

## LESSON 6: ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

**REVIEW:** Angels provide support in response to our walk with Christ.

There is a Baptist adage that says “Once saved, always saved.” In order to make this statement more accurate, it should be “once you are really saved, you are always saved.”

### HOW SALVATION WORKS

**Read John 16:7-11**

- ▶ What is the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation?

In this passage, Jesus is talking to the disciples on the way to Gethsemane. He previously had explained the parable of the seeds, but they did not understand it. His meaning behind the parable goes far beyond intellectually understanding it but rather has a deeper, spiritual meaning.

### THE PARABLE OF THE SEEDS

**Read Matthew 13:18-23**

There are two things needed for understanding. There are two schools of thought (Calvinism and Armenianism). Our church takes a stance somewhere in the middle of these two schools of thought.

In order for salvation to occur, the Holy Spirit must convict you of your sins. You then may respond with either “No, not today.” or “Yes.” Every time you refuse the Holy Spirit, Satan takes the conviction that God put in your heart and pulls it out causing your heart to harden. The Bible says in Hebrews 3:12-13, 4:7 that we are to listen and to respond immediately when we hear call of salvation. We need to pay attention to the call.

*Example: Chris’s testimony- I grew up hearing great preacher, participating in many church events including weekly Bible studies, and was very active in the church. I grew up in this environment, but I did not hear the Holy Spirit speak to me in my heart until I was 17 years old.*

You do not get unlimited chances to be saved. When God speaks, He knows that He is God, and you are not. He knows you ought to respond to Him **when** He calls. You can say to God that you do not want this today, but you may not fully understand the importance of that decision, regardless... you will lose. If the Holy Spirit convicts you and you respond to that conviction with “yes”, the Bible says in Acts 2:21 and Joel 2:32 “...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” This means that you are immediately saved after you call upon the Lord.

There are two parts to salvation: God's call and my response. Both of those things are vital and at that juncture, you are saved. Once you are legitimately saved, you cannot in anyway lose that salvation.

### **DOUBTING MY SALVATION**

Most Christians doubt their salvation at some point in time. Just because you doubt your salvation does not mean that you are losing your salvation. Satan would never make a lost person doubt because it would cause them to think about being saved. He does not want you to doubt if you are not a Christian. If you are a Christian, then he does want you to doubt. If he can get you to doubt, then you cannot claim a single promise, you won't pray, and you won't read your Bible because you won't know if you really believe it. Doubting is not the same as losing your salvation. I do not believe that you can lose your salvation. PERIOD!

#### **Read I Peter 1:3-7**

Peter is writing to people who have been run out of town because of their faith.

- ▶ In what way did He cause us to be born again?

We are "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." This means that we can live in confidence that Jesus Christ really died on the cross to take away our sins and that He rose again to conquer death once and for all. Our hope is not how we view hope, as a wishful statement, but rather our hope is defined as "to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence" (dictionary.com). We can have confidence in eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven and that God will uphold His promise that He will protect us.

Just like the people Peter is writing to, we often struggle with the fact that sometimes being a Christian is not easy but, rather, is very painful. It is encouraging to know that even when we struggle, this will not undermine our faith because God promises to keep it for us by His power. Nothing is bigger than God, and since he holds your salvation, nothing can ever cause you to lose your salvation. You do not hold on to Him. He holds on to you through His power (Psalm 37:23-25). So no matter how stupid you and I are, His power will overwhelm your stupidity. He will hold on to you so this inheritance is a guarantee, and it is yours. That is imperative.

### **SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT**

#### **Read Ephesians 1:13-14**

- ▶ How do we become sealed with the Spirit?

First, you must hear the word of truth through the Holy Spirit, believe that truth, and respond correctly to that truth. After that, God promises that He will seal you with the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ What does it mean to be sealed?

There are two Greek words for seal or guarantee: *sphragizo* and *arrabon*.

*Sphragizo* is a Greek word that means “the King’s seal”. Whenever the king had a document that he wanted sealed so no one could open it except him, he would take his ring and put it in some hot wax and put his sign on it. No one would then touch it, as they did not have the authority. He said you have heard and you believed. The Spirit has spoken to you, you heard from God, you believed, you responded correctly to the Spirit. So you are legitimately saved. Paul is very precise in his writing. You heard from God and you believed. You did not figure this out on your own. As a result God has sealed you. He has placed His Holy Spirit in you. That Holy Spirit is God’s seal indicating that only He has the authority to be inside of you. This is why no demon can ever own you, or possess you. They can talk to you, whisper to you and bother you, but they cannot ever come into you again because you are sealed by the Holy Spirit of God.

*Arrabon* means “the down payment.” The Holy Spirit in you is God’s down payment to you. If you made a down payment in Biblical times, you had to make the purchase. It was a guarantee that you would finish the purchase. This word also means that if I am going to purchase something with gold, then my down payment must also be gold. If I purchase something with money, then my down payment must be in money. My down payment must match what is coming. He gives you what you will one day have in full: a perfect connection with God in eternity. The down payment is God Himself. You have two things.

1. You are kept by God’s power and are sealed by God.
2. God gives you a down payment that is His promise to you that He will redeem you.

### **Read Romans 8:39**

- ▶ How does this verse relate to your assurance of salvation?

Clearly nothing can ever separate us from the love of God once we are saved.

