

- **Jude 1:4** *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

This is directed to false teachers; however, it applies to anyone saved or unsaved who try to use God's grace for an excuse to sin. Those who are believers and follow false teachers run the risk of turning aside from salvation by grace through faith.

Chapter 5 THE LORD'S SEAL

Not an Agent of Force

"Once in grace, always in grace" supporters attempt to prove their doctrine from yet a different standpoint by appealing to Bible verses that refer to the sealing of the believer. One of their favorite verses on this subject is found in the book of Ephesians.

- **Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

They declare with an air of confidence that the seal guarantees a no-fall salvation. To them, the Holy Spirit's seal is an iron curtain surrounding the Christian that will not permit even the most rebellious backslider to fall from grace and perish; however, this position is indefensible! A study of the usage of the word "sealed" in the Bible will reveal that the Holy Spirit is not an agent who will force Christians to remain in grace.

Sign to Confirm

A seal is a sign to confirm or authenticate a transaction.

Ephesians 1:13-14 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance*

Pastor Frank G. Noyes

until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

A person is sealed with God's Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion. In the above verses, the sealing of the believer by the Holy Spirit is called the "earnest of our inheritance." The word "earnest" means to give a token of a firm or serious intention. A person who purchases a house pays earnest money as a token of the intention to pay the full price at a later time. When a person receives the Holy Spirit, he knows he is truly saved. The word "seal" in this instance is somewhat like the seal of a notary public. A notary public seals a contract to confirm its authenticity. God authenticates a person's salvation experience by PLEDGING HIS SERIOUSNESS in the transaction by the seal of the Holy Spirit.

This proves four things:

1. To be saved is not just turning religious.
2. To be saved is not just an emotional experience.
3. To be saved is not using a psychological crutch.
4. Salvation is really of God.

A person who has received God's Holy Spirit has a "know-so salvation." He has Holy Spirit assurance.

The seal is a token of authentication; however, notice carefully the word "earnest" or "sealed" does not imply an unconditional agreement. A seal affixed to a contract does not guarantee one of the parties involved will not break the contract. Man has been sealed, but he is still obligated to the stipulations of the contract.

- **Hebrews 3:6** *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and*

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the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. [Emphasis mine]

A Mark of Ownership

A seal is a mark or symbol that proves ownership. When a person is saved, God marks that individual with His Holy Spirit.

- **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** *Now he which establisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

During the tribulation, God will seal the 144,000 Jews to mark them for identification purposes:

- **Revelation 7:1-9** *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed twelve*

thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand. After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

- **Revelation 9:4** *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

In the West, ranchers used to seal their cattle. Each calf was branded with a mark that identified the owner. A Christian is not sealed with a literal mark or brand, but he has received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's brand. The person who has truly been saved will manifest the evidences of salvation.

One morning, two men who did not know each other worked together in a factory. After a time, one asked the other, "Are you a Christian?" The other replied. "Yes, how did you know?" The first man replied, "You do not use profanity."

The evidences of salvation wrought by the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is God's mark or seal of ownership. It is what identifies a person as one of God's sons.

- **2 John 1:9** *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

Again, the word "seal" implies no unconditional guarantee. There is not a single verse in the Bible that says the Holy Spirit is God's padlock.

An Adhesion to Keep the Contents Pure

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter sent from God to keep the Christian pure.

- **Song of Solomon 4:12** *A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.*

The word "sealed" in this verse could be compared to the seal on a fruit jar. The seal on a fruit jar keeps the impurities out and the contents pure. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He is the Christian's strength.

- **1 John 4:4** *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

He will keep a person spiritually strong, morally pure, and intellectually clean. In other words, He will keep the impurities out and help the child of God to be "pure in heart."

This still does not guarantee an unconditional security. The Holy Spirit's ministry to the believer is completely on a voluntary basis. He can only lead the Christian as the Christian submits voluntarily to him. Even Calvinists agree that a person can still backslide in spite of the Holy Spirit's objections. The Holy Spirit will not force an individual to remain pure.

Evidence of Violation

A broken seal is positive evidence that a violation has been committed.

- **Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

“Once in grace” supporters confidently quote this verse as a promise to validate their doctrine of unconditional salvation. It is; however, in truth a warning that opposes their viewpoint. Notice, this verse is not written as a promise for believers to claim. This verse is a warning for Christians to heed.

Ephesians 4:30 *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. [Emphasis mine]*

A seal is placed on something not only to authenticate, to mark, and to keep pure; but it also serves the purpose of revealing a violation if one is committed. When a woman finds a jar on the shelf of a store and the seal is broken, the contents are judged as contaminated and no good. The Bible says it is possible to despise the Holy Spirit’s influence.

- **Hebrews 10:26** *For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

This sin can only be committed by a person who was once saved, “was sanctified”, and apostatized. He “counted the blood of the covenant...an unholy thing.”

- **Hebrews 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?[Emphasis mine].*

Ephesians 4:30 warns Christians not to risk this sin by continually “grieving” God’s Holy Spirit.

Unto the Day of Redemption

Christians are sealed “unto the day of redemption” at conversion. The Holy Spirit is sent to live in the Christian’s heart as God’s earnest until Jesus comes to consummate the covenant of redemption.

- **Romans 8:23** *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

This does not guarantee unconditional security. The Holy Ghost is God’s here and now proof that Jesus Christ will return to claim His people. However, the Holy Spirit’s seal can be violated and His influence quenched out of a believer’s life.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

If it were impossible for a person to fall from grace, there would be no need to instruct Christians to endure unto the end.

- **1 Peter 1:13** *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **hope to the end** for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; [Emphasis mine].*
- **Romans 2:7** *To them who by **patient continuance** in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: [Emphasis mine].*
- **Matthew 24:13** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

Many other verses emphasize this saving truth. The Holy Spirit is a heavenly companion for Christians until Jesus comes in person. Nevertheless, those who do not live faithfully to the LORD and extinguish the Holy Spirit’s influence out

of their life will not be accepted when Jesus returns.

- **Matthew 25:8** *And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*
- **Matthew 25:11-12** *Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*

FIVE SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Resist - (Unsaved)

- **Acts 7:51** *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

2. Grieve - (Backsliders)

- **Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

3. Quench - (Backsliders and Apostates)

- **1 Thessalonians 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

4. Despise - (Apostates)

- **Hebrews 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

5. Blasphemy (Unsaved and Apostates)

- **Matthew 12:31-37** *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever*

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speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

- **Mark 3:28-29** *Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*
- **Luke 12:10** *And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.*

Those who have completely quenched the Holy Spirit are apostates and fallen from grace.

Chapter 6

APOSTASY

It is important that the scriptures be interpreted honestly and without unnecessary bias. A strained interpretation is always a sign of error. Nevertheless, as one reads the comments on the scriptures that teach the possibility of “falling from grace” it becomes apparent that there is no end to the fanciful inventions with which Calvinist commentators have applied to these Bible texts to make them fit their own system of interpretation. Any “babe in Christ” who will honestly compare these commentator’s explanations to the Bible verses themselves should readily see that the “common sense” message has been ignored, and at best, a strained interpretation inserted in its place. The Bible is so pointed on this issue and scriptures so numerous that it should be clear to even the most reluctant reader that it IS possible to forfeit the gift of eternal life, fall away, and again become lost. Only a few scriptures will be quoted here, but it is hoped that enough scriptures will be examined that those who truly desire God’s truth will see it clearly.

“Fallen From Grace”

It should strike the thoughtful student of the Bible that there is not one verse in either the Old or New Testament that specifically states, “Ye cannot fall from grace.” However, there is a verse that emphatically states that it is possible to “fall from grace.”

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Galatians 5:4 *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. [Emphasis mine].*

The context will plainly reveal that Paul is warning the Galatian churches that if anyone, after being saved and delivered from condemnation by our Lord Jesus Christ, goes back to the law and depends on the law for salvation, that person is "fallen from grace." When a person, any person, depends on anything other than the shed blood of Jesus Christ for salvation, that person is lost. This is not speaking of one sin or even a dozen. God is a forgiving God. This is not speaking of mere backsliding. This is the end result of a confirmed backslider. This is apostasy! This is "doing despite unto the Spirit of grace."

- **Hebrews 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

It is receiving "the grace of God in vain."

- **2 Corinthians 6:1** *We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*

It is "frustrating" (cause to have no effect) God's grace.

- **Galatians 2:21** *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

The writer of Hebrews capsulizes:

- **Hebrews 12:14-16** *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any*

fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. [Emphasis mine]

“Once in grace” expositors try to change this common sense verse and the preponderance of evidence to say that “fallen from grace” means merely the “allowing of the law to prevent one from enjoying the full liberty of love.” (Willmington’s, p.750). Paul did not say “now you who turn back to the law are not going to have the liberty of love.” He could have said that, if that had been what he meant, but he didn’t. He said what he meant.

The Book of Life

Revelation 22:19 *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

This verse is extremely plain. It’s self explanatory, and Christians should be able to read it and just take it at face value. It says plainly that those who change God’s Word will be erased from heaven’s roll. However, nowhere is the inventive interpretations of “once in grace” theology more evident than those pertaining to this verse. The book of life mentioned here, they say, is not THE book of eternal life, but a different book of life. That’s nice for their theology, but not at all accurate. If **Revelation 22:19** does not refer to eternal life, the same could be said about **Revelation 3:5**.

- **Revelation 3:5** *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name*

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out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

IT IS OBVIOUS that both verses refer to eternal life. Besides, there is the matter of the holy city. Can a person's part be taken from a city where he has no part? When a person gets saved he has an inheritance in the holy city New Jerusalem. There is a place reserved just for him. Not only will God take away his part out of the book of life, but out of the holy city. Forgive this author's facetiousness, but next the Calvinists will tell us this is the "other" holy city. Surely it is quite clear. It IS possible to have one's name removed from THE book of eternal life!

Angels in Hell

2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

It may be possible to miss the point in one or two instances, but when God continues to emphasize a thing men had better heed the message. **2 Peter 2:4** is a verse that stresses the freewill of God's creatures. Are we to believe that God fumbled the ball by letting the angels slip from His hands? Are we to think it is possible to pluck angels from God's hands and not men? NO! God was not at fault, and this is no reflection on God's keeping power. He was sovereign THEN, and He is sovereign NOW. Are we to believe God did not love these angels enough to keep them? NOT SO! The truth is God would have kept these angels if they

had wanted to be kept. No power could have removed them out of God's protective hand,

- **John 10:29** *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

but they WILLFULLY rejected God's loving protection. People who try to use **Romans 8:36-39** to prove the impossibility of falling from grace need to understand these angels fell in spite of God's love for them.

- **Romans 8:36-39** *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, 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 from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

No one plucked them from God's hand. No power could do that, but they foolishly CHOSE to turn away from God's will.

- **Jude 1:6** *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

They sinned! They fell from grace! "Once in grace" writers attempt to make this whole passage apply to false teachers and unsaved, although professing, Christians. The truth is that false teachers can lead carnal and unwary Christians into sin and even influence them to apostatize. It was the devil, the father of all false teachers, who led these once holy angels into sin and caused them to fall.

- **2 Peter 2:18** *For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh,*

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through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

This verse says these people were “clean escaped.” Verse 20 proclaims they had “...escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...”

- **2 Peter 2:20** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

The word “knowledge” is used many places in the New Testament to reveal growth of a true believer:

- **2 Corinthians 2:14** *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place.*
- **Colossians 3:10** *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*
- **1 Timothy 2:4** *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*
- **2 Peter 1:5** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*
- **2 Peter 3:18** *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

There is only one way to “escape the pollutions of the world.” It cannot be done by mere profession or self reformation. It can only be accomplished by being washed in the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 6:11** *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*
- **Revelation 1:5** *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

Christians who do not grow in the LORD become spiritually stagnant.

- **2 Peter 1:9** *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

They are vulnerable to cults and false teachers.

- **2 Peter 2:3-19** *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds); The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it*

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pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: a heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbade the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest: to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

They become "entangled" or backslide.

- **2 Peter 2:20** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

It would have been better if they had never been saved:

2 Peter 2:20-22 *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his*

own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Heavenly angels fell and SO CAN MEN. The same loving God who judged fallen angels will judge fallen Christians.

Crucifying Christ – Again

Hebrews 6:4-6 *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. [Emphasis mine]*

“Once in grace” writers try to deny the inescapable message of these verses. They try to make it appear that a person can have all of the attributes these verses describe and still not be saved. Thus, they apply this text to professing, but unsaved, Christians. Some attempt to make this only hypothetical, others try to twist it into saying it is impossible for a true Christian to fall. All try to manipulate it to fit the “once in grace, always in grace” system of theology.

Anyone who will honestly seek to know “thus saith the Lord” and not “thus interpreteth man” can easily see the meaning of these verses. There is no need to invent bizarre interpretations or attempt to force an unnatural meaning upon Bible truth. These verses simply declare that it is impossible for someone who was once saved, but then COMPLETELY apostatizes, to be saved again.

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Any one of these characteristics would indicate salvation. All of them together provide indisputable proof:

1. "Once enlightened."

- **Ephesians 1:18** *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*
- **Hebrews 10:32** *But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;*
- **Psalms 19:8** *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

These verses reveal this term is applied to saved people.

2. "Tasted of the heavenly gift."

Salvation is the gift of God.

- **Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

3. "Made partakers of the Holy Ghost."

A person receives the Holy Spirit upon conversion.

- **Acts 2:38-39** *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our*

inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Some have tried to make the word "partake" apply to the Holy Spirit's conviction of a lost man. However, this is futile for such scriptures as the following reveal that to "partake" means to be saved.

- **1 Corinthians 10:17** *For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.*
- **Ephesians 3:6** *That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*
- **Hebrews 3:1** *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*
- **Hebrews 3:14** *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;*
- **Hebrews 12:8** *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

These verses make it clear that only Christians "partake" of the Lord's Holy Spirit.

4. "Tasted the good Word of God."

Certainly an unsaved person can read the Bible. However, he cannot taste it in a spiritual sense. That can only be done by saved people:

- **James 1:21** *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*
- **1 Corinthians 2:14** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

5. "The power of the world to come."

No unsaved person can claim this blessing. This is for saved people only:

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- **John 1:12** *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:*
- **Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
- **Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
- **1 Peter 1:5** *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

There is no doubt it is possible to fall from grace. God will not fail men, just as He did not fail the angels who fell, but it is possible for Christians to forfeit their birthright. God will forgive backsliders, but He will not tolerate “despite” unto His blessed Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:29-30 *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.[Emphasis mine]*

Now here is the proof of the pudding. This verse declares that it is possible for a person who was once saved to backslide to such depths that he would commit the unpardonable sin. This cannot be applied to unbelievers who only make an intellectual profession. These were SANCTIFIED by the blood of JESUS CHRIST. The term “sanctified” is

used in one place referring to children being sanctified;

- **1 Corinthians 7:14** *For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.*

however, this is not of salvation. This is alluding to children of an unsaved person being clean because of the saved mate. ONLY born-again Christians are sanctified by Christ's precious blood. This cannot apply to Jews only. This applies to anyone saved in THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE. Converted Jews or Gentiles who do "despite unto the Spirit of grace" are apostate! Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost

- **Acts 5:3** *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*

They agreed (premeditatedly and willfully despised the pleadings and warnings of God's Holy Spirit of grace in their hearts) to try to "tempt the Spirit of the Lord."

