AND HE GAVE... | The Perseverance of the Saints

Every Christian has likely wrestled with questions such as, "Am I really saved?" or "Can I lose my salvation?" Assurance is found in understanding both God's sovereignty and human responsibility. There is a necessary tension that is perfectly consistent with the Scriptures. God holds us securely, yet we are commanded to endure to the end. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

Bible Refs: Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:23-28; John 10:27-30; Philippians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 6:36-40; John 5:24; 1 John 5:13; Romans 8:28-39; 1 John 2:1-19; Matthew 7:21-22; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10; Philippians 2:12-13; Mark 13:13; 2 Timothy 2:11-3; Hebrews 7:25 [**SPANISH**]

Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What stands out to you? What is the focus?
2. Why do many Christians struggle with assurance of salvation? What does Jesus mean when He says that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand? How do you reconcile God's promise to keep us with the command to continue in the faith?
3. What is the difference between not achieving sinless perfection and abandoning the faith? Why is it important to remember that genuine Christians still experience temptation, doubt, and failure? What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping believers persevere?
4. Which promise from Romans 8 gives you the greatest assurance and why? What does it mean to know that eternal life begins the moment we believe? How does Christ's ongoing intercession strengthen your confidence in your salvation? Why is assurance important for spiritual growth? How should the certainty of God's love affect the way we face trials and hardships?
5. Why does Scripture command believers to examine themselves and test their faith? What is the difference between assurance and complacency? How can someone "work out" their salvation while still trusting God's grace? Why is understanding the balance between God's sovereignty and our responsibility essential?
6. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

A Few Takeaways

- Salvation is rooted in God's grip, not ours. Our confidence rests more in God's ability to hold us than in our ability to hold onto Him. The God who begins the work of salvation is committed to completing it.
- Perseverance does not mean never failing. It means being continually drawn back to Christ through the convicting and preserving work of the Holy Spirit.
- The believer's security rests in God's unchanging love and Christ's completed work. Nothing in creation can separate those who are in Christ from His love.
- Assurance of salvation should never produce carelessness. Instead, it should inspire gratitude, diligence, and a deeper commitment to following Christ faithfully.

If you are in Christ, your salvation is secure. You can know you have eternal life if you continue in the faith and persevere by doing the following...

- Examine yourself to test whether you are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Confirm your calling and election to keep from stumbling (2 Peter 1:10)
- Work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12-13)

Again, it's holding two truths together (Job 11:6). The fact is: you and I have a will, but God is also sovereign and has a desired will for our life. It's to be saved and to mature. That's what He desires for us. So how do we use our will? To see God's will accomplished through perseverance... to use our will to do God's will and move forward in our faith.

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

In Closing: Salvation is God's work from beginning to end. Yet Scripture repeatedly calls believers to continue in faith, endure, and pursue spiritual maturity. Rather than pitting God's sovereignty against human responsibility, the Bible presents both realities together. As we trust Christ daily, we can live with confidence and hope, knowing that the One who began a good work in us will carry it to completion. This week, ask: How can I get closer to Jesus? How can I know Him better (Ephesians 1:17)? How can I become more like Jesus?

The Perseverance of the Saints | Bible Readings

“If you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.” —Colossians 1:23

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” —John 10:27-30

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” —Philippians 1:6

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. —Ephesians 1:13-14

“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” —John 6:37-40

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” —John 5:24

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” —Romans 8:38-39

"They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.” —1 John 2:19

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’” —Matthew 7:21-22

“We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.” —1 John 2:3-4

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? —2 Corinthians 13:5

Make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. —2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. —Philippians 2:12-13