

CHRISTIAN ASSURANCE

(Part One)

The Perseverance of the Saints - Can a Saved Person Be Lost?

I. DEFINITION

By "perseverance of the saints" we mean that one who is truly regenerated will continue in faith and will be finally delivered from sin.

or eternal security

future tense of Sal.

→ This does not mean that a justified person is saved in the end no matter what happens after he is justified. It rather means that salvation is a transaction of such a nature that some things cannot happen.

It does not mean that a man is saved whether he continues in the faith or not. It means that a regenerated man will continue in the faith.

It does not mean that salvation is an automatic gift by virtue of a sacrament or by virtue of one who has had an initial emotional experience without eternal implications, nor does it mean by virtue of a divine decree regardless of his personal response.

*1 Peter 1:5
Eph 1:4
Phil 1:6*

II. SUPPORT OF THE DOCTRINE

1. Relationship of Human and Divine Activity in Salvation

The New Testament teaches that God takes the initiative in salvation. The Christian perseveres because God preserves. Salvation is not a cooperative effort on the part of man and God. God does it all, man simply receives.

The Nature of the New Life. I John 3:6-9. The new life in Christ is eternal and therefore imperishable. Our life of fellowship with God constitutes a moral guarantee that we will not live in sin.

3. The Intercession of Christ on Our Behalf.

Scriptures:
Luke 22:31-32
John chapter 17
I John 2:1-2
Hebrews 7:25

In Hebrews 7:25 the word "uttermost" means "to the end". When God saves us, He saves us to the very end, because Christ ever lives to make intercession for us. Our life as a Christian is dependent upon the life of Christ and since the life of Christ is endless, ours is also.

*John 10:28,29
Rom 8:35-39
Jude 24,25
1 Peter 1:5*

4. The Seal of The Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30

(Part Two)

How May I Know I Am A Christian?

Christian assurance is the privilege and birthright of every child of God. Assurance is one of the great sources of Christian joy. Doubting brings despair, discouragement and defeat to the believer. In I John 5:13, John tells us that he wrote this Epistle for the purpose of bringing assurance to every Christian. This means two things. One, every Christian can know that he is saved. Two, it is

Some Scriptures that seem to teach falling from grace. Gal. 5:4 break it off Heb. 6:4 Heb. 10:26-27 Peter = "that thy faith fail not."

possible for a Christian to doubt the fact of his salvation.

I. A DEFINITION OF CHRISTIAN ASSURANCE

1. False:

- (1) Those who say that Christianity is automatic -- there is no responsibility on man.
- (2) Those who say that the Christian life is an unruffled calm. The Christian life is often stormy.
- (3) Those who say that there must be an emotional, psychial, and physical well-being.

2. True:

Christian assurance is a foundation that God gives upon which we can build our Christian lives. The Bible gives several "foundations" of Christian Assurance. No Christian can have assurance without the proper foundation.

II. FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN ASSURANCE

Universals: eating, sleeping, breathing.

- 1. Faith -- Faith brings its own assurance. The faith that saves is the faith that assures. "He that believeth..." is saved. The presence of this faith, trust, a wholehearted committal to Christ, is the assurance of salvation.
- 2. The possession of the Spirit. Romans 8:9.
- 3. Service and growing conformity to Christ. Romans 8:28,29.
- 4. Life of practical righteousness. I John 2:3-6.
- 5. Love of one's brother. I John 3.
- 6. Fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22.
- 7. Obedience of the Christian. John 14:15.

doubtful sal. if ask @ TD father's problem same as still must you

These things do not bring salvation, they follow salvation. The Bible presents them as tests by which we are to examine our own lives.

III. FACTORS WHICH BRING DOUBT.

Assurance depends upon two things. It depends upon a right beginning in the Christian life, and it depends upon a right kind of follow through. An initial experience without resulting evidence is no basis of assurance. Often when people are asked if they are saved they reply, "Oh, yes, I was baptized when I was only 10 years of age." Yet when you observe their lives you find not the slightest indication that Jesus Christ is the Lord of their lives. They base their salvation on a past act--then. There must be a now-- a life that is presently showing evidences of salvation. There is no foundation without this.

- 1. It is possible that the one who lacks Christian assurance has never had a genuine Christian experience.
- 2. The one who doubts may have a lack of understanding as to the elements of Christian faith and belief.
- 3. Some Christians may doubt because they did not get the kind of experience they were looking for.
- 4. Sin in the life of the Christian will bring doubts.
- 5. When someone doubts, there may be honest intellectual problems. However, most of the problems are spiritual, with an intellectual covering.