- **Acts 5:9** *Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.*

God did not strike them dead to keep them from falling from grace. He killed them because they had backslidden to such a disgraceful depth that they did not FEAR to lie to the apostles, lie to the church, and even lie to God Himself. THEY WERE FALLEN FROM GRACE!

One example of a modern day apostate

Charles Templeton is an example of a person who professed salvation in Jesus Christ. He served the Lord by being a Christian, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was a successful pastor and evangelist in that souls were saved under his ministry. He helped start Youth for Christ in 1946. He partnered with Billy Graham in preaching evangelistic services in western Europe. Templeton began to struggle with his faith in Jesus Christ and the Bible (he backslid). After a period of time he announced he had become an agnostic. He lost his faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour and gave up his faith in the Bible. Templeton even wrote a book entitled FAREWELL TO GOD. He never returned to the Lord (He quenched the Spirit and spiritually died). He did not just backslide he apostatized (He crucified to himself the Son of God afresh). This author cannot say that Templeton was truly saved nor can those who believe "once in grace always in grace" say that he was not ever saved. However the evidence that he was at one time a true believer in Jesus Christ far outweighs the evidence that he was never saved. He was more than just a professing Christian. He won souls to Jesus. The fact is he professed to believe in Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He bore fruit by living for Christ, preaching the gospel and leading people to faith in Jesus Christ. He even renounced his salvation in Jesus Christ. By announcing that he was an agnostic, after believing in Jesus Christ, he rejected the blood of Christ for his sanctification and did "despite to the Spirit of grace." He turned completely back to the world after knowing the

Lord. That according to God's Word is the definition of an apostate (See Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:28,29 along with II Peter 2:20). Let every true believer be strong in the faith and guard against the possibility of turning back to the world.

1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

1Pe 1:13-16 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

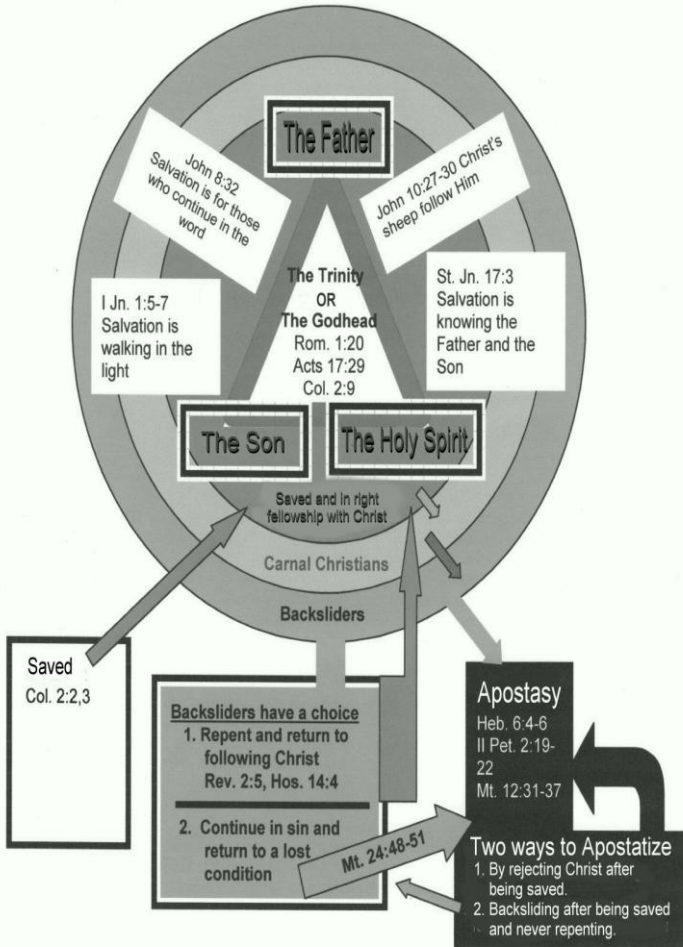
There is no need for a child of God to backslide and even become an apostate. Jesus is able to keep those who trust in Him, but apostasy is possible and it does happen. If a Christian insists on going back to the world and not believing the Word of God it is not God's fault if he "fails the grace of God."

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CHART ON APOSTASY

Jonn 15:2,6
 Heb. 6:4-6, 10:25-29
 II Pet. 2:20-22
 II Thes. 2:3
 Jude 1:6, Rev. 22:19

God's promises are for those who are faithful, I Cor. Rev. 17:14
 I Peter 1:1-25 "...hope to the end..."
 Rom. 8:1-39 **God keeps those who ... "walk after the Spirit"**



Chapter 7

ETERNAL LIFE IS FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON

Salvation Is Not a Christmas Gift

When people who believe in unconditional security speak of salvation, they speak as though Jesus gives eternal life to those who are saved as a personal possession that they own, separate and apart from Christ. They speak as though eternal life is a gift such as a Christmas present. In their understanding the person saved can keep the gift unconditionally as one would keep a Christmas gift. According to this line of reasoning, a person can go to heaven in complete rebellion against God's will. Eternal life belongs to him and it can never be lost for any reason. If he chooses to live a holy life for Jesus Christ, that is good, but if he chooses to live a life of sin, the gift of eternal life is his unconditionally. Some even go so far as to preach that a believer cannot be lost again even if he intentionally wanted to be. This author on more than one occasion has heard a "once saved always saved" preacher teach that a person "once saved could not lose his salvation even if he tried." This is a completely bogus and nonsensical statement with no scriptural foundation, and it is an example of the kind of false logic "once in grace" people often use to try to promote their doctrine.

Jesus Defined Eternal Life

In any discussion where there is a difference of opinion, it is important to define the terms. "Once saved always saved" teaching displays a lack of understanding about Jesus' own definition of eternal life. Jesus taught that eternal life is a matter of **fellowship** with the Father and the Son.

- **John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might **know** thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [Emphasis mine]*

This is an extremely important statement. It is where Jesus defined eternal life. Notice, Jesus said to be saved is to KNOW the Father and the Son. Jesus did not say that eternal life is like a Christmas gift that the Christian can treat or mistreat according to his preference. Jesus taught that eternal life is a matter of knowing the Father and the Son. This is the same word, and carries the same sense of the word "knew" that is used to describe Joseph's relationship with Mary.

- **Matthew 1:25** *And **knew** her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS). [Emphasis mine]*

It is obvious with this verse and other Scriptures in the Bible that when used in regard to Husband and wife, the word means "intimate fellowship." When used about knowing the LORD it is a matter of close spiritual FELLOWSHIP. Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary defines fellowship as "communion;" therefore, it is clear that eternal life is spiritual communion with Jesus Christ. This is confirmed in the following verses:

- **1 Corinthians 1:9** *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the **fellowship** of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. [Emphasis mine]*

- **Ephesians 3:9** *And to make all men see what is the **fellowship** of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:[Emphasis mine]*
- **Phillipians 2:1** *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **fellowship** of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, [Emphasis mine]*
- **1 John 1:3** *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have **fellowship** with us: and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. [Emphasis mine]*

Jesus Christ does not fellowship with those who live a life of sin.

- **1 John 1:5-7** *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have **fellowship** with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. [Emphasis mine]*

A Person Who is Unfaithful to Christ and Lives in Habitual Sin Without Repentance Cannot Keep Eternal Life in Christ

Salvation is based on fellowship with Jesus Christ. Eternal life does not reside in the believer as a possession apart from fellowship with the Son of God. If that were true, the believer could impart eternal life to another person of his choosing. Jesus said eternal life resides in Him and the Father.

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- **John 17:2** *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*[Emphasis mine]

The believer's eternal life flows from Jesus Christ to the believer based on the believer's communion, presence of the Holy Spirit, or fellowship with the LORD. The Bible does not teach that a person can live a life of habitual sin and break fellowship with Christ and the Father and keep the gift of salvation. Christians are called to live holy lives. Christians cannot live a life of sin and continue in God's Word.

- **John 8:31** *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;* [Emphasis mine]

A person cannot abide in Christ and live in sin.

- **John 8:34-35** *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

Sin causes people to break fellowship with the LORD:

- **James 1:15** *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*
- **Isaiah 59:2** *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*
- **2 Chronicles 15:2** *And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.*
- **2 Timothy 2:12** *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

The Apostle Peter stated that people can and do forget their fellowship with Christ.

- **2 Peter 1:9-10** *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was*

purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: [Emphasis mine]

It Is Possible to Break Fellowship

Eternal life is received through fellowship. People who are born again and walk in fellowship with Jesus Christ receive eternal life from Jesus Christ because they are in communion with Christ. Eternal life is not a Christmas gift that belongs to people who once saved can take it and be unfaithful to Christ. It is possible for fellowship to be broken. A person who has been saved can completely turn away from Christ and turn back to the world and be lost.

Matthew 24:48-51 *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

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1. Walking in fellowship with Jesus and the Father.

I John 1:5-7

2. Faith diminishes and the person comes to a backslidden state of sin and unbelief. (Either repents and turns back to Christ or refuses to repent and turns away from Christ.)

I John 1:9 or Matthew 24:49-49

3. Turns away from Christ into apostasy.

Matthew 24:50-51



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Salvation is a personal possession received at the point of conversion. The believer in Christ has eternal security, but his eternal security comes from him abiding in Christ and is conditional on his fellowship with Christ. A person who completely severs his relationship with Christ and turns completely back to the world by living in ungodliness, without repentance, no longer walks with Christ: therefore, that person has fallen away.

- **Philippians 3:18-19** *{For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.*

Some will say these were never saved. That was not the case with Demas who left Paul and the ministry for the world. "Once in grace, always in grace" may appeal to people, but it just is not Biblical. Salvation is conditional, and it is based on continued fellowship with Christ. Any person who claims to be in Christ and walks in the world is a liar.

- **1 John 2:4** *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

Bill was an alcoholic. He hardly saw a sober day. One night, some believers went to visit this poor, drunken man. After they witnessed to Bill, he gave his heart to the LORD and was gloriously saved. He repented of his sins. He poured all his booze out and threw the bottles away. Shortly after he was saved, Bill was baptized and became a faithful Christian. His life was miraculously changed, and that old sinner lived and testified of his wonderful life in Christ. Bill's life became a blessing and an encouragement to his church. Bill refused to allow his old drinking buddies to

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influence him back into the old life, and they could see the joy in his life. Then, a sad thing happened. Bill received some bad news. A close family member had died. He became depressed and sad. Bill began to change. His church attendance became sporadic, and he seemed to lose much of his joy. Due to his sadness, Bill began to drink again. He continued to be in church for a time, but it was obvious he was drinking. Several people in the church tried to encourage him and help him not to backslide into the old life. The whole church was saddened and prayed for Bill. Finally, he went back to being a drunkard. He ran with the old crowd again, and he completely stopped being in church. It was a sad and heartbreaking thing to see. It always is, but it does happen.

As far as this author knows, Bill never repented of his backsliding. There are those who say Bill was never saved. It is not right to tell a person, "You are saved because you believe in Jesus Christ," and then when he turns back to sin to say, "Whoops, you were never saved." That is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that salvation is conditional. Backsliding into apostasy is not easy. A person has to turn away from Christ to the world. This is an unhappy truth and it is extremely sad to observe, but the possibility is warned about in the scriptures, and it does happen.

- **1 John 5:16-17** *If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.* [Emphasis mine]

The warnings are not there so it will happen, but to keep people from sinning unto death.

- **Jude 21-23** *Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Christians Are Warned Not To Think They Can Live A Life Of Sin

- **2 Peter 2:22** *But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*
- **Hebrews 3:14** *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; [Emphasis mine]*

According to Jesus' definition of eternal life, a person is saved by fellowship with the Father and the Son. If a person is unfaithful and breaks that fellowship, that person does not have eternal life, because the fellowship is broken.

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THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Heb. 3:14

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saved by Grace (Jn. 5:24) through faith (if ye keep in memory (I Cor. 15:2) In fellowship with Jesus Christ (Every branch in me) Jn. 15:1-11 I Pet. 1:22,23 Eph. 1:13,14 I Jn. 3:1-3 I Jn. 3:4-10 | Eternal life is fellowship with Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:3, I Jn. 1:5-7, 2:24, 5:12,13, Jn 5:26) | | | | | Those who lived faithfully for Jesus Christ (Rev. 17:14 Mt 25:21) |
| | Mt. 7:13,14 Enter the strait gate (Jesus Christ) and walk the narrow way (a holy life) | | | | | |
| | Jn. 10:25-30 <i>My sheep hear my voiceand they follow me:</i> Rom. 8:1, 31-39 | | | | | |
| | I Pet. 1:13-21 <i>live the time of your sojourning here in fear</i> | | | | | |
| | Rom. 2:6-10 <i>patient continuance in well doing</i> | | | | | |
| When peope are saved they live a holy life by living in the Spirit (Rom. 8:13,14, Mt. 10:37-39, I Pet. 2:9, I Jn. 3:24) | Promises. (Jn. 10:27-30, Rom. 8:35-39, Heb. 8:13,14, Mt. 10:37-39, I Pet. 2:9, I Jn. 3:24) | Warnings (Mt. 5:13, 10:33, 24:45-51, I Cor. 9:27, 10:12, II Jn. 1:9, Rev. 22:19) | Some people backslide but repent and continue living for Christ (Jude 22,23) | Ways people lose faith, fall from Grace, quit church (Heb. 10:25) (Gal. 5:4, Luke 8:13), break fellowship with Christ, and are lost after being saved. (II Pet. 2:4, Heb. 3:12 Jn. 15:6, Luke 9:62) | Are those who continue in faith [fellowship with Jesus Christ] (Jn. 8:31) and endure to the end are saved. Mt. 10:22 (I Pet. 3:5-13, Heb. 10:39, 12:14, Jn. 5:28,29) | |
| Some people backslide (entangled) into sin, and do not repent (forsake their sin) , and are overcome (II Pet. 2:20) Become impossible to renew to repentance (Heb. 6:4-6) | | | | | | Some people turn back to the world or are misled by false doctrine, and false teachers (I Tim. 4:1, II Pet. 2:18-22, Rev. 22:18,19) and blaspheme the Holy Spirit (I Tim. 4:1 Heb. 10:29) |
| Be not deceived... (Eph: 5:3-6 I Cor. 6:9,10 Gal. 6:19-21) Heb. 10:38, | | | | | | Mark 9:42-50 Rev. 21:11-15 |
| Those who profess to be born again, but have no fellowship with Christ (Mt. 7:21-27) | | | | | | |
| Life | | | | | | |
| Lost without faith Rom. 3:23, Eph. 2:12 Heb. 11:6 | | | | | | |

Chapter 8

A BIAS EXPLANATION OF SCRIPTURE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

There are warnings in Scripture of severe Judgment on anyone who misrepresents the true teaching of God's Holy Word. Anyone who misinterprets the Bible to make it fit their own view is in deep trouble indeed. Christians need to seek the unadulterated truth when interpreting the Word of God. It is a grievous sin to try to make the teachings of the Bible fit into a particular doctrine.

