

SAVED AND SECURE

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NOTES

Table of Contents

SUBJECT	PAGE
Introduction	1
Determining Why	1
The Cause and the Cure	2
Making Sure	4
The Basis of Our Security	8
The Power of God	9
The Position of the Believer	11
The Prayer of Jesus	14
The Prevailing Love of God	19
The Purpose of God in Our Lives	20
The Perfect Faithfulness of God	25
Conclusion	28

Conclusion

All of these great truths that give us a confident hope in our eternal security as believers in the Lord Jesus are summed up quite well in the words of Jesus in John 6:37

All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.

We are secure in our salvation because the One who saved us said that He would in no wise cast us out. When Jesus said this, He was speaking to all those who labor and are heavy laden. He was speaking to the “whosoever” of this earthly existence who realize their need for something beyond themselves. He was speaking to the “poor in spirit” and to “those who mourn.” He was addressing those who realize that they cannot save themselves and that they need a Savior Who is Christ the Lord.

INTRODUCTION

Debates have been on-going for nearly 2000 years regarding the general subject of the security of the believer. Many proof texts fly back and forth on both sides of this debate and we find various denominations as well as independent groups lining up on one side or the other in such discussions. We hear such phrases as “Once Saved, Always Saved” and some will question if this is just a “Baptist doctrine.” Certainly other groups (not bearing the name “Baptist”) teach this same message and, in the following pages, Scripture passages will be shared with you to show that this concept is more than just “Baptist doctrine” but rather “Biblical truth.”

DETERMINING WHY

An excellent starting point for this topic of Saved and Secure is to discover **why** we should want to know more about this subject. We find such a text in 1 John 5:13 (NAS)

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

Notice that, first of all, John is writing to believers in Jesus Christ so that they can be certain of (know) their salvation and know that they have eternal life and that their faith may grow even stronger and be more certain. The “things” John had written to the Church in this letter laid out the truths of the Gospel and gave testimony to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God. This same claim can be extended to the totality of Scripture, all of which point to Jesus as God’s only and sufficient means of salvation. We who have the Son have the “life of the Son” and that gives us confidence. Therefore, we don’t have a “hope so” or a “think so” salvation. Instead, we have a “know so” salvation.

The consequence of not being sure of our salvation is to make us ineffective in carrying out the call of God on our lives. This ineffectiveness finds expression in failure to grow the Kingdom of God by expanding the visible expression of the Kingdom, that is, the

Church. This growth is accomplished when lost people come to know the Lord Jesus and have an on-going and growing relationship with Him. The only way we will share this Good News is to know Him and to have confidence that we are saved and secure for all eternity. If we are not sure of that, then we will have a difficult time telling others about it.

THE CAUSE AND THE CURE

The opposite of faith is doubt and the opposite of knowing is being unsure. Those who are unsure of their salvation can find the roots of this uncertainty in at least three areas:

1. Unsure how they were saved

Such uncertainty stems from a general misconception that salvation is a reward for being good or doing good things. We hear this from not only the unchurched but also those who have years of experience in going to church, reading the Bible and listening to sermons. If we think that we “earned” our salvation by being or doing good, then we would logically think that we could “lose” that salvation if we cease being or doing good. We would think that we are saved as long as we are sinless.

The outcome of such a belief results in a person thinking they have lost their salvation and then they want to get saved again. This raises the question “How many times can you be saved?” In Romans 6:10, we read (from the NIV)

*The death he died, he died to sin **once for all**; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*

Jesus died once for our sins and that death was sufficient. He will not die the second time for our sins so that we can be saved again. When we identified with Christ in His death on the cross, then we also died to our sins and were born again of the Spirit of God. The life we have in us is the uncreated life of God and it can never die – it is eternal. Just as a physical rebirth is impossible, so is a second spiritual rebirth. We cannot be “born again” again.

When generations cease and time is no more, God is still faithful. How long is He faithful? To the end! Other Scriptures also agree with God’s faithfulness:

The one who calls you is faithful and he will also bring it to pass. (1 Thess 5:24)

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. (2 Tim 2:13)

Aren’t you glad that your salvation is NOT dependent on you. So many times our response to another person is influenced by that person’s response to us. We get confused with the Golden Rule and we “do unto others as they do unto us.” God is **not** that way. His response to us is based on Who He Is and not on what we do. Whether we are faithful or faithless, God remains faithful because of Who He Is. He cannot deny Himself. He cannot cease to be God!

