

The Doctrine of Eternal Security

One of the greatest doctrines of Christianity is *Eternal Security*. Multitudes are mixed up concerning this great biblical subject because they read human experience instead of the Word of God. As we observe people it is very easy to believe that a person can be saved and then drift away and be lost. But when we turn to the Bible we read something entirely different. Let's explore twelve points on this great subject.

1. *Every believer is in union with Christ.* Once a person accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior he is "in Christ." This happens the moment one believes in Christ as Savior. The Apostle Paul uses "in Christ" dozens of times to define the position of the believer. Romans 8:1 says, *"There is now therefore no judgment to them that are in Christ Jesus."*
2. *The logical approach to eternal security.* In Romans 5 Paul uses the logical approach to prove eternal security. The logical approach is this: since God did the most for us when we were His enemies (and He did, by going to the cross and dying for our sins), what will He do for us now that we are His friends? He will do "much more" than the most. He will keep us saved once we have believed in Christ. We find this "much more" in Romans 5:9, 15, 17, and 20.
3. *Once saved, He holds us in His hand.* Anyone who does not believe in eternal security has to disregard the plain words of Jesus in John 10: 28-29:

"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."

Christ holds us and God the Father holds us and there is just no way for anyone (including yourself) or any power in the universe to break the firm grasp of those hands.

4. *God abides faithful even when we are unfaithful.* *"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him we shall also live with Him. If we suffer we shall also reign with Him: If we deny Him he will also deny us [rewards]. If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself."* (2 Tim 2:11-13)
5. *Once we believe in Christ we are in the family to stay.* When we are born into a human family, we are in that family to stay forever. Once you are your father's and mother's son or daughter, you will be their son or daughter forever. All people who are born physically are not children of God, but all who are *born again* are children of God, and they are His children forever. Galatians 3:26: *"For we are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ."* 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."*

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6. *Our inheritance will last forever.* Once we believe in Christ, we are not only in the family of God to stay, but we also have an inheritance that cannot be taken away from us. In 1 Peter 1:4-5 we have some of the strongest language in the bible about eternal security. Peter says, "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
7. *Once we believe in Christ we are members of His body.* *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."* (1 Cor 12:12)
8. *The power of God is adequate to keep us saved.* Salvation does not depend on the ability of the believer to hold out or to be faithful. If this were true no one would be able to hold true to the end. Salvation depends on the *power of God* to keep us eternally secure. Jude 24 says, *"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."*
9. *The tense used in the Greek text of certain salvation passages proves we are saved forever.* Ephesians 2:8 says, *"For by grace you have been saved..."* The word "saved" is a *perfect passive indicative* verb in the Greek. The *indicative mood* stresses the absolute reality of the fact of salvation. The *passive voice* states that the new believer receives the action of the verb. And the *perfect tense* states that salvation (being saved) occurred in the past *with the results continuing forever*.
10. *When we believe in Christ we are sealed by the Holy Spirit.* In 2 Corinthians 1:22 we read, *"Who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."* In fact, once we are saved, God puts a wall of protection around us and Satan will never be able to break that wall down.
11. *Christ died only once, and you can be saved only once.* This truth is stated in Hebrews 6:6 and refers to fellowship. You have to go back to verse 4 of Hebrews 6 to get the context to make that sentence clear. The believer is saved with an eternal salvation. Periodic restoration *to fellowship* is necessary and is appropriated by using 1 John 1:9.
12. *The term "fallen from grace" means a loss of fellowship.* Galatians 5:4 has been misunderstood by many. The phrase "fallen from grace" refers to being out of harmony with the Lord Jesus Christ, and being under the control of the old sin nature.