- **2 Peter 3:16** *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*
- **2 Corinthians 2:17** *For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*

When the Bible gives a clear and definite warning of the possibility of a Christian turning back into the world and being lost, it is wrong to try to change the meaning of that text. It is important to face every Scripture with an honest attempt to discern the true interpretation of the precious Holy Spirit. **Christians must not interpret the Bible to fit their belief system; rather, the Christian must, through study and prayer, form his belief system from Biblical truth.** To refuse to examine one's beliefs according to the Bible with anything less than complete honesty is dangerous.

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There is a tendency in the writings and teachings of "once saved, always saved" proponents to minimize verses that obviously do not fit their doctrine and give them an interpretation that changes their honest and strait-forward meaning. These attempts betray their unwillingness to interpret the Bible with complete honesty in regard to the matter of the correct Biblical teaching of conditional security. Their attempts to reconcile verses that obviously teach conditional security and make them fit into the "once saved, always saved" theology is often extreme and, in some instances, ridiculous.

Just a few examples of such twisting of scriptures will be given here to allow the reader to judge for him or herself the unscriptural interpretations placed on verses by those who teach unconditional security to reconcile them to their doctrine. Such writers often attempt to slant even the context to make a certain teaching accommodate their prejudice. Often, they attempt to give the impression that any interpretation that disagrees with theirs is one of ignorance. Their arguments often stand on illustrations and logic of their choosing rather than the honest exegesis of Scripture. Illustrations are very good to help if the illustrations are used to complement the truth; however, illustrations can be used to promote a distorted teaching no matter how sincere the perpetrator may be. Christians need to base their faith on the honest, straightforward teaching of the very Word of God, and not on illustrations. If a person honestly, diligently, and sincerely bases his faith on all the Bible says about a particular subject, he need not fear being judged a deceiver.

- **Romans 3:4** *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*

There are verses that adherents to the “once saved, always saved” persuasion cannot interpret with a straightforward and obvious meaning and still be consistent with their doctrine. In his book *Eternal Security*, Dr. Charles Stanley gives the book of Hebrews an elaborate explanation to validate that the context of the entire book is Jewish. He concludes that the verses that do not support the doctrine of eternal security are not teaching conditional security but are only warning Hebrew Christians to not return to the Jewish faith. In his view, if the Hebrew Christians do return to the Jewish religion, they will not lose their salvation. Consequently, they will only turn back to the old life style of being Jewish. He states the following:

“If one takes seriously the original context of the writer's statements, it is clear that this solemn warning in no way threatens the security of the believer, Actually, it is evidence for the believer's security. If a Jew who was awaiting the coming of the Messiah, could find salvation through Christ and then walk away from Him without the threat of losing his or her salvation, what do the rest of us have to fear... For a Jew to come face-to-face with the claims of Christ and to accept them for a while and then walk away seems unforgivable. But our ways are not his ways-- and it's a good thing

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they aren't! The writer of Hebrews offers a serious warning. It is a dangerous thing for a believer to turn his back on Christ. To do so is to run the risk of drifting beyond the point of return--not a return to salvation, but a return to fellowship with the Savior." (Stanley, 2002, p.169-170).

According to Dr. Charles Stanley, a person who turns away from Christ does not have to fear losing his salvation. He only has to fear chastisement and knowing that "...God is not fond of quitters". (Stanley, 2002, p.177).

Notice Dr. Stanley seems to define eternal life as a gift that is given to the Christian as a possession of his own. According to his view, once it is given, it becomes the sole possession of the receiver. According to his logic, a Christian does not have to continue to have faith to continue to be saved. He makes this revealing statement, "God does not require a constant attitude of faith in order to be saved – only an act of faith." (Stanley, 2002, p.77). Surely, he did not say that. Does he really teach that? But there it is in print. It is not taken out of context. It is what he said. With not one verse to support his statement, he teaches once a person is saved he does not have to continue to have faith. Even if he loses his faith in Christ, he is still saved. He illustrates this statement with a flimsy illustration of a woman being saved from a fire. This is a preposterous statement. There is not one verse in the whole Bible that says that. This type of reasoning is outlandish when compared to what the apostle John taught.

- **1 John 2:4** *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

How about what Jesus said?

- **John 8:31** *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue** in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; [Emphasis mine]*

This author has witnessed too many people who believe that because they professed faith in Jesus Christ at some point in their life, it is not necessary to continue to have faith and live faithfully for Christ. They believe salvation is for anyone who says that they are saved. That is what this kind of teaching promotes. Take note of this quote taken from the internet as evidence that this teaching is common among those who believe in unconditional security. A blogger from the Reformed Baptist Church makes this preposterous statement in an online survey titled "Survey Question: Why Are Teens Leaving the 'Church'?":

"I am talking about the young, "postmodern" generation in **your** [sic] church. Let me also define "church" as the local, organized, membership that makes up your congregation. Theologically speaking, anyone who is a part of God's Universal Church can never leave it (Perseverance of the Saints and / or Eternal Security). These are professing Christian teens who have stopped attending any local gathering that we would view as theologically orthodox. (Fields, 2006 Aug. 28).

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This author understands that many who profess salvation are not saved, but to infer that people are saved or can remain saved and leave the faith forever and not repent and still be saved is incredible.

The true Biblical teaching about eternal life is that it comes from God. It is obtained when a person comes into fellowship with Jesus Christ by accepting Him as his Saviour. It continues because a person continues in fellowship with the Father and the Son. The quote by Fields does not explain eternal life as depending on fellowship with the Father and the Son as is taught in **John 17:3**.

- **John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know [fellowship] thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Eternal life or salvation resides in God and comes from God the Father and God the Son. If that fellowship is completely broken, as many Scriptures state is a possibility, then the person who breaks fellowship with the LORD no longer has eternal life. That is the teaching of all the Scriptures; hence, Jesus said in **John 15:1-2**.

- **John 15:1-2** *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in [fellowship with] me that beareth not fruit [breaks fellowship] he taketh away: and every branch that [fellowships in Christ] beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit). [Emphasis mine].*

The meaning is clear. When someone breaks fellowship with Jesus Christ, they are no longer in Christ; and they no longer have eternal life, because eternal life depends on fellowship with the Father and the Son. The meaning is straight-forward. Jesus made it very clear, and there is no need to muddy the issue with fanciful

interpretations and ridiculous explanations. God is not just "not fond of quitters" He casts them into eternal fire.

- **John 15:6** *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

Jesus illustrated His point by comparing those who quit with branches cast into a fire. Jesus used His illustrations to teach truth, not to give a biased view.

Dr. Stanley skews the context of the book of Hebrews; and by subtle explanations and interpretations, leads people to believe the very warnings the LORD has placed in the Bible to prove conditional security are, in actuality, proofs for unconditional security. This is like telling people a sign that says, "Danger, bridge out," only means it is out of order. You do not have to fear that you could actually die. The context of the book of Hebrews is no more Jewish than the book of Matthew or the book of James. Both have a strong Jewish flavor, but both are Christian books and the truths in them apply to all Christians.

Pastor Stanley exemplifies the type of prejudicial logic that "once saved, always saved" theologians are compelled to apply to the warnings of Scripture in order to slant the Bible toward unconditional security:

- **Hebrews 2:1-3** *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began*

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to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

- **Hebrews 6:4-6** *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*
- **Hebrews 10:26-31** *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

What is so preposterous in the statement from his book as summarized above is that he goes so far as to teach that these very warnings are not meant to teach conditional security, but he actually uses them to promote unconditional security. In other words, readers are not to understand the obvious meaning of these verses, but are to believe, in a sort of esoteric, involved explanation, dependent on his personal rationale.

It would seem logical that after a while, people of the "once in grace" position would tire of denying the plain interpretation of Scripture and defending

their doctrine by saying, "Well, **Galatians 5:4** does not mean that if a person, after being saved who then goes back to the law or depends on anything other than the blood of Jesus Christ for righteousness is lost."

- **Galatians 5:4** *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

How hard it must be for sincere people who love the LORD to constantly say, "that

1 Corinthians 9:27 doesn't really mean that a person could lose his salvation." Really?

- **1 Corinthians 9:27** *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

On and on this line of argument could go, for there's an overwhelming number of warnings in God's Holy Bible that warn of the possibility of a person turning back to the world once having been saved and then being lost. That is just the honest straightforward teaching of all of Scripture. This writer has encountered many people who seem to believe that believing all the Bible teaches about salvation is somehow teaching salvation by works, or not having assurance of salvation, or somehow not being loyal to Jesus Christ. All these things are wrong. It is a Christian's mission to trust the very Word of God, believe it, love it, and live by it. Christians who are truly born-again are not teaching salvation by works when they just simply believe it is possible for a person who apostatizes (turns completely away from Christ) will not go to Heaven. That is what the Bible says. It says it without apology or hesitation, and it declares it

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over and over. It says that when a person believes on Jesus Christ he or she is saved.

- **Acts 16:31** *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

The Bible says that when a person gets saved and is in fellowship with the Father and the Son, he has assurance of his salvation.

- **Hebrews 10:22** *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.).*

The same Bible says if a person is not faithful to Christ, he will not go to Heaven.

Matthew 24: 48-51 *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Oh! Someone may say, "That does not mean a person can lose their salvation!" Really? It would seem to this author, who has spent most of his life studying the Bible, that when including the context, that is exactly what it does mean. Those who compromise the very Word of God and do not teach it in its entirety and do not teach the clear warnings of Scripture will be responsible for the souls they lead astray.

- **Ezekiel 33:8** *When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn*

the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Saved people who are in fellowship with Jesus Christ do not die in their iniquity. They are in Christ. They are in fellowship with the Father and the Son. They live faithfully for the LORD. Those who completely break fellowship by not abiding in Christ die in their iniquity, and they do not go to Heaven!

THE WARNINGS OF SCRIPTURE ABOUT FALLING FROM GRACE, OR NOT ABIDING IN CHRIST, ARE SO NUMEROUS THAT THERE WILL BE NO EXCUSE FOR THOSE WHO IGNORE THEM.

Chapter 9

WORDS THAT MEAN WHAT THEY MEAN

Words have meaning. It is said that Winston Churchill, the great statesman who was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II, would struggle over a single word in one of his speeches for hours. He knew the value of communication, and he knew the importance of conveying, by words, the exact message he intended his countrymen to hear from him.

There are words in the Bible that convey a clear, concise, and exact message. This is true when it comes to the doctrine of perseverance. The Bible teaches that people are saved by the grace of God. They are saved because they accept Jesus Christ by faith, and give their life to Him. This is the very heart of the gospel message.

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-2** *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, **if** ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.* [Emphasis mine]

The Apostle Paul taught a person is saved **IF** he “keep(s) in memory” Paul’s preaching of Jesus Christ. A person who does not “keep in memory” Paul’s teaching has “believed in vain” because he no longer has faith. The wording of Scripture clearly indicates that if a person leaves the faith of Jesus Christ, that person is no longer in fellowship with Christ, therefore; is no longer saved. That is not teaching works, as some would slanderously

charge, but it is simply teaching truth that is completely consistent with Biblical doctrine.

When Jesus taught about bearing fruit, he stated:

- **John 15:5-6** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*
- **John 15:2** *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

No person can remain in Christ and not bear fruit.

Jesus stated that to not abide in Him is to be lost. The only way a person cannot abide in Christ is to leave the faith. A person who has never been saved has never been in Christ. The word "abide" means "to stay or to continue." The meaning is clear. A person who does not stay in Christ will be lost. This is the obvious and correct meaning of Jesus' Words.

The word "castaway" was used by the Apostle Paul to show that after a person has been a minister and preached to others, it is still possible to turn back to the world and be lost.

- **1 Corinthians 9:27** *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

To cast something away means "to discard it" or, literally, "to throw it away" because it is no longer desirable. The clear meaning is that Paul was vigilant to be sure that he lived a faithful life for Christ. As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, he did not allow himself to be overcome by

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anything that would pull him away from Christ and cause him to be rejected. Judas was one of the original twelve apostles, but he became a thief and a traitor to Christ. He was an apostate minister. He was a castaway. Demas was a fellow minister with the Apostle Paul.

- **Philemon 1:24** *Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.*

Nevertheless, we are told later, Demas deserted the ministry for the world.

- **2 Timothy 4:10** *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

Demas is never mentioned again. He evidently had become an apostate. There is no evidence to support explanations that try to soften the warnings of the possibility of leaving the faith of Jesus Christ and being lost. Words have meanings and must not be twisted.

1 Corinthians 8:11 *And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*

If the “once saved, always saved” doctrine is accurate, why would the precious Holy Spirit use the word “perish” in this instance? The word “perish” means “to destroy.” This cannot be speaking of just physical death. All men die the physical death whether they are saved or lost. This is a person for whom Christ died. The word “perish” means that a person can die spiritually and perish in the lake of fire, which is the second death. In **1 Corinthians 8:11**, Paul is teaching about the danger of a Christian doing something that would cause a weaker Christian to become offended, turn away from the faith of Christ, and

therefore be lost. Now, if a person holds to the "once saved, always saved" persuasion, it is not possible to allow the word "perish" to mean "perish." There must be an elaborate explanation to make it fit that doctrine; however, if a person holds to the conditional security doctrine then the word "perish" is allowed to stand on its own, and it means "perish." This is the honest, straightforward explanation, or interpretation, of this verse. Those who are saved and believe in the Biblical doctrine of being faithful to the LORD know this is a warning, to be mindful of the possibility of causing some weak Christian to turn from the faith and be lost. There is more:

- **Romans 14:15** *But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.*
- **1 Corinthians 8:12-13** *But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.*

The warning is abundantly apparent, and there is no grounds to change the word "perish" to mean something less than it means. The word "destroy" further strengthens the message. Paul is not just concerned about a believer's conscience being wounded, or that he would be hurt. He is talking about destruction. Must there be an in-depth explanation of this word also in order to preserve the doctrine of eternal security at all costs, or is it possible to just believe what the Bible says?

Calvinist also change the word "peripipto" which is the Greek word for "apostasy" or "fall

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away" so it will fit neatly into their doctrine. According to W. E. Vine, the word means "to fall in one's way (*para*, by)," signifies to fall away (from adherence to the realities and facts of the faith). (Vine, 2000, p. 74).

- **Hebrews 6:6** *If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

Calvinists try to make this term "fall away" mean something less than turning back away from Christ and being lost. Some say this and some say that. Even their own apologists cannot agree on the meaning of **Hebrews 6:4-6**,

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

but they all agree it cannot possibly mean a person who was saved turned back and rejected Christ. It is important to face the scriptures with complete honesty. If it is possible for a child of God to lose his faith in Christ and turn back to the devil, it is better to know that and guard against that possibility than to deny it. As this author's spouse has often so aptly stated, "Why take the chance?"