Our part is to simply come in faith, believing and receive the free gift of his grace that He offers to “whosoever” out of the abundance of His overwhelming love and He saves us to the uttermost – completely and for all eternity. At times, we go through difficulties and we are in the low places of depression, even in the valley of the shadow of death, and we cannot “feel” his presence. However, we can know “God is there for us” because He is the God of Perfect Faithfulness and His word encourages us in Hebrews 10:23 to hold on to His promises.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

In Revelation 19:11 we read

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

When we get to the end we will still have assurance of God’s Salvation when we see Him Whose name is Faithful.

Psalms 119:90 tells us

Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations.

Deuteronomy 7:9 says

Know, therefore, that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God Who keeps his covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

And, perhaps, best of all, Jesus identified Himself as “the AMEN, the faithful and true Witness” (Rev 3:14) He is the essence of Faithfulness!

We see the idea of completeness and permanence in these verses. In Ps 33:4 we focus on “ALL” His work is done in faithfulness. In Deut. 7:9 we see that faithfulness extending to a thousand generations and we see confirmation of the permanence in the words of David that it continues throughout ALL generations. God’s faithfulness is complete and it is permanent. It is Perfect!

**Jesus is the AMEN,
the faithful and true
Witness.**

We can trust what God says because His word is established, it is fixed and it is settled in Heaven, it does not change. You can read sermons of faithful preachers through the centuries and they have the same message. You can listen to tapes of faithful messengers of God from two or three generations ago and it is the same message that is being proclaimed today in churches that trust the unchanging truth of the Word of God. God’s word is unchanging because He is unchanging. His faithfulness is complete, it is permanent and it is unchanging. It is Perfect!

First Corinthians 1:8-9 says

. . . Who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through Whom you were called into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ.

2. Doubts about the ability of God

To claim that you can lose your salvation is to declare that the death of Christ on the cross was **not sufficient** to save you completely and eternally (to the uttermost).

How many times have you heard people say that they are “so bad” and done such terrible things that God could not forgive them? We could ask these simple questions:

“What sin could we ever commit that is so great that it can overcome or overpower the love of God?”

“How much sin can we commit that it overwhelms the ability of God?”

“How frequently can we sin that an omnipotent God is not able to deal with it?”

In other words, what is the limit on the patience of God that He negates our salvation because of our sin? Our sin will bring correction, discipline and even grief to our lives. It can lead to sadness and shame and regret but we must be careful to not equate the corrective and restorative discipline of God in our lives as a loss of our salvation. Such discipline is, instead, proof of His continuing love for us.

The obvious answer to the above questions is “There is none.” If we search the Scriptures, then we find there are no responses to such questions. If we, therefore, conclude that God is ABLE to save to the uttermost, and if we are still thinking that we can lose our salvation, then we likely have the problem described in the third possibility.

3. Doubt about the character of God - His Love, His Mercy, and Willingness to Forgive

The sure cure for any doubts we have about the love, mercy and willingness to forgive of Jehovah God is to consider the Cross of Christ. Picture Jesus on the cross - in our place- and all doubt will dissolve regarding the Love of God, the Mercy of God, and God’s Willingness to Forgive..

The remedy for such an insecure position, whether it is a result of uncertainty of how we were saved, God's ability, or God's character, is to realize that we cannot save ourselves. Salvation results from what Jesus did and Who Jesus is. It is a gift that is given and not a reward or payment that is earned. We did nothing to earn it since it is offered by the grace of God.

We who are sure of our salvation have that confidence in spite of "who we are" and not because of it. It is not a cause for boasting in ourselves but is a cause for humility when we realize that we are sinner saved by the grace of God, and that our salvation is not because of any merit on our part.

MAKING SURE

Is there ever any legitimate reason for a person to doubt their eternal security? The simple answer to that question is a resounding "YES!" Those who have never been born again have NO assurance of eternal **security** but a promise of eternal **separation** from God. To be Saved and Secure we must first be **saved**. Those who are not saved have no security. Therefore, the question of the ages is simply this:

How Can I Be Saved?

This is the same question that was asked by the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:30, when God opened the door of the prison so that His servants Paul and Silas could be set free. Paul gave the man a simple one-sentence answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!" In Romans 10:9-10, the Apostle Paul addressed this very question with additional commentary.

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Here we have the answer to the question "How can I be saved?" Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart.

The text does not say that God justified us so that when we sin again that we will never experience glorification. No, it says "those whom He justified, He also glorified." As far as God is concerned, it is already done and is written in the "past tense." It is an observation of a Jewish writer, Aben Ezra (1092-1167),

"that a thing which is decreed to be, is spoken of in the past tense"

this is the Scripture style concerning things decreed, and such is the "glorification" of all those God foreknew, called, and justified.

We find security in God's salvation because it is