Those who say that you can lose your salvation often use the passage Hebrews 6:4-6 (we will look at that in just a second). It is a difficult passage. People that have a pet doctrine will always give you a portion of scripture.

**Example: Read 1 Peter 3:21-** *This partial verse sounds like you are saved by the act of being baptized. But the next part of the verse says, “not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience.”*

*Therefore baptism is not about the act of the water washing you clean, but rather it is the symbol of the Holy Spirit washing away your sins and you dying to the old man and being raised*

*up in the new man. Baptism is an appeal to God that you have a good conscience and a statement to God that you surrender to His blood. Baptism does not save you, but the blood of Jesus does.*

## **YOU CANNOT LOSE YOUR SALVATION**

### **Read Hebrews 6:4-6**

*“<sup>4</sup> For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been **enlightened**, who have **tasted** the heavenly gift, and have **shared** in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have **tasted** the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.”*

- ▶ Who enlightens us?

The One who enlightens us in our life is the Holy Spirit. Obviously the Holy Spirit has dealt with this person. According to this if a Christian falls away, it is impossible for him to ever be saved again. Look closely at the wording. It says you have been enlightened, tasted, but not digested. You have shared, but He has not come to dwell in you. You have tasted but not eaten.

- ▶ Carefully examine this verse. Are these verses talking about Christians or non-Christians?

This passage does not reference a Christian based on verse 9.

Verse 9 *“Though we speak in this way, yet in your case beloved we feel sure of better things— [says that I know that this is not true of you...] things that belong to salvation”*—in other words these things do not belong to salvation.

This is not a statement of a Christian falling away. This is a statement in detail of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. You will get some chances to hear the Holy Spirit. You can say “no.” Satan comes along and snatches the conviction out. Now God will come along and reconvict you. You will not get that many opportunities. You will come to some point in your life, everyone does, where they say to the Holy Spirit, “I don’t want this, I don’t like this, I don’t ever want to hear this again.” They have been enlightened. They know they are facing judgment. They know Jesus Christ is who He says He is. They have tasted the good power. They have shared in the Holy Spirit. He has brought conviction on them. He has worked in their life. He has ministered to them. He has dealt with them. But, they have rejected Him. Once you have come to that final rejection, it is impossible to repent. That is the point in Hebrews 6:4-6. It is not a reference point for those of us that have heard and believed. It is a reference point to those that have heard, but have finally said that they do not want to hear ever again. Once you commit that ultimate blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (no matter at what age), you make this decision. Once

you achieve this, you cannot be brought back to repentance. It is the final rejection of the Holy Spirit's offer of salvation. You are headed for hell.

### **SIN AFTER SALVATION**

- ▶ What about people that sin?

#### **Read 1 John 1:8-10**

He is talking to us brothers and sisters in Christ. If you think you are not a sinner, then His Word is not in you. There is a correlation to that statement

#### **Read 1 John 3:6**

This passage indicates that as a child of God I am a sinner, but I do not keep on sinning.

- ▶ How do I not keep on sinning?

#### **Read James 4:4-6**

I do not keep on sinning because of two things. First, God is zealous in His jealousy toward us. The Bible talks about how we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is going to be zealously jealous of anything in your life that squeezes Him out or diminishes His calling or His role in your life. When you get involved in some kind of sin, and you will do something stupid and sin, the first thing that will happen is that the Holy Spirit of God will be grieved. He does not keep that grief to Himself. You will sense and feel that grief. It is past having a conscious. He may utilize your conscious, but you will sense His grief. There is a jealousy in Him. You will begin to feel ill at ease about where you are or what you are doing. At that point, you are sensing the grief of the Holy Spirit. If I don't respond to that grief, then we move into a different realm. Second, God brings discipline in your life as His child.

#### **Read Hebrews 12:5-11**

He says that when I sense this grief but choose to ignore it, then God is going to discipline me. Discipline is not God's punishment. Punishment was taken on the cross. He does not punish you for what you do ever again. But, He will discipline you if you do not yield to the Holy Spirit's zealous jealousy in your heart. Here is the bad thing....

#### **Read 1 John 5:16**

It is possible to commit a sin that leads to death.

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 11**

► What do these verses say about sin?

He is talking about the Lord's Supper. Some of the people at Corinth were enamored with the old life, were getting drunk, and did not know what they were doing when they were taking the Lord's Supper. God then took some of their lives. We also have the example of Ananias and Sapphira being killed by God because they lied about the money (Acts 5). You have examples of God taking Christian lives out because of certain aspects of their response to their sin. It is a rare occurrence but possible. It is possible for you to sin in such a way that God pulls you out of the world. Overall, the reason you will not stay in sin is that the Holy Spirit is going to make you grieve. If you do not respond to that grief, God will discipline you. You cannot stay in that sin. Refusing to listen to God's discipline and obey Him could cause Him to remove you from this world.

**SUMMARY**

As a child of God, the reason that you cannot lose your salvation is that you will never come to a place where you sin completely and walk away from Jesus Christ. That is not possible in the life of a Christian. You are not going to lose your salvation. It is eternal. If it is real, and if it is a response to the Holy Spirit and not just a response to feeling like you need "fire insurance," then you are saved, and you cannot lose it. It is kept for you by the power of God. If you see a person whose entire life style is continually moving towards sin, he is not a believer. We do not have the right to make that judgment in his heart, but we do have the right to make that call in his life. The realization of grieving the Holy Spirit and God's discipline will pull you out of your sin and back to a relationship with Jesus.