One last example is important; in **Romans 11**, Paul taught about the position of the Jews and Gentiles in God's plan of salvation. He points out that the Jews, except for the remnant, have been broken off because of their unbelief.

- **Romans 11:17** *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;*

Then, there is a warning for Gentile Christians not to boast of their position in Christ for they too could be lost because of unbelief.

- **Romans 11:21-22** *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

Well, there it is. The two little words "cut off." What shall be done with these two words? The warning is to non-Jewish Christians not to become high-minded or proud because they are saved. They are not to make the same mistake the Jews made, who have been broken off because they lost their faith. The possibility exists that if the Gentile Christians lose their faith, they could be "cut off." The writer even says "if thou continue." Does this not mean that once a person is saved, that person is to "keep in memory," and "continue" in the faith? Is this not a warning that to "not abide in Christ" is to incur far more than that of the LORD's loving chastisement for an erring believer? Does this not testify that for a person to choose the world after knowing the wonderful grace of God through Jesus Christ and to make "shipwreck" of faith will demand the judgment of God, and that person will have fallen away (apostatized) and be "cut off" forever.

- **Hebrews 3:12-15** *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of*

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Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.)?

Chapter 10

FREE WILL

When the LORD placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he gave them free will. The LORD created Adam and Eve. He could have created them to obey him and to love Him. In other words, He could have programmed them in such a way that they would never have disobeyed Him, and they would love Him without wavering. If the LORD had created Adam and Eve that way, they could never have truly loved Him because they would not have had a choice. They would have been made to love the LORD, and they would not have chosen to love Him. Love is a choice.

Consider a man who makes two robots. He is able to program the robots to do anything he wants. He controls the robots with a remote control. The robots obey his every command. The man, however, is not satisfied. The robots are merely machines. He does not want a machine. He wants fellowship. He wants to love and be loved. Now he gives the robots their own mind. They are able to think, to choose to do right or wrong, and to make their own choices. He does one last thing. He destroys the remote control. Now he has given the robots free will. He puts before them right and wrong. It is now their choice. The creator has given his robots the right to choose to love him or to reject him. He has given them free will.

It is man's choice to love the LORD and obey Him, or to reject Him and disobey Him. That is why the tree of knowledge of good and evil was placed in the garden. Man had to choose to follow the

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LORD and His Word or refuse and follow his own will. Adam and Eve failed to choose the LORD. However, the LORD had already provided a way for them to change their mind, be forgiven of their sin and to choose to love the LORD. The plan of salvation was designed and predestinated before the foundation of the world.

1 Peter 1:13-25 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof*

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falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. [Emphasis mine]

The LORD gave every man the choice of choosing to believe in Him or to reject Him. It is God's will that all men would repent of their sin and be saved, but all men do not choose to follow Christ. They have a free will, and the LORD will not make people choose to love Him and do right. He gives them the right to reject the LORD and be lost. Every man has been given free will. This is proven by the many Scriptures that invite man to be saved, and the fact that a man does not have to be saved. It is his choice. The Holy Spirit draws all men.

- **John 12:32** *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. [Emphasis mine]*
- **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. [Emphasis mine]*

The LORD has given all men the free will to choose to follow Him and love Him, or to reject Him and His Word and be lost.

- **Ezekiel 33:11** *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*
- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [Emphasis mine]*

The LORD wants every person who has ever lived or ever will live to be saved; however, every man

will not be saved because many choose to reject the LORD's love, and they choose a life of sin. The LORD has given all men free will.

Holiness and Faithfulness Is Not Salvation by Works

Free will is man's ability to choose. The LORD has given to every man a capacity to believe. Every man is born with a portion of faith.

- **Romans 12:3** *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. [Emphasis mine]*

Along with the right to choose, the LORD gave man the gift of believing. Men who deny God have to consciously rebel and determine to do so because it is unnatural and illogical for man not to believe in his Creator. Not only has the LORD given man a measure of faith, He draws men with His precious Holy Spirit.

- **John 6:44** *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Without the drawing of the Holy Spirit, no man can be saved. God has given abundant witness of Himself to all men.

- **Psalms 19:1-4** *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, [Emphasis mine]*

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- **Acts 14:16-17** *Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.*

Men have to deny all logic to not believe in an intelligent Creator; however, it is by the gospel of Jesus Christ that He gives lost men the opportunity to believe in Christ and be saved.

- **Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
- **Titus 2:11** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

That is, all men who hear of Jesus Christ have the capacity to believe in Him.

Romans 10:14-17 *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Once a person has heard the gospel and then his heart has been touched by the Holy Spirit, only a rebellious heart would resist God's call to salvation through Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul addressed this in **2 Corinthians 5:18**.

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- **2 Corinthians 5:18** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

Man cannot even believe without God's grace.

Romans 11:33-36 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

When the LORD gave man free will, He gave him the ability and the right to choose. Man has the ability and the right to love or not to love, to be honest or not to be honest, to do right or do wrong. Nevertheless, the LORD will judge men for the life they live.

- **Ecclesiastes 11:9** *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

When a person gets saved, that person becomes a new creature in Christ; however, the LORD does not take away that person's free will. This is the difference between those who hold to a Calvinistic view of scripture and those who hold to an Arminian view. Those who believe in the "once saved, always saved" interpretation of scripture, believe that when a person gets saved, the LORD revokes a part of that person's free will. In their thinking, a person who is saved no longer has the ability to choose to turn away from Christ and go

back to the world. They contend that there are those who have tried to turn back, but the LORD has ended their life before they completely apostatized and took them to Heaven. There is not a single verse of Scripture that states that the LORD will not allow a person to fall away. Likewise, there is not a verse that states the LORD will terminate a backslider's life so that person can enjoy the blessings of Heaven. As previously noted in this book, there are many verses that warn of the possibility of apostasy.

Calvinists teach that Arminians who teach a person must be faithful and live a holy life in Christ are teaching salvation by works. Again, this is a statement that has no credibility. In order to reveal the absurdity of such an accusation, one needs to consider what salvation by works is.

First, a person seeking salvation by works is a person who is seeking to be saved by his own goodness. This is the mistake the Jews, who did not give their heart to the LORD and tried to be saved by living the law, made.

Romans 10:3-5 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.*

This is a description of Jews who tried to obtain salvation by their own deeds, that is, by living the

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law without giving their heart to God. Paul made this plain in an earlier statement.

- **Romans 2:28-29** *For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

The Jews who lived under the law of the Old Testament could be saved by believing in God, giving Him their heart, and living in obedience to His Word. When they sinned, the sacrifices and offerings that pointed to Christ and that the LORD had provided were accepted as atonement. However, it was not their doing the good works of the law that saved those Jews, but their faith in God. Many of the Jews, in their pride, fancied themselves as righteous because they kept the law. They did not depend on the blood for their salvation, but on their own goodness of which they, like all men, had none. So what does all this mean? It means a person cannot be saved by the law. Paul said it with clarity.

- **Romans 9:31-32** *But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;*

The law was given to help men not to sin and to help them to live holy lives as a result of their faith in God. It was given to show them their own sinfulness and God's Holiness. Salvation by works, then, is trying to live a righteous life without being saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Alas! So many fall into the sin of pride. They think they do not need to be saved. They think they are good enough that they do not need to humble themselves before God and ask for His forgiveness. That is one way of trying to obtain salvation by works.

Second, a person cannot remain saved by depending on his own righteousness. This was the heresy Paul fought against so vigorously and exposed in the book of Galatians.

Galatians 5:1-6 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*

False teachers who were confused taught a confused doctrine to the Galatians. The false teachers were teaching that once a person is saved by Jesus Christ, it is necessary to live the law to stay saved. They were teaching circumcision. Paul made the point if a person was obligated by one point of the law for righteousness he is obligated to do the whole law,

- **Galatians 5:3** *For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.*

and James made this same point.

- **James 2:10** *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Paul's concern for the Galatians was that once they had been saved by Jesus Christ, they would think they had to be circumcised or keep the law to remain saved. He made it very clear a person who is made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ is saved

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plus nothing, minus nothing. To go back to the law after being saved was to depend on a person's own works to keep him saved. Paul said to do this meant a person would be lost. Read what he said carefully:

Galatians 5:1-6 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*

Notice, Paul said that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and we are kept saved by faith in Jesus Christ. To go back to the law after being saved is to fall from grace. That is to be lost again.

Salvation by works is trying to be saved by not having faith and giving one's heart to God. Salvation by works is having faith in anything other than the shed blood of Jesus Christ for righteousness to be saved or to remain saved. Salvation by works is not remaining faithful and living a holy life in Christ.

Being Faithful and Living Holy

Remaining faithful to Christ is not salvation by works. In fact, it is the teaching of all of the Bible. Once more, let us look at the Apostle Peter's message in **1 Peter 1:5-9**:

1 Peter 1:5-9 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. [Emphasis mine]*

It is obvious that the LORD expects His people to remain faithful to Him. To attempt to say a person can be saved without faith is ridiculous. It is just as preposterous to try to assert that after a person is saved by faith he can lose his faith and continue in fellowship with Christ. Certainly a saved person must be faithful to Jesus Christ. That is why all the warnings about backsliding and apostasy are in the Bible. Being faithful is not works; it is love.

Living a holy life in Christ is not salvation by works; it is living in faithful obedience to the LORD.

1 Peter 1:13-16 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the*

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revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

For a child of God to be saved and to strive to live a holy life is obeying the will of God. To try to say that the LORD does not require holiness of His people and will accept wickedness and rebellion is a perversion of the truth. For people to believe they can be saved to live a holy life and then live a wicked ungodly life without repentance is heresy. The Bible does not teach such antinomianism. Such teaching flies in the face of the "law of liberty."

- **James 2:12** *So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.*

It is in this chapter that James explains that a person cannot be saved by the law, and it is in this chapter that James explains faith produces works. Was he preaching salvation by works? Most assuredly, he was not! Was he saying a person who is saved does not live like a saved person? Anyone who would attribute such a teaching to James would have to be --- reader, you figure it out. Read the whole book of James, and ask, "Does James believe a Christian is a person who lives a faithful life to Jesus Christ and strives to live holy in Christ, or that a Christian can live a life of sin and backslide and commit apostasy and go to Heaven?"

Chapter 11

FOLLOW ME

Jesus invited a publican named Levi, who is also called Matthew, to be his disciple. The invitation is found in all three synoptic gospels. The following account is in Luke:

- **Luke 5:27-28** *And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.*

The invitation was simple, "Follow Me." This was not the first time Matthew had come in contact with Jesus. Levi, or Matthew as his gospel calls him, had heard Jesus preach and, no doubt, had talked with Jesus personally. He had to have had knowledge of Jesus' life from the beginning of His ministry for Acts tells us all of the apostles had to have knowledge of Jesus' life from the time of John the Baptist. This was the criteria for choosing Matthias to take the place of Judas Iscariot.

- **Act 1:21** *Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

Matthew knew well the implication of Jesus' invitation. This was not a call to follow for an hour or a month. When Jesus invited Matthew to "Follow Me," it was a total dedication to become one of Jesus' followers. Jesus invited Matthew to be saved and be one of His disciples. Jesus was inviting Matthew to be "born again." This is the same invitation that each child of God has received and accepted. This is what salvation is all about. It

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is not merely an invitation to be baptized, or join a church, or to work for Christ. This is an invitation to total dedication of one's life to Jesus Christ. It is an invitation to follow Jesus from the time of the initial salvation experience to the end of one's life.

- **Matthew 24:13** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

1. Jesus calls people to choose him above everything and everybody else.

- **Matthew 8:21-22** *And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, **Follow me**; and let the dead bury their dead. [Emphasis mine]*
- **Matthew 10:37-39** *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

2. Jesus calls people to win others to Him.

- **Matthew 4:18-20** *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, **Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. [Emphasis mine]*

3. Jesus calls people to give up their way of life for Him.

- **Matthew 16:24-27** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the*

Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. [Emphasis mine]

4. Jesus calls people to be faithful even unto death.

- **John 21:18-19** *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, **Follow me.** [Emphasis mine]*
- **Luke 9:61-62** *And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

Jesus' invitation to eternal life is not to be taken lightly. It is a call to total surrender. It is not a call to follow for a period of time or until something else seems to be so very important. It is a call to be a disciple. It is a call to give up the way of life a person has practiced and to become a spiritual person. A faithful Christian follows Jesus all the way to the end. To "abide" in Christ means to live according to God's Word until Jesus comes for His church. There are strong promises for those who follow Jesus and remain faithful to Him. Those who live a holy life for Christ and who have the Holy Spirit do not live a life of sin. Such verses as **I John 3:9** describe people who love the LORD and live faithfully for him, people who "abide" in Christ.

- **1 John 3:9** *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

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Nevertheless, there are those who are actually in Christ who backslide and eventually commit the sin of falling away. Those people have drawn back to perdition.

- **Hebrews 10:39** *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Make no mistake here; the writer of Hebrews was saying there are some who believe, but draw back and are lost, but we are not like them. We will go on to live for Jesus all the way to the end. If there are those who would say these who draw back were never in Christ, let them read Jesus' own statement,

- **John 15:2** *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*
[Emphasis mine]

No matter what men may teach or what even whole churches may teach, Jesus' invitation is the same today as it was in Biblical times, "Follow Me." Those who are in heaven are not people who follow Jesus for a while, then fall away and bring no fruit to perfection.

Luke 8:13-14 *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. [Emphasis mine]*

One last observation is in order. Those who are saved, are saved. Let all of God's people

understand that God is the judge. It is not for anyone to judge a true child of God.

- **Romans 8:33-39** *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, 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 from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- **Hebrews 6:4-6** *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

There is a mountain of evidence, and the warnings are so serious that no child of God should ignore the possibility of falling back into the world and suffering the eternal consequences.

- **Hebrews 9:28** *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*
[Emphasis mine]
- **Matthew 24:48-51** *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink*

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with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This book is written not that men may fall away and be lost, but that people may be warned of the deceitfulness of sin and believe unto the saving of their souls.

Hebrews 3:12-19 *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. [Emphasis mine]*

There are surely many who say they follow Jesus but have never been truly saved. On the other hand there are those who have been saved but are backslidden who will repent and will renew their covenant with God. There are those who have been saved, but have backslidden and then fallen away and have gone back to the world and have blasphemed the precious Holy Spirit who are fit

only for the flames of eternal fire. Let each child of God make his calling and election sure. Let each child of God "take heed lest he fall."

- **1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

The writer of Hebrews summed up the plan of salvation in one verse:

- **Hebrews 3:14** *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; [Emphasis mine]*

Jesus said, "Follow Me."

Chapter 12

HOLINESS IS NOT AN OPTION

Heb 12:14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Many Christians read the Bible much like they would purchase a new car. They consider much of God's Word optional equipment and ignore the teachings they disagree with. They deceive themselves into believing holiness is not necessary and travel through life satisfied with the options they have chosen. They develop their own brand of Christianity. Many live worldly lives because they do not understand holiness is necessary equipment.

