

Feel Secure

I. Salvation is not earned

A. John 3 an act of God by birth.

In John 3, Nicodemus is told by Jesus the his big spiritual need was to be “born again.” This birth is a supernatural experience that happens as an act of God. The spirit is born and one becomes a child of God. What would it take for one to become unborn? It is not God’s design for salvation.

B. Free gift Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23B.

Grace is the unmerited favor of God. We cannot earn unmerited favor. Once a gift is given, it cannot be retracted. Salvation is not conditional. If we cannot earn it by our merits, it stands to reason that we cannot KEEP it by our merits. Religion makes a big departure here. The method of keeping the “faithful” involved in religion is primarily fear. This is not God’s way, it is love.

C. God becomes our father. Luke 12:45-46, John 15:15, Gal. 4:6-7

Can you see the progression in the above verses? One moves from being a servant of God to becoming a child of God. Children are better relationally than either servants or friends. Once this birth takes place, we come under a whole new way of interaction with God.

D. His power saves and keeps us. I Peter 1:4-5, I John 5:13, John 3:16,36, Romans 5:1

In human frailty, we struggle to maintain a clean heart and pure thoughts. Our actions are inconsistent, and our ways must seem fickle to God. Fortunately the “keeping” of our salvation is not left up to our own deeds, it is consigned to the mighty hand of God Himself. There is no religious balance where our good deeds are measured against our bad deeds to determine our ultimate fate. No such scripture exists to suggest such a thing.

E. We do our part Romans 10:9, 10:13.

Over and over again we are asked to believe from the heart, and from a sincere heart call upon the Lord, asking for His salvation.

F. He does His Titus 3:5.

In His infinite mercy and grace, He saves us. We do not save ourselves. What would I do to make myself “born again?” How would I go about performing the miracle of salvation on myself? The task is beyond my ability. I must trust God to do it. Since I trust Him to do it, I will not trust myself to “keep it.”

II. Guaranteed in writing

A. God is as good as His Word. Romans 8:33-39, Romans 5:1

This passage in Romans 8 is extremely powerful, ascribing the “keeping” of our soul’s salvation to the mighty hand of God. The list seems to be inclusive of any threat that may befall us, even “self” and “sin.” Both are implied in the list. We shall NOT ever be

separated from the love of God. We can therefore enjoy peace and security. Can we believe God's word?

B. Jesus said it was so. John 5:24, John 10:27-30

In John 5, notice the tense used, "has" "is passed" it's a done deal. We already have eternal life, if we have experienced the new birth. Eternal life is for ever and we believers already have it. Look at the John 10 passage and be thrilled at the confidence of the very Son of God, in His own ability to handle "all" opposition to our salvation.

C. Holy Spirit seals it. Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30-32

Ephesians 1 gives a sort of progression to our salvation. We "trusted" after we "heard" we "believed" salvation became "ours" and the Holy Spirit of God "sealed" us "until" the time of redemption (the resurrection). Chapter 4 gives notice, once again, to the same thought.

Hallelujah! God the Father, Jesus the Son, and Holy Spirit are not only in on the saving of my soul, but also the keeping.

III. Demonstrated in picture form. Luke 15:11-24

Did this prodigal son at any time become a NON son? Did the father require the son to be reinitiated into the family? The son never lost his son-ship. He did lose his joy, blessing, provision, and "fellowship" from the father, as he was in his rebellious state. However he never lost his "relationship." He remained a son.

IV. Results of sin

God knows that believers will still sin. In a sinful world, we still make bad choices. But God has thought of everything. He is never surprised by our weaknesses to live holy lives. God wants to be proud of His children. He wants us to be a good reflection of Him Matt. 5:16. There is a process, however, that we can expect as we fail Him.

A. Advocate is Jesus. I John 2:1

As believers, we have a lawyer on retainer. Jesus pleads our case in the presence of God.

B. Lost Joy. Psalm 51

From David's own heart, we can see the loss of joy. A constant consequence for sin is that loss. Sin is always an affront to God.

C. Broken fellowship. I John 1:7

As in the life of the prodigal son, "fellowship" is at stake not "relationship."

D. Discipline. Hebrews 12:5-6

As sinful people in a sinful world with sinful habits, we can expect to be disciplined by God. Discipline is different from punishment. Discipline is designed to yield a positive outcome; punishment is not necessarily the same. God's desire is to create in us and through us the "peaceable fruit of righteousness" Heb. 12:11. The unpleasantness of this process is incentive for us to "make our paths strait" (verse 13).

F. Death. I John 5:16

How far would God go to gain the good reflection from us? At some point, God would actually give up on us. He seems to have His limit. He is said to be “long suffering” but He will not let us continue perpetually to shame His image. He may go so far as to remove us from this earth. Such a case existed in I Corinthians 5:1-5. This “believer” caused such moral shame that Paul recommended his removal by God. Of course, even beyond death, his spirit was saved (verse 5).

G. Confession & restoration I John 1:9

This is God’s will, that we all be restored to good fellowship through private confession. Confession is us going straight to the “throne of Grace” (Hebrews 4:14-16) and telling the Great High Priest (Jesus) of our faults, naming them with specifics. Our sincere apology will always find favor with God. He will restore.

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