

SUMMARY

The discussion of eternal security is not complete without a reminder that our salvation is a supernatural work of God.

Our salvation is the divine accomplishment of a loving merciful God who adopted us as sons and daughters into His kingdom. We can delight in the truth that before the world began God initiated and provided everything we need for the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 1:9). We can be 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

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (genuine conversion) is practical when there is joy in God and faithfulness to Him even in life’s tribulations, not just life’s ease.

MATTHEW 13:47-50 Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Notice – the fish thrown away are not the ones missed by the net of the Kingdom.
- It is possible to taste the powers of the Kingdom and not be of the Kingdom (Hebrews 6:4-6)

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (genuine conversion) is practical because of the quality of our Christian life not the quantity of our Christian associations and activities.

MATTHEW 22:2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.” *MATTHEW 22:10-14* “So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

- Similar to the bad fish drawn into the net in Matthew 13, the lack of a wedding garment probably represents the lack of righteousness that surpasses the Scribes and Pharisees.
- The wrongly dressed man was invited with kingdom power from the world into the banquet hall – like the fish he was not fit and was cast out.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (genuine conversion) is practical when we have come into the Kingdom properly dressed in Christ’s robes of righteousness, not our own.

What God’s Word says about

Eternal Security



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*Making More and Better
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Saved Forever? Can You Rest Assured?

“I write these things to you that you many know that you have eternal life.”
I John 5:13

The doctrine of eternal security addresses the issue of whether or not a Christian can lose their salvation. Is it possible for the follower of Christ to have unflinching confidence that he is going to heaven? Or is there the possibility that one can lose his salvation because he has sinned? There are many scriptures in the Bible that confirm that once a person places their trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of his sins and follows Him in faithful obedience, he can be certain that his salvation will never be lost or taken away. The cornerstone of this certainty is based on God’s unchanging character.

A Defense Of Eternal Security

- 1. God’s love guarantees it. (Romans 5:8-10; 8:35-39)
- 2. God’s power guarantees it. (1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Thes. 5:23-24)
- 3. God’s faithfulness guarantees it. (1 Cor. 1:8-9)
- 4. God’s seal guarantees it. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- 5. God’s redemption guarantees it. (1 Peter 1:18)
- 6. God’s seed guarantees it. (1 Peter 1:23; John 1:12-13)
- 7. Jesus’ prayers guarantee it. (Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1; John 17:2,9,11-12,15,20)
- 8. Jesus’ promises guarantee it. (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30)

On the other hand, the Gospels along with several other scriptures alert us to the danger of falsely thinking we are saved when we are not. This is the opposite of today’s concern, which seems more eager to give feelings of assurance where there may not be any authentic spiritual life. The Bible is full of warnings to professing believers of their potentially false conversions and false sense of eternal security. The following passages of Scripture illustrate these warnings:

True Believers Manifest Evidence Of Their Faith

True Christianity is something that grips your life, radically changes you and transforms you into a new person in Christ. It is a way of life, an all-encompassing life-style that affects everything you are and everything you do. God’s Word calls for true believers to exhibit fruit (evidence) that confirms the genuineness of one’s salvation. The Bible seems to promote the idea that the greatest assurance of salvation is a holy life. “Thus by their fruit you will recognize them...” Matthew 7:16

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5 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?

- A description of a spiritual self-exam is referred to by Paul earlier in 2 Corinthians 12:20-21. He expresses his fear that they had not truly repented of the impurity, sexual sin, and debauchery in which they were indulging in as “so called believers”
- The test that they must pass also includes repentance from quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder .

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (assurance of salvation) is practical when we pass a spiritual exam that proves that we are in the faith because of our repentance and decreasing participation in the above sins.

GALATIANS 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

- Belonging to Christ is evidenced by the person who declares dead (crucifies) all of his past desires that are sinful.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (assurance of salvation) is practical when there is evidence that we have received a new nature (Christ’s) and are now desirous to fulfill His desires instead of our own.

1 JOHN 2:5-6 But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

- Our claim to be living the Christian life is conditional to be actually living like Jesus did.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (assurance of salvation) is practical for the believer when there is evidence that our Christian walk reflects our Christian talk.

1 JOHN 3:6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

- Inconsistency between our claim to know Him and our unrepentant, sinful lifestyle disqualifies our profession.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (assurance of salvation) is practical for the believer only when there is no evidence of a lifestyle of continuing unrepentant sin. This does not mean we lose our salvation when we sin (see 1 John 1:9). It simply means that if we refuse to repent of a known sinful activity, then we can not claim to know Christ.

Warnings To The Spiritually Deceived

It is dangerous to take it for granted that we are saved. False teaching and cultural compromise have led many to believe they are converted when they are not. There are many Scriptures that help us to make sure we have experienced a genuine conversion. “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

MATTHEW 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses

that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

- The righteousness called for here is not the righteousness of Christ imparted to us at salvation. As important as that is at the beginning of the Christian life, Matthew chapter five illustrates that the motive for our righteous conduct is equally as important as our code of our righteous conduct.
- This righteousness is a spiritual condition of the heart that confirms a spiritual position in Christ.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (genuine conversion) is not merely the result of a professed decision for Christ. Rather, it is a heart transformed by Christ. Eternal security is practical when our righteousness goes beyond that of legalistically obeying external religious commands to that of an inward spiritual life that exhibits the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

MATTHEW 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- Jesus teaches that there is a very specific and less traveled road to eternal life
- The majority will not choose the right road to salvation, but instead will choose a road that will lead them to eternal destruction.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (genuine conversion) is never a result of majority opinion. In fact, Jesus seems to teach that the majority falsely believes that they are on the right road when they are not. The warning is clear – there is only one road (not roads) to heaven and being on that right road is crucial if we are going to have true assurance of our salvation.

MATTHEW 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he 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 perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

- Even the presence of miracles done in the name of Jesus does not prove that genuine conversion has taken place.

CONCLUSION: Eternal security (genuine conversion) is being known by Jesus as someone who is no longer an evildoer (Mt. 7:16-20).

MATTHEW 13:20-21 “The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.”

- Joy that evaporates in the heat of trial/tribulation is not joy in God but joy in comfort.