It is impossible to follow Jesus without holiness!

Holiness Is Maintaining An Obedient Perfect Heart With God

We are saved and forgiven by the Grace of God. It is also Grace that provides for our continued fellowship with the Lord throughout our Christian life. Never should a person think he can achieve perfection, holiness or righteousness based on his own merits.

- **2 Timothy 1:9** *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

Nevertheless, God does expect those who are saved by grace to live a holy life. The Lord does not

suggest His people should be faithful if they choose to be. He requires His people to follow Him. The co-creator does not make suggestions for Christians to choose to obey if they are so inclined. The Bible is not a book of suggestions. Jesus commanded his followers to be perfect.

- **Matthew 5:48** *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

The Lord does not command His people to do something He will not give them the power to accomplish. Righteousness was imputed to Abraham because of his faith.

- **James 2:23** *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.):*

However, let us not forget that God also commanded Abraham to be perfect.

- **Genesis 17:1** *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*

Noah is called perfect (**Gen. 6:9**), and Job is called perfect (**Job 1:1**).

The Apostle Paul helped us to understand what it means for a Christian to live a perfect life when he said he was not perfect but he was perfect.

Philippians 3:12-15 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

13 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

15 *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal*

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even this unto you.[Emphasis mine]

Paul counted himself perfect because he lived in close constant fellowship with God. His heart was perfect with Jesus Christ. The Scriptures explain that a person's heart can be perfect with God.

- **1 Kings 8:61** *Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.*

Hezekiah believed he had a perfect heart when he prayed for deliverance from the king of Assyria.

- **Isaiah 38:3** *And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.*

Paul was saved by the grace of God. The Apostle lived close to the LORD and he stayed right with God by seeking the Lord's forgiveness. On the rare occasions when he did commit a sin he repented and asked God's forgiveness. He was perfect because he had no unrepented sin in his life, and he was doing his best to live as Christ wanted him to live.

- *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Paul also had the fear of his own weakness and constantly guarded against sinning against the LORD and being lost.

- **1 Corinthians 9:26,27** *I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

Paul maintained a perfect heart with the Lord. The Apostle Peter also counseled Christians to have a certain amount of fear.

- **1 Peter 1:17** *And if ye call on the Father, who without*

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respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Christians are to love the Lord. They are to live a holy life by maintaining an obedient perfect heart and living in the perfect will of God. Christians are to fear falling into sin and falling away from Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*.)

An interpretation of God's Word that tries to harmonize holiness and the once saved always saved doctrine is faulty. God's people are to leave the world behind and grow in holiness for the LORD.

By the grace of God Lot is called a righteous man.

- **2 Peter 2:7-8** *And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

Lot lived a just and righteous life for the Lord and his heart was grieved over the sin around him: hence, let us understand that we are saved by grace and we are saved to live a holy life through the faith of Christ.

- **Philippians 3:8,9** *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

Those who are saved and refuse to surrender to the life of holiness that God wants for them are living in a continual state of rebellion. An attitude of worldliness is dangerous.

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- **Romans 8:6-8** *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

A person knows he is saved because he is in God's will and living in obedience to God's Word.

- **1 John 2:3-5** *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

There is no one saved always saved in that. All the Scriptures teach obedience is necessary to remain in the grace of God.

Generic Grace Is Not Salvation

There have always been those who deceive themselves and others by claiming a generic grace of God. Jude said they turn the grace of God into lasciviousness.

- **Jude 1:4** *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The martyred German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a book entitled THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP in which he spoke of "cheap grace." He was referring to people who profess to be Christians but do not live an obedient, faithful, holy life in Christ. To try to make the meaning clear this author has referred to it as Generic Grace. It is generic because many people claim it is God's grace, but, in reality, it is not real grace. It is a cheap

substitute. It is their own interpretation of grace. It is this believer's opinion that the once saved always saved doctrine has so permeated the Christian Church that many people and many churches believe in a generic grace. Even many churches that do not subscribe to the Calvinistic doctrine fail to teach holiness. To fail to teach obedience to Christ in everything is generic grace. To twist or ignore God's Word is generic grace. Christians are to wear the breastplate of righteousness, not the bikini of worldliness.

- **Ephesians 6:14** *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

Yet, many liberalized, modern versioned, inebriated, adulterous, worldly dressed, anything goes Churches, that march to the tunes of unspiritual music continue in their downward spiral of compromise. The modern churches of Sardis produce Christians without the power of holiness. They deceive people by preaching and teaching generic grace. The materialistic, watered down doctrine of many modern churches is all justified by claiming grace. The question that must be asked is this: "Is it really grace from God or is it generic grace which is a deception from the devil?"

- **Philippians 3:17 -19** *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*

Generic grace claims to be God's grace but it is a substitute for life changing grace. Real grace is found in **Romans 8:1-2.**

- **Romans 8:1-2** *There is therefore now no condemnation*

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to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

That is the real freedom in Christ Jesus. That is life changing grace. That is grace that causes holiness.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Generic grace teaches people to believe they can be saved by living the way THEY believe God wants them to live. God's grace says live by God's Holy Word.

- **James 1:22-25** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

Generic grace promotes professing salvation and being free to live any way a person chooses. God's grace says crucify the flesh.

- **Galatians 5:24** *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

Generic grace says all a person has to do is profess salvation and he is saved. God's grace says those who think they can live a life of unrepented sin are deceiving themselves.

- **John 8:31-32** *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye*

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my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.),

- **John 8:34-36** *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.,*
- **Romans 6:16** *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

Generic grace says a person can love the world and still go to Heaven. God's grace says this:

- **I John 6:4** *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
- **Matthew 10:37-39** *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.,*
- **1 John 2:15-17** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Holiness Is Beautiful

Psalms 96:9 *O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.*

There are many great once In grace, always In grace churches, ministers and people. There is no

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doubt of their love and faithfulness to the Lord. However, it is not the once saved always saved teaching that causes them to be great servants for Jesus Christ. It is their love and faithfulness to Christ. Yet, it is the opinion of this pastor that the doctrine they preach is responsible for giving multitudes of people the wrong impression about true salvation. The unintended result of teaching people that it is impossible to turn away from Christ and be finally lost is unbiblical and causes multitudes of people to believe in a generic grace.

The Apostle Peter was a saved man and he preached the grace of God. Peter also preached faithfulness and holiness.

- **1Peter 5:12** *By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.*

Holiness is not an option for the true child of God. Holiness is his calling. It is his life.

- **Ephesians 1:4** *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*
- **1Thessalonians 4:7** *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*
- **1Peter 1:15-16** *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
- **1Peter 2:9** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:.*

Holiness is of God, and it is beautiful. Some would try to say that holiness is legalism or, as many slanderously charge, salvation by works. However, to see a poor lost sinner get saved and

begin to live for Jesus Christ is beautiful indeed. To watch a person grow in holiness and separate from worldliness because he wants to please the Lord is truly a blessing. When holiness is taught in love according to the Scriptures, and people allow the Holy Spirit to change them and lead them to depart from iniquity, it is a beautiful work of God.

- **2 Timothy 2:19** *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

People who are saved by grace through faith live holy lives by grace through faith unless they are in a church that promotes the false teaching of carelessness and has an atmosphere of worldliness. So many churches today mislead people by not teaching Biblical truth and even promoting an anti-biblical world view. Many pastors are more interested in not offending someone than they are preaching God's Holy Word. They are more about numbers than the truth. They do not believe in holiness, so how can they preach against sin?

Grace Is For Weakness Not For Casual Living

- **Romans 5:20** *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

Christians are to be thankful for God's abundant grace, but grace is not to be treated in a casual manner. A person is not to live a worldly life because of grace.

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Romans 6:1 -7 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Real Grace is God's Love that transforms sinners into saints. Paul said it was grace that transformed him into such a faithful servant for Jesus Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 15:9,10** *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

It was grace that caused Paul to serve with such gratefulness and faithfulness for Jesus. It was grace that caused him to work with such dedication and sacrifice. Paul believed he was saved to work. It was his faith in God's grace that moved him to live such a holy life. Paul did not believe in salvation by works, but he believed in salvation by grace through faith. He certainly did not believe a person could be saved, live in wickedness, and go to heaven. He preached with boldness and warned gentile Christians to not have pride because they

could run the risk of being "cut off".

- **Romans 11:22** *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

Paul believed in being saved and being faithful, and it is obvious he did not preach once saved, always saved. Brother Paul preached that holiness is a necessity not an option. God does not make mere suggestions!

The whole Bible teaches that the Lord's people are to be faithful. To teach that faithfulness is not necessary is not teaching the truth of the Bible. Is it possible that a man would say to his new bride, "Now that you are my wife, and we are legally married all you have to do is go by my name. You do not have to be faithful. I would like for you to, but you don't have to live a life that pleases me. You can play the harlot as often as you want and never have to repent of it. You can leave me and go live with others and even marry others. Just tell people you are my wife, and you love me. There is nothing you can ever do, even if you try, that will cause me to break off this marriage."? Jesus never promoted anything like that.

- **Matthew 5:32** *But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, [unfaithfulness] causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery. [Emphasis mine]*

The Bible does not teach that people can be unfaithful or commit spiritual adultery without repenting and being forgiven and still go to heaven.

- **Ephesians 5:3-7** *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking,*

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nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

The Apostle Peter agreed that holiness is a necessity.

- **2 Peter 3:11** *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

It has not been this writers experience that the once saved, always saved doctrine coincides with the overall teaching of the Holy Scriptures or promotes holiness to the Lord. It has been the observance of this pastor for more than 45 years that it gives many a false security. It is generic grace. The Lord's will for His people is to live a faithful and a holy life, and that is not a mere suggestion!

- **Matthew 5:20** *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

This can only be done by God's grace. To promote a grace that teaches worldliness is to promote generic grace. To teach the Bible does not warn Christians to fear falling back into sin and turning away from Jesus Christ after they are saved is just not the testimony of all the warnings of the precious holy sacred inerrant and preserved Word of God.

- **Matthew 10:28** *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

The Lord told the church of Pergamos that they were suffering from a loss of holiness. The liberals were working in the church. The Lord compared their teaching of generic grace to the doctrine of Balaam. Holiness was not being preached. They had accepted the false doctrine of "easy believism."

- **Revelation 2:14** *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

People were being taught they could live in sin and be a Christian. That is generic grace!

The Church Has Been Swindled

2 Peter 2:3 *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

Liberal preachers are in every denomination and many independent churches. They spew out their doctrine of "easy believism"! They accuse anyone who believes in Christian holiness of being judgmental while they teach antinomianism! They teach situational Christianity! They are silent on the sin of worldliness! They are silent on the sin of fornication and adultery! They spout their pernicious doctrine of "live and let live"! They preach love but know nothing of truth! These hypocrites rob the church of Holy Ghost power! They use watered down bible versions which spread a lack of reverence for "Thus saith the Lord" and sow confusion! Their worldly "Christian music" promotes nudity, vanity, and rebellion! They teach the saints that God looks on the heart and ignores

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outward holiness! Jesus preached that both are important!

- **Matthew 23:26** *Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

The cleanliness of a plate on the inside is most important, but the outside is not unimportant. Try eating from a plate which has been washed on the inside, but the old dirt and rotten food from many days still remains on the outside. You will soon understand Jesus' teaching that holiness begins in the heart and is manifested by the way people dress and conduct themselves. The Pharisees were all about looks, but their heart was wrong. Jesus condemned their neglect of the heart and their counterfeit piety. Christians have been taught that faithfulness and standards of holiness are unimportant. They want to be saved but not be faithful in church and worship. They want nothing to do with true righteousness. That is not only ridiculous it is false doctrine. The church has given up the doctrine of holiness and the world has given up the church. Christians go to church dressed like they are going to a party on the beach. They show little reverence for God's house by dressing down and eating and drinking in the sanctuary. No wonder so many have diminished respect for organized Christianity when they can see little difference in Christians and themselves. Yes, the church has been swindled! It traded holiness for worldliness. Friendship with the world was being an enemy of God in the time of Brother James.

- **James 4:4** *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

And it still is! Who goes to heaven is not for us

mortals to decide, but the preaching and teaching of the whole council of God is mandatory

- **Jeremiah 26:2** *Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word: [Emphasis mine]*
- **2 Peter 3:16** *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. [Emphasis mine]*

Our Holy God does not make suggestions. Holiness is not a mere option. Jesus and the Bible commanded it.

Jesus Loves Holiness.

The devil and false teachers hate it.

Who do you serve?

Chapter 13

JESUS IS COMING FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR HIM

It Is Time To Look Up

Titus 2:11-15 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

The Apostle Paul taught the young pastor named Titus about the coming of the Lord. How the church needs to hear this message today. Jesus is coming. The days are getting darker and darker, and Biblical signs indicate the Coming of Christ is approaching. "*Perilous times*" are no longer in the distant future. Liberal churches "*having a form of godliness but deny the power thereof*" are a present day circumstance. The last of "*the last days*" are no longer future but are here. It is time to *look up*. Jesus Christ is about to come for His church. Let every child of God rejoice and say praise the Lord!

Bible believing churches need to call people out of luke-warmness to a holy life. The writer of Hebrews tells God's People to be faithful, and not

to cast away their confidence. He cautions Christians not be of those who draw back unto perdition but to be of those who believe to the saving of their soul.

Hebrews 10:35-39 *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

There is no promise of heaven in those verses for someone who would believe on Jesus Christ, live the Christian life, and then turn to the world and not repent. There is no promise for that person who would go back to a life of sin. Where does the Apostle to the Gentiles say that when Jesus comes the Lord will gather his people out of a drunken stupor, snatch them from the act of fornication, take them out of a life of adultery, and rapture them from a wicked life? Where is that promise for those who think they can live an ungodly life and just be a little ashamed when Jesus comes? The prophet Jeremiah answered that question when the Israelites thought that because they were God's chosen people, they could live in sin and still be accepted by the Lord.

- **Jeremiah 7:9-10** *Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?*

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There is no place in the Holy Word of God that teaches such a pernicious doctrine. Those who teach generic grace deceive themselves and those who follow them. The Lord is coming for those who are redeemed from a worldly life and, by God's power, live in gratitude and love for Him. Teaching people they can be saved and then continue to live in sin without repenting and living a faithful holy life for Christ is anti-biblical. Nothing in the Bible teaches such a doctrine.

God's grace is wonderful. It is because of grace that a person can be saved. It is because of God's grace that a saved person can live for Jesus. No one can live a Christian life on their own; however, God's grace is not a signed blank check. Salvation is by the blood of Jesus Christ for believers. Grace is a check to those who are and remain in fellowship with Jesus Christ. When Christ comes, he is going to take sinners saved by grace who are faithful to Him to Heaven. Those who have drawn back to perdition will not be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and live in God's Heaven. That is not believing in salvation by works, but that is simply believing the truth strait from the Word of God.

Jesus Is Coming For Faithful followers who Love His Appearing

Those people who are born again and live faithfully for Jesus Christ will go to heaven. Those people who accept Christ and then turn back to the world without repenting, rededicating their life to Christ, and living an obedient and faithful life for Jesus Christ will be lost. If this was not true, Jesus would not have warned about the possibility of not

being ready when He comes. He put into plain words the doctrine of endurance. He clearly taught the possibility of a person once saved turning back to the world and being lost. There are those who would like to have people believe Jesus did not mean exactly what he said, but he did. Those same folks want to say Jesus meant something different than what he said, but he didn't. Jesus compared a faithful servant that followed Him and remained in fellowship with Him to a servant that turned aside, ship wrecked his faith, and became unfaithful. Jesus did not say to the unfaithful servant that he was still saved. Jesus said that that type of person would have his part with the hypocrites.

- **Matthew 24:50-51** *The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

It is this Christian's understanding that someone who professes to be a child of God and lives a willful life of sin is a hypocrite, and there will be no unrepentant hypocrites in heaven.

When Jesus comes he is coming for those who love his appearing and are looking for Him.

- **Hebrews 9:28** *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

Again the Bible does not say Jesus is coming for those who are entangled in the world and not interested in His coming. Jesus is coming in the clouds for those who are looking for Him. Let the reader be reminded the five wise virgins were taken to the wedding not the five foolish ones. Let all of God's children be aware that Jesus warned

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His people to remember Lot's wife.

- **Luke 17:32** *Remember Lot's wife.*

Jesus also taught that those who live life their own way are not going to be raptured.

Luke 17:33-36 *Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

Dear reader, the Rapture of the church is the blessed hope of the redeemed of the Lord. It is the longing of every true child of God. The Apostle John said this:

John 3:1-9 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed*

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remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. [Emphasis mine]

The Lord Jesus stated that Christians are to be watching and ready when He comes to take them home to heaven.

- **Luke 12:40** *Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

Remember? John said those who are looking for Jesus "*purifieth himself even as he is pure.*" In other words those who are saved and are looking for Christ's coming live holy and continually let the Lord clean up their lives. Jesus did not suggest people be ready. He commanded people to be found faithful. Jesus did not say anything about saved people who backslide and do not repent being ready for the rapture.

The Apostle John said this:

John 3:6-9 *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

The great apostle was indicating that people who are truly saved live a holy life and those who live a wicked lifestyle are not truly saved. This child of God understands that position. It is true Christians do not live a life of sin. That is what the Bible says:

Is it not? If someone wants to espouse that Christians who go back to the world were never saved this pastor could almost agree; however, the Bible gives such overpowering evidence that it is possible to fall from grace that it is impossible to hold to unconditional salvation and be faithful to God's Word. This book presents the correct position. A person who professes to be a child of God and lives a wicked life is either backslidden or has never been saved. The gospel is conditional. Paul said, "**If**" (**I Corinthians 15:2**) [Emphasis mine]. If a person wants to contend that should a person fall away that person was never saved. This author can at least understand that logic. As stated, that is not what the Bible teaches, but it is much closer to the truth than teaching that once people are saved, they can live a life of sin and be raptured. Nevertheless, please, please don't try to make the Bible say a person can be saved, then live an unrepentant wicked life and still go and live in God's holy Heaven. No, the Calvinist doctrine just does not pass the test of Scripture.

If People Do Not Want To Go To Heaven, They Are Not Going

Jesus is coming! He is coming for those who love Him and love his commandments.

1 John 5:1-5 *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and

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*this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth
that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Some years ago a friend of this Christian was talking to a group of men. This preacher was seated at the same table but was not in the conversation. This unsaved man was boasting loud enough everyone could hear. He stated that a Christian tried to witness to him, and, finally, he told said Christian, "I do not even want to discuss the issue because I am enjoying my life of sin, and I have no desire to go to heaven." He gloated, "That shut him up." At that point, this believer who had been unengaged and silent as long as possible felt moved to speak up. The fire in my bones just burned too hot. I simply turned to that end of the table, called his first name and said, "(First name), if you don't want to go to heaven, one thing is certain." He responded with an inquisitive look and said, "What?" Looking him in the eye, I calmly, but emphatically, stated, "If you do not want to go, you are not going." He blushed and apologized. He said, "I did not mean it like that. I was simply trying to get this person to stop bothering me." I explained to him that that person, as I did, just wanted him to be saved and go to heaven. He thanked me, for he knew I cared about him. I knew this young man. He was raised by a godly mother and father. He had broken their heart by living a wicked life. I had witnessed to him many times and he had heard me preach the gospel many times. I witnessed to him many more times. No, I did not have the privilege of seeing him come to Christ. I left that area and have lost touch with him. I hope he is saved. The truth I stated to him, however, is correct. Due to free will, heaven is not mandatory.

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The same statement is just as applicable for a person who is saved. If that person gives up his faith in Christ by thinking Jesus is not coming and begins to "*eat and drink with the drunken,*" Jesus will not make him go to heaven. The Lord is coming for those who love him and love to live for him. Salvation is by Grace through faith. Wicked works just display a lack or a loss of faith. Faith reveals a person's love for God.

Be Ready

Jesus is coming! The Church of Jesus Christ needs to look up. The true church needs to teach faithfulness and steadfastness. The Grace of God is sufficient for whatever the devil uses against the saints.

- **Philippians 4:4** *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*

Let us have our lamps trimmed and burning and with extra oil. It is time for God's children to shine their brightest. Jesus is coming! Let the followers of Christ not sleep as do others but be children of the day and not of the night. The Lord did not tell His soldiers the battle would be easy. He told them to put on the armour of God. Dear child of God, be filled with the precious Holy Spirit. Let us not long for the fleshpots of Egypt but let us go with Joshua and Caleb to the Promised Land. The last days are here, and a severe test of every believer's faith is eminent. What shall we do, and how shall we respond? Let us respond as the Jews have for the last 2000 years about Jerusalem. Only let Christians keep their eyes on heaven "Next year in the New Jerusalem." The one who won the victory over the devil and the grave is coming to call the dead and the living out of this sin loving,

sin enslaved world. Let the faithful church stop partying and start praying, stop living worldly and start living holy and stop sleeping and start watching. Jesus is coming! The Lord of glory has set the captives free. If need be let us walk boldly into the fiery furnace. If it is God's will to spare His people, then Praise the Lord, but if this is the time of trouble, let His church be unwavering. One thing the devil needs to know: The faithful are not going to serve him. One thing the church needs to remember: The fourth man does not let His children walk into the fire alone. The faithful will stand and we will be victorious through faith in Jesus Christ!

Romans 8:35-39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, 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 from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus did not teach to be saved, worldly and asleep. Jesus taught to be saved, holy, and ready!

Jesus is not coming for the wicked. He is coming for the faithful!

Chapter 14

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

When all else fails those who believe in the "once saved always saved" doctrine take refuge behind their interpretation of the sovereignty of God.

Upon one occasion this author discussed the weakness of the Calvinist position with a pastor of a large church. When the pastor saw that he was losing the debate and could not successfully defend his position he simply said, "Well, everything must be interpreted according to the sovereignty of God." That statement, according to him, justified his position. He simply based his belief on his preference not on what the Scriptures teach.

Much has already been written about the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God from both sides of the issue. It is not within the scope of this book to enter into that complex and lengthy study. All Bible believing Christians believe in God's Sovereignty. Nevertheless, opinions differ on that doctrine.

No doctrine will contradict or be out of harmony with Scripture. To try to say that all Scripture must be interpreted in the light of one's own viewpoint instead of letting Scripture form a person's beliefs is not being exegetically honest. Those who subscribe to the Calvinistic doctrine interpret God's Sovereignty to mean that God will never allow a person who has accepted Christ to apostatize and be lost. Those who are of the Arminian persuasion understand that God is Sovereign, but Christians or angels turning to a life of sin, does not, in any way,

interfere or weaken God's complete and absolute power over all that exists past, present, and future.

God has designed everything and controls everything according to His Sovereign will. The Bible teaches God has given man free will. That free will is not taken away when a person is saved. People have the right to freely choose and, those who fail to be faithful to Christ, hence, turning back to the world, suffer the awful consequences of eternity in the fires of damnation. This does not weaken the keeping power of God. Those who choose to live faithfully for Christ will be kept and spend eternity with their Saviour.

God has provided those who accept Christ with every benefit to be faithful to the end. The believer who backslides and continues in the downward spiral on the "broad way" and becomes under the dominion of sin and crucifies Christ a second time becomes an apostate.

Heb 10:26 *For if we sin wilfully [continue a life of sin without repentance] after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, [Emphasis mine]*

Dear reader, let this writer implore you to be sure you are washed in the blood and born again of the Holy Spirit. Let us determine with the admonition of all of Scripture that by the grace of God, we will continue in Christ.

Heb 10:35-39 *Cast not away therefore your confidence [faith], which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that*

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*shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now **the just shall live by faith**; but if any man **draw back**, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that **believe to the saving of the soul**. [Emphasis mine]*

Chapter 15

SUMMARY

- **John 8:31** *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;***
- **1Corinthians 15:1-4** *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, **if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- **Hebrews 3:14** *For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;***
- **Revelation 22:19** *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall **take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.***
[Emphasis mine]

This book has been written with a real effort to convey to the reader the truth concerning what the Scriptures teach regarding conditional salvation and to refute the Calvinistic doctrine of once saved always saved. A genuine effort has been made not to twist, or corrupt any verse. This book represents a study of more than 50 years by this author on this subject. There has been no attempt to make the Scripture fit into the doctrine of faithfulness, but to present a sincere effort to allow a truthful examination of the Bible to allow the Word of God

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to form the true doctrine of salvation "*by grace through faith.*" Faithfulness has been compared to the unconditional salvation taught in many churches today, and the once saved, always saved doctrine has been proven to be found wanting. The facts have been made abundantly clear by the following:

1. The sheer weight of evidence the Scriptures gives on the subject of conditional security.
2. The specific statements made throughout the Bible, documented in this book, teaching conditional security
3. The teachings of Jesus and the New Testament about the conditional aspect of salvation.

With due respect for those who teach the once saved, always saved doctrine, there is too much evidence against that theological position for it to be accurate. There is too much Scriptural teaching that salvation is conditional to ignore it. Enough Scripture has been presented that an honest consideration of all the Bible reveals that a few verses interpreted in the light of the eternal security position cannot negate the multitude of Scriptures that prove the doctrine of conditional security. Once again it must be stated: **ENDURANCE IS SOUND DOCTRINE.** The Bible does not contradict its self. All the Scriptures on a particular subject must be weighed to arrive at a legitimate conclusion. People should not accept a doctrine that cannot be absolutely proven by the Bible in regard to their eternal soul. Faithfulness has been proven to be the truth. However, just for arguments sake let us consider a simple question.

Is the person who is unfaithful sure of his salvation or is it better to be faithful and have no doubt?

The Bible teaches, consistently and pointedly, in many places, the possibility of a saved person falling away and being finally lost. The warnings of the Bible to God's people are to serve the purpose to warn Christians not to become lax in their Christian life but to walk circumspectly and to be faithful to Jesus Christ. The Grace of God is so great that there is forgiveness for anyone who sincerely walks with Christ and is willing to live a faithful Christian life. Even the immeasurable Grace of God, however, does not permit a person who is saved to live a life of sin without repentance and still go to heaven.

This writer wants it to be clear that backsliding is not yet apostasy. Backsliding can become apostasy, but it is not the same thing.

See explanation below:

Summary Of A Person Who Turns Completely From Christ After Being Saved

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Anyone can be saved John 3:16 <i>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.</i></p> | <p>Anyone who truly accepts Christ is saved. A person can only be saved once in their life. He may backslide and rededicate various times, but a person is born again only once.</p> |
| <p>A faithful life in Christ 1 John 5:12 <i>He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.</i> Revelation 2:10 <i>Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.</i></p> | <p>All saved people are in God's grace and are to live a loving, faithful, holy life for Jesus Christ.</p> |
| <p>A Christian who backslides can still repent and be forgiven 1 John 1:9 <i>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</i></p> | <p>A backslider can repent and be restored to fellowship with Christ. If a backslider lives a stubborn rebellious life and refuses to repent he will be lost. He has become an apostate.</p> |
| <p>Apostasy Hebrews 6:4-6 For <i>it is</i> impossible ... If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put <i>him</i> to an open shame.</p> | <p>An apostate has backslidden then apostatized. He has turned completely away from Christ. He will never seek fellowship with Christ again.</p> |

The Apostle Paul wanted people to know that the Christian life is a life of faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 14:21-22** *And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

Christians who believe in Faith and endurance, as conditions to salvation, believe what the Bible teaches. There is no need to try to paint them as believing salvation by works because they don't subscribe to such a doctrine! They do however believe in Biblical grace not generic grace. This author has searched the Scriptures for over 50 years and read many books on the once saved always saved position and has found that teaching incomplete. The unconditional security view is popular. It is what many want to hear, because it releases them from their responsibility of faithfulness. Faithfulness becomes optional. However, just because it is pleasing, that does not make it truth. People who believe that endurance is sound doctrine embrace what the entire Holy Bible teaches and not what someone might want it to teach.

This life is a test. Every part of life is a test. The first test a person must face is what he will do with Jesus. Will he accept Jesus as his Lord and Saviour or will he reject him? Nothing will qualify a person to go to heaven other than the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Once a person is saved life is a process of growth in Christ and continuing to follow Jesus and the teachings of God's Word. The Lord

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expects and requires His people to be faithful until death or until Christ comes. There is no way to correctly interpret the multitude of Scriptures that teach the condition of faithfulness than to believe it is possible for a saved person to become unfaithful and fall from grace. Again, let it be stated that believing what the Bible teaches is not salvation by works. Those who accept all the Scriptures and not just the part they choose know the Lord never invited anyone to be saved and then live a worldly unfaithful life. The very idea that a person can accept Jesus Christ and live a life of sin without repentance and go to heaven is repulsive to the holiness of God. Jesus came to seek and to save lost people not to save people to turn back to the world. There is a strait gate to enter and a narrow road to follow. The Christian understands he has no righteousness of his own but he is saved and kept by Grace through faith. Anyone who denies that truth has to close their eyes to the plain straightforward truth of ""thus saith the Lord." The many warnings for saved people not to fall are not there to keep Christians from skinning their spiritual knees. They are there because, as sad as it is, the possibility of falling from grace does exist.

Those who understand that faithfulness is the condition of following Jesus know that the Lord is their strength. They want to be faithful or as the word faithful implies full of faith. A person who has faith will work. Not to be saved but because he loves the Lord. A person who has faith will overcome the world. A person who has faith will endure to the end. A person who is full of faith will not turn back to the world. A person who is full of faith will heed the warnings of God's Word and resist the devil. He will stay close to the Lord and

trust in the Lord's power and not in his own or in a doctrine that promotes carelessness. The Lord made that clear to the Church of Smyrna.

- **Revelation 2:10-11** *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

Oh dear reader, be saved, have faith, and be faithful. Don't be careless, but live holy by the power of the Holy Spirit and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ with your life! That is not generic grace that is God's Grace. That is life changing Grace. Let us get the victory by faith, and let us be overcomers. Let us continue in the Word and live for Jesus Christ. Let us glory in the cross, and give glory, praise, and honour to the one who bought us with His own blood. Let us purify ourselves even as he is pure by looking for and loving His appearing. Christians are called and commanded to live holy for Jesus. As Jesus said,

- **Matthew 10:22** *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

Finally dear child of God you may dogmatically disagree with this book. Nevertheless, if you are a child of God, this unworthy servant of the Lord considers you his brother or sister in the Lord. Let us pray for one another to be in the center of God's will. Let us remember great servants of the Lord who believe in salvation by grace through faith and have been of different persuasions on this subject have all been used mightily of the Lord. They have in many cases disagreed but worked together for the salvation of souls. Whitfield and Wesley finally

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broke apart over this issue but neither ever lost his love and respect for the other. The Lord mightily used Charles Finney and just as mightily used Charles Spurgeon. Martin Luther took a world shaking stand for Jesus and so did John Bunyan. The Holy Spirit gave David Brainerd great power as well as Francis Asbury. He blessed the work of George Muller and David Livingston. He also blessed the work of William Booth and Reuben (Uncle Bud) Robinson. The Lord gave these men and multitudes more the blessed anointing of His precious Holy Spirit. They preached and the Lord saved souls without number through their ministries. It is this poor preachers opinion that the Lord blessed these great men of God not so much because of where they stood on the doctrine of security (not that our stand on this important doctrine is unimportant), but the Lord blessed these men who were of different persuasions because they believed in salvation by grace through faith, and they all had some things in common. They all loved Jesus Christ with all their heart, mind, and soul, and they all denied themselves took up their cross and followed Him. Oh yes there was that one other thing. They all believed the Holy Bible to be the very Word of God. They exalted the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and loved souls. They often worked with those who disagreed with them on the doctrine of endurance. Dare we do less?

Philippians 2:5 -13 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

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And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**ALL GLORY AND PRAISE BE TO GOD AND
OUR BLESSED LORD
JESUS CHRIST!**

Chapter 16

TWELVE PRINCIPLES THAT PROVE CONDITIONAL SECURITY

1. The Biblical promises of eternal life are addressed to the faithful not to the disobedient.

- **Matthew 19:16-21** *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder; Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*
(FOLLOW ME)
- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- **John 5:14** *Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*
- **John 5:23-24** *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

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- **John 8:11** *She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. (SIN NO MORE)*
- **John 10:27-29** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. (HEAR AND FOLLOW)*
- **John 14:21** *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*
- **John 15:10** *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*
- **Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH)*

Rom 8:36-39 *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, 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 from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (FOR THY SAKE)*

- **1 John 3:9** *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 1 John 3:14* *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. (DOES NOT LIVE A LIFE OF SIN)*
- **Revelation 7:14** *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great*

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tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (FAITHFUL TO CHRIST)

2. Eternal life resides in Jesus Christ and men have eternal life only by abiding in the son of God.

- **John 3:15** *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*
- **John 4:14** *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*
- **John 6:48** *I am that bread of life.*
- **John 6:54** *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- **John 6:68** *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*
- **John 7:37-38** *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*
- **John 11:25** *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*
- **John 15:4** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*
- **John 15:7** *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
- **John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*
- **1 John 1:7-10** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

- **1 John 2:24** *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*
- **1 John 2:27-28** *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*
- **1 John 5:11-12** *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*
- **2 John 1:9** *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*
- **Revelation 22:14** *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

3. The foundational scriptures of the gospel stress conditional security.

- **Matthew 4:17-19** *“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
(FOLLOW)
- **Matthew 7:13-14** *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. **(GATE AND WAY)***
- **Matthew 7:21** *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that*

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doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **(WILL OF MY FATHER)**

- **Matthew 7:24-27** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. **(HEAR AND OBEY)**
- **Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. **(COME... TAKE... LEARN)**
- **Matthew 12:49,50** And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.
- **Matthew 13:18-23** Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold some sixty, some thirty.

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- **Matthew 18:3** *And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
- **Matthew 24:13** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*
- **Matthew 25:13** *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*
- **Luke 14:25-27** *And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*
- **John 8:31** *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed (IF A MAN KEEP MY SAYINGS)*
- **John 15:6,7** *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (IF) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (IF)*
- **John 15:10** *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. (IF)*
- **John 15:14** *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*
- **1 Corinthians 15:2** *By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (IF YE KEEP IN MEMORY)*
- **Romans 2:7** *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*
- **Romans 10:9-10** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- **Colossians 1:23** *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every*

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creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

- **1 Thessalonians 3:8** *For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.*
- **Hebrews 3:6** *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*
- **1 John 2:3** *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*
- **1 John 5:11,12** *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*
- **Revelation 12:11** *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*
- **Revelation 16:15** *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*
- **Revelation 21:7** *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*
- **Revelation 22:14** *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

4. The many scriptures of warning to Christians would not be necessary if it were impossible to fall away and be lost.

- **Matthew 5:13** *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*
- **Matthew 5:20** *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
- **Matthew 5:24** *Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

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- **Matthew 7:13** *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*
- **Matthew 7:26** *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*
- **Matthew 10:33** *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*
- **Matthew 24:4** *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.*
- **Matthew 24:10** *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*
- **Matthew 24:12** *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*
- **Matthew 24:42** *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*
- **Matthew 24:48-51** *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **Matthew 25:12** *But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*
- **Matthew 25:30** *And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **Mark 8:38** *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*
- **Mark 13:32-36** *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the*

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porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

- **Luke 11:35** *Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.*
- **Luke 12:8-9** *Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.*
- **Luke 12:46** *The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.*
- **Luke 14:27** *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*
- **Luke 17:32** *Remember Lot's wife.*
- **Luke 19:23-27** *Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.*
- **Luke 21:34** *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*
- **John 15:6** *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
- **Philippians 2:12** *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in*

my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

- **Colossians 2:8** *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*
- **2 Thessalonians 3:5** *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*
- **1 Timothy 6:9-10** *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
- **Titus 1:14** *Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*
- **Hebrews 2:1** *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*
- **Hebrews 4:11** *Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*
- **Hebrews 10:35** *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.*
- **Hebrews 12:25** *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:*
- **James 5:12** *But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*
- **1 Peter 1:9** *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*
- **1 Peter 1:17** *And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*
- **2 Peter 3:17** *Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*

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- **Revelation 2:5** *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*
- **Revelation 16:15** *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*
- **Revelation 18:4** *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*
- **Revelation 22:18** *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: etc.*

5. The many scriptures stressing perseverance by faith proves conditional security.

- **Romans 1:17** *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith. (LIVE BY FAITH)*
- **2 Corinthians 1:24** *Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. (STAND BY FAITH)*
- **1 John 5:4** *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (OVERCOME BY FAITH)*
- **Jude 1:3** *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (CONTEND FOR FAITH)*
- **Ephesians 6:16** *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (DEFEND WITH FAITH)*
- **Matthew 10:22** *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*
- **Matthew 24:13** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

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- **Hebrews 3:6** *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*
- **Hebrews 3:14** *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;*
- **Hebrews 6:11-12** *And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*
- **1 Peter 1:13** *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*
- **1 John 2:13-14** *I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*
- **1 John 5:5** *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*
- **Revelation 2:7** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*
- **Revelation 2:11** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*
- **Revelation 2:17** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*
- **Revelation 2:26** *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*
- **Revelation 3:5** *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out*

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of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

- **Revelation 3:12** *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*
- **Revelation 3:21** *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*
- **Revelation 12:11** *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*
- **Revelation 21:7** *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

Other scriptures pertaining to continue, abide, etc.

6. The fact that the Bible declares it is possible to lose faith proves conditional security.

- **Luke 8:13** *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*
- **Matthew 18:6** *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*
- **1 Corinthians 8:11** *And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*
- **2 Timothy 2:18** *Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*
- **1 Timothy 1:19** *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*

- **1 Timothy 5:11-13** *But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*
- **1 Timothy 6:10** *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
- **1 Timothy 1:5-6** *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;*
- **1 Timothy 4:1** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*
- **2 Peter 2:20** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*
- **1 Timothy 5:8** *But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*
- **James 3:18** *And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

7. The emphasis and warnings about Christians sinning against grace proves conditional security.

- **2 Corinthians 6:1** *We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*
- **Galatians 2:21** *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*
- **Galatians 5:4** *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

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- **Hebrews 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*
- **Hebrews 12:15** *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

8. The progression and gravity of the sins against the Holy Spirit proves the possibility of apostasy.

- **Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*
- **Hebrews 10:29** *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*
- **Matthew 23:31-37** *Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zechariah son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

- **Luke 12:10** *And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.*

9. The fact that the Bible expressly states it is possible to fall from grace and no where says it is impossible proves conditional security.

- **Galatians 5:4** *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*
- **Revelation 22:19** *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

10. The scriptures that declare it is impossible for an apostate to be saved again proves conditional security.

- **Hebrews 6:4-6** *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*
- **Hebrews 10:26-31** *For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

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- **2 Peter 2:20-22** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*
- **1 Timothy 4:1-3** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.*

11. The scriptural examples of spirits and men who completely apostatized proves God will not allow His grace to be despised. Lucifer:

- **Isaiah 14:12-14** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*
- **Ezekiel 28:11-17** *Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the*

holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

- **Luke 10:18** *And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*
- **John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*
- **Matthew 25:41** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*
- **Revelation 20:1-10** *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but*

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they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Angels:

- **2 Peter 2:4** *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*
- **Jude 1:6-7** *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

Men: - Apostates who committed suicide: Saul and Judas.

- Apostates that God destroyed: Nadab and Abihu,
Korah, Dathan, Abiram,
Ananias and Sapphira and Lot's wife.

- People designated as apostates

- **1 Timothy 5:1-13** *Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers;*

the younger as sisters, with all purity. Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

- Hymenaeus and Alexander:

- **1 Timothy 1:19-20** *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

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- **2 Timothy 2:17-18** *And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*

12. The scriptural condition that Christians must not only be converted but faithful until Jesus comes proves the doctrine of perseverance.

- **Matthew 24:36-51** *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

- **Matthew 25:1-30** *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful*

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servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- **Mark 8:38** *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*
- **Luke 9:26** *For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*
- **Mark 13:32-37** *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*
- **Luke 17:30-32** *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the*

housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife.

- **Luke 21:28** *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*
- **Luke 21:34-36** *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*
- **Colossians 3:4-7** *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*
- **1 Timothy 6:11-15** *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;*
- **2 Timothy 4:8** *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*
- **Titus 2:11-13** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying*

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ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

- **Hebrews 9:28** *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*
- **Hebrews 10:35-37** *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet, a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*
- **James 5:7-8** *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*
- **1 Peter 1:7** *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- **1 Peter 1:13** *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*
- **1 Peter 2:12** *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*
- **2 Peter 3:11** *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*
- **1 John 2:28** *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*
- **1 John 3:3** *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*
- **Revelation 2:5** *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come*

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unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

- **Revelation 2:16** *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*
- **Revelation 2:25** *But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.*
- **Revelation 3:3** *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*
- **Revelation 3:11** *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*
- **Revelation 16:15** *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*
- **Revelation 22:7** *Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the saying of the prophecy of this book.*
- **Revelation 22:12** *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

Chapter 17

CAN A PERSON WHO IS SAVED TURN BACK TO THE WORLD AND BE LOST?

1. Mat 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his saviour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be _____, and to be trodden under foot of men.

2. 1 Timothy 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning _____ have made _____:

3. Luke 8:13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while _____, and in time of temptation _____.

4. 1 Timothy 5:11-13 "But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having _____, because they have cast off their first _____. And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

5. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the _____ shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither

fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the _____.

6. John 15:1,2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch _____ that beareth not fruit he _____: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

7. John 15:6 If a man _____, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and _____.

8. Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we _____ from him that speaketh from heaven:

9. Matthew 24:49-51 And shall begin to smite *his* fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the -

_____.

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the _____: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

10. Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the

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law; ye are _____ from
_____.

11. Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man _____ of the _____ of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

12. 2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and _____ in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

13. Hebrews 6:4-6 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall _____, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

14. Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he _____

_____, an unholy thing, and hath _____ unto the Spirit of grace?

15. Revelation 21:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part ____ of the ____

_____, and ___of the holy city , and from the things which are written in this book.

16. 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a _____.

17. Revelation 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away _____ out of the _____, and out of the _____, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

18. 2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels _____, but cast *them* down to _____, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

19. 2 Peter 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and _____, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning

20. Luke 12:10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it _____.

21. 1 Timothy 5:11,12 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton

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against Christ, they will marry;
Having _____, because they have
cast off their first _____.

22. Mark 8:38 _____ therefore shall
be ashamed of me and _____ in
this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also
shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh
in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

23. Luke 17:30-32 Even thus shall it be in the day
when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he
which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in
the house, let him not come down to take it away:
and he that is in the field, let him likewise not
return back. _____
_____.

24. Hebrews 10:35-37 _____
_____ therefore your confidence, which hath
great recompense of reward. For ye have need of
patience, that, after ye have done the will of God,
ye might receive the promise. For yet, a little while,
and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

25. Matthew 7:13,14 Enter ye in at the strait
gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way,
that leadeth to destruction, and many there be
which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate,
and narrow *is* the _____, which leadeth unto
life, and few there be that find it.

26. John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews
which believed on him, _____ ye continue in my
word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

27. 1 Corinthians 15:1,2 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, _____ ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

28. Hebrews 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, _____ we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

29. Rom 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, _____ thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be _____.

Chapter 18

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Christians often departmentalize love, holiness, faith and fear. These four attributes are often viewed as completely separate. The Bible however does not teach such a doctrine. Jesus linked love and righteousness. He said, *If ye love me, keep my commandments.* (**John 14:15**). That tells us Love and holiness are a part of each other. The truth is charity or true Godlike unselfish love is a holy love. So love and holiness are a necessary part of each other. There is not true complete love without holiness and there is no true complete holiness without love.

The same can be said of love and faith. Paul said, *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.* (**Gal. 5:6**); therefore love produces faith. Neither can faith and fear be divided.

- **Prov. 14:26,27** *In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence[faith]: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life[faith], to depart from the snares of death. [Emphasis mine]*

These verses explain fear is a part of true faith. Noah had faith and he moved with fear to build an ark. Had he not had faith he would have had no fear. A parent tells a child not to touch a hot stove or he will be burned. The child obeys because he has faith in what the parent tells him and he is fearful of being burned.

Fear is not necessarily a physical dread. Fear

is also a respectful love. A child may fear to disappoint his father not only because he fears punishment but he fears lowering his fathers' trust in him. All the above is to say that Christians need to understand the depth of the love of God for His children. To grieve the precious Holy Spirit is a very serious sin. God saves lost sinners so they will be free from the consequences of sin; therefore, he expects Christians to live holy lives. To live a worldly life is to disappoint our heavenly Father. It is to be disloyal to Jesus Christ.

- **James 4:4** *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

If we love God we will have faith in Him. If we have faith in Jesus Christ we will fear Him, and if we fear Him we will obey Him. (*If ye love, me keep my commandments*).

If there is one thing the church does not have enough of today it is the fear of God. For if the church feared the Lord more we would love Him more.

By now we all must surely understand that God means it when he says: *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Heb. 12:14).*

Chapter 19

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

Matthew 18:23-35 *Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.*

And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses. [Emphasis mine]

The above parable teaches forgiveness. The unforgiving servant was completely forgiven by his king. However, he in return refused to forgive someone else. In this case someone who owed a much smaller debt. The lesson is apparent. The king is a symbol of what lost sinners owe to God. It is the sin debt and can never be paid. When a poor lost sinner comes to Jesus and begs forgiveness the blood of Christ is applied and Jesus forgives all our sin debt.

The second part of the parable is just as apparent. The servant who was completely forgiven refused to forgive someone who owed him (had wronged him) even though the offender begged for pardon just as he had done to the king. He refused to pass the forgiveness Jesus had given him on to someone who had wronged him. When the king heard of his refusal to love his brother and forgive him he had him called to judgment. The king revoked his forgiveness and delivered him to the "tormenters" for all eternity for he could never repay his debt to the king. The lesson is obvious. It is possible to fall from grace and be lost.

In case someone objects and says a doctrine cannot be built on a parable, and though this pastor has never seen a word Jesus spoke that was not absolutely accurate, consider the following:

- **Matthew 6:14-15** *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*
- **Mark 11:25-26** *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

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But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Jesus is teaching two main lessons with the parable of the unforgiving servant. First, not forgiving someone will hinder or stop our prayers from being answered. Second, to continue a life without compassion or not being willing to forgive someone who has sincerely asked us to forgive them can cause a person to be lost. The message is loud and clear. It is rejected only by those who refuse to hear it. Jesus saves people to become like him. He does not save people to refuse to be like Him.

Our Father I pray that this book will have Thy blessing upon it. I pray that if Thou art pleased with it that Thou wilt use it. Bless it mightily to teach the truth of salvation wherever Thou doest place it. I pray that Thy precious Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. I pray this book will not be a means of division but a means to draw Thy people into a deeper study of Thy precious and Holy Word. May it challenge the comfortable who are at ease in Zion and may it instruct those who seek Thy grace. Let us all lay aside our private interpretations and seek Thy truth. Thou art our creator and the creator of all that is or ever shall be. Thou wilt judge this author, Thou wilt judge this book, and Thou wilt judge the hearts of all who read it. We earnestly plead with Thee for Thy mercy and grace.

Oh! Lord help Thy church to turn from the world and return to thy loving arms. Give us real Holy Ghost, Christ centered, and Bible based revival. We pray that Thou wouldst bless Thy people in these perilous times. Let all thy people glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, seek to win souls and help those who are born again to be grounded and

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steadfast in Thy Word. Help all Thy children to stand and not be ashamed of Thee or Thy Word. Help us never to deny Thee or Thy Word. To Thee be all glory, honour and majesty. In Jesus name we ask these things, Amen.

Chapter 20

WHAT GOD IS DOING

The Bible presents an overall view of God's plan for the redeemed of the Lord and for those who reject the love of God. Yes, those who are saved will go to heaven. Those who reject God's Plan of salvation will spend the coming eternity in the lake of fire. It is logical then to ask what is God doing? Why did he create mankind when He knew of all the sin and devastation sin would cause. When Satan sinned along with those holy angels that followed him why did He not cast them into hell and be done with the rebellion. After all hell was created for the fallen Lucifer and fallen angels.

Matthew 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

When man fell hell had to be renovated to accommodate all the future inhabitants.

Isaiah 5:14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

So Satan led an insurgency in heaven against God because he wanted to be God. The information God has given to man about that war can be seen in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. Neither let it be considered that God was caught off guard by Lucifer's defection. Just as the Lord knew that Adam and Eve would sin when He placed them in the Garden of Eden He knew Lucifer and the angels that followed him would sin when He created them. This was all understood in God's overall plan. The omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent God has

no imperfections in His designed plan. Neither does the Creator's plans for earthlings pertain to only men.

Operation Planet Earth

The next phase of the Lord's plan was to create man and place him in the environment of Planet Earth. Man was created in a state of perfection and placed in the Garden of Eden in a perfect world. God looked at all of His creation at the end of six days and saw that it was "very good." Just as Lucifer had sinned along with the fallen angels Adam and Eve sinned and polluted themselves and the perfect world God had created. One again it is to be understood the fall of the first couple to **inhabit the new world along with Satan's role as the enemy was not a surprise.** It was all a part of the lessons God would teach mankind and the Holy angels.

The Almighty's design for redeemed men is to fulfill His will in the next phase of His grand design. Israel is one part of that plan. The church of Jesus Christ is another piece of the new world the Lord will create. As it has already been noted by many "Israel is God's earthly people and the church is His heavenly people." Redeemed Israel under their Messiah and King the Lord Jesus Christ will accomplish God's plan for them in the coming Millennial Age and on through eternity. The Church of Jesus Christ will be kings and priests.

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

All that that entails will be revealed in the future; yet, in the wisdom of the Godhead it has been revealed that redeemed men will have a great part in God's future world.

Sin And It's Results

God could have made Lucifer and the angels where there was no chance they could sin. He could have made man the same way but that would not have afforded the angels and men the opportunity to love their Heavenly Father. God is a God of fellowship. He creates all of His creatures with free will. As stated earlier that is necessary for Him to be able to have true love and fellowship with His subjects.

In order for men to be "kings and priests" in the coming eternity he must understand about God's perfection and the righteousness of His agents and messengers. The Captain of our salvation had to understand the weakness of man in order to be the perfect high priest.

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Man in his unregenerate state would be totally unprepared and unqualified to fellowship or represent the heavenly Father. It was necessary for men and angels to learn about the awful unimaginable results of angles and men when God's law was transgressed. For sin is the transgression of God's law.

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

The lesson had to be learned that when God's law is disobeyed horrible and even eternal disaster occurs. It is these lessons that caused the loving God to allow Lucifer, and Adam and Eve, to fall into sin. It is for these reasons only redeemed man will be allowed to be kings and priests in the New World.

Life And Salvation

In Matthew 13 Jesus taught in parables. One of the Parables is the parable of the sower. Jesus spoke the parable in verses three through nine. He then explained the parable in verses eighteen through twenty-three. In the parable of the sower Jesus explained the sowing of the gospel and the four types of response men would give to the gospel. The seed by the "way side" represents people who hear the gospel but do not accept it. People who are not saved. They may be religious. They may even profess to be Christians for the benefits of heaven or the prestige of religion etc, but they never accept the gospel of Jesus Christ in their hearts. They may be atheists but they all reject and refuse to obey the Word of God. The seed on the "rock" and the seed "among thorns" accept the gospel and are saved but they do not remain faithful to Christ. They backslide either because they do not continue to grow or because they fall into temptation and do not remain faithful to Christ. The seed in the "good ground" are those who are saved, bear fruit and remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

In this parable which can be found in the Gospel of Mark chapter four and Luke chapter eight gives rise to another great lesson about life.

This sinful and trouble ridden world with all its temptations, trials and tribulations is the proving ground for men. The Lord has placed man in this world and He allowed sin to enter to test man, teach man and to teach the angels. The Bible indicates angels are watching, ministering and learning from mans experiences.

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1 Co 11:10 *For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.*

This world is God's testing ground for men. Each person who is born has been given a measure of faith. God has given every man a measure of faith. There are tests that every person must face. First every person must decide to either accept Jesus Christ or to reject Him. That is the first test. If a person fails that test and rejects Jesus for his Saviour the rest of that person's life will be filled with other tests to try to bring that person to Christ. Every situation, be it temptation, trial or tribulation no matter how wrong or bad is sent or allowed by the Lord to cause that person to realize their need of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

If a person continues to refuse to be saved until he dies he will have rejected the love of God and be cast into hell.

Those who accept Jesus Christ by faith have passed the first test. From that point on their life should be spent faithfully serving the Lord and following His will. They will be faced with many temptations, trials, and tribulations to test the strength of their faith.

1 Peter 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

In accordance with God's plan a Christian's faith must be tested for endurance. There are those where the seed fell on stony ground and those where the seed fell among thorns. There are those whose faith will not stand the tests of this world.

There are those who have accepted Christ and their faith will endure everything the devil and this world can throw at them. They are the "good ground ." Their faith will stand the tests and their faith will continue to grow. Some may backslide for a while but they will repent and be forgiven of their backsliding. They will trust only in the precious blood of Jesus Christ for their salvation. They will be faithful unto the end. They will be kings and priests. In eternity as God's representatives they will understand the awful and long lasting results of sin. They will have acquired the knowledge and wisdom of being lost in sin without Christ and then being saved to live in His glorious love. Even angels will have learned by watching man the lessons God wants them to learn. God's plan will go on in eternity and that will become evident when He reveals it. Then all the redeemed of the Lord will praise Him constantly and forever for His wonderful Grace. The four beasts will proclaim:

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

For it is not the strength of those who are redeemed that has brought them through this "veil of tears" but the wonderful grace of God. As the Apostle Peter uttered under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

2 Peter 3:17-18 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Chapter 21

FRANK'S TESTIMONY - A SINNER SAVED BY GRACE

It was Sunday morning. It was the summer of 1957, and I was 14 yrs old. I had been under conviction for about six months. I had decided to give my life to Christ weeks before; however, after confiding in my mother, she counseled me to wait until I was absolutely sure that I was truly ready to give my whole heart to Jesus. I had taken that time and prayed and searched my heart. On this Lord's Day, I woke up and the Holy Spirit was convicting me about getting saved. I knew I was lost. There was no single sin that brought me to Christ. I believed in Jesus but I was not saved. I knew I was a sinner, I knew I was lost, and I did not want to go to hell.

I prepared to go to church as usual, but I determined the issue of my soul had to be settled that day. I could wait no longer. I again went to my mother. My father was a kind man who lived a moral standard, but at that time he was not a Christian. I found my mother in her bedroom. I confided to "mom" that I was going to get saved at church that Sunday morning. She talked with me and again asked me if I was sure I was ready to give my life to Jesus Christ. I told her I was. She agreed that it was time and that I should go forward and talk to the pastor during the invitation.

At the morning service, I was sitting with my two friends on the right side of the sanctuary. The sermon was over and the invitation was given. I

intended to go forward but I did not. It was like I was frozen. I wanted to go but for some reason I could not. All through the invitation I was under conviction but I firmly gripped the back of the pew in front of me and I could not move. Now the invitation was over the benediction had been given and people were leaving and visiting after the service. There I stood still clutching the back of the pew but unable to move. I remember thinking I could not leave without getting this settled. I had to get saved but I could not move. I just kept standing there. I did not look to the right or to the left. Mike was on my right, and he must have spoken to me but I just stood there. I think he turned and left to the right. Terrill who stood next to me on my left sensed my dilemma. He asked, "Do you want to talk to the pastor?" I looked at him and nodded in affirmation. He immediately left and returned with the pastor.

Pastor Corlew led me to the altar and explained the plan of salvation to me. He asked if I wanted to pray and be saved. I said "yes", and we knelt together and prayed. All I could say in the prayer was "thank you Lord, thank you Jesus". I whispered it over and over. I had asked Jesus to forgive me and save me many times in that week before I went to the altar. When I got up from the altar Pastor Corlew asked if I believed Jesus had saved me. I told him yes. I was not excited. I was not rejoicing. That is what I had expected, but it hadn't happened that way. I felt different and strange. I did not understand, but I knew Jesus Christ had come into my heart and saved my soul. My heart and my mind were changed that day. The Holy Spirit was in my heart, and I loved Jesus. I did not understand everything about serving the

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Lord at the altar; nevertheless, I did understand I was saved by the blood of Jesus. I knew this was a covenant between me and Jesus, and it was sealed with the Precious Holy Spirit. It was God's wonderful Grace, and I had accepted Jesus Christ by faith. I was saved by grace through faith. Now by God's grace I was to live for Jesus Christ. I was to live, walk and stand by faith in my Saviour, and be faithful to Him. I was to put Jesus above everything else in my life.

Did I do that? Sadly and ashamedly, the answer is no. Though I stayed in church I drifted into a worldly and sinful life. It was a miserable time. God had called me to preach and I had refused to surrender to His will. For six years, I lived in stubbornness and a backslidden condition. The precious Holy Spirit convicted me and worked with me to get me to surrender my life to God. I rededicated my life to Christ and lived a dedicated life for Christ, but still I ignored God's call to preach. I was still miserable. I convinced myself that I had imagined God called me to preach because I felt guilty over my sins. When God convicted me about answering the call to preach I deceived myself by telling myself it was just guilt. Finally there came a day when the Lord spoke very clearly to my heart. For half a day I walked my father's farm. I wept and prayed and argued with God. I was afraid to preach. I feared how the two greatest heroes in my life would take such a decision. Both my dad and my brother were my heroes. I feared alienating them and not being close to them (Years later both were saved). Yet, the Holy Spirit never relented. After hours of struggling God gave me a very clear ultimatum. It was now or never. I knew I could not be a true Christian and not do the will of God. Finally like

Jonah I surrendered. I knew to go on in stubborn rebellion against God would cost me my soul. I knew I wanted Jesus more than anything else in the world. If following Jesus cost me my Dad and my brother and the whole world I wanted Jesus. Then and there in a field near an old tree stump I fell to the ground. I prostrated myself in that field that had been disked to keep the weeds down. With tears streaming down my face, I buried my face in the cloddy dirt. I freely gave all to Jesus. I begged for forgiveness and I loathed myself for my disobedience. God had finally won. From that point on I belonged completely to Jesus Christ. I went to my mother and told her and we wept together. I went to my pastor and told him I had accepted the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. From that point until now I have had no king but Jesus. I have lived as faithfully for Him as I can, I have believed the Bible is the infallible, inerrant, preserved Word of God. I hope and trust God has used me as He has wanted. I have pastored for almost 50 years. My goal is to win others to Christ, to do his will and honour Him and glorify Him with all my life. My hope is to be ready to meet Jesus when I die or when He comes. One thing is certain. I knew I could not live an unfaithful life and refuse to do the will of God and go to heaven. Jesus called me to be faithful to Him. To be faithful until the end. By His Grace that is what I will do. I am a human being and will not reach perfection until Jesus comes, however; I am faithful. I try to maintain a perfect heart with my Lord. When I sin I repent and receive forgiveness from my blessed Lord. I am under the blood of Jesus. When I do make a mistake it is that. It is a weakness and a mistake. I am not living in stubborn rebellion against God's will. I do my best for Jesus and His

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wonderful grace is always there when I succeed and when I fail. I am saved. I do have the opportunity to turn back to the world. Some do. I don't because I have become a willing slave to Jesus Christ. I cannot keep myself but Jesus keeps me because I believe in Jesus and continue in his Word. That is salvation by Grace through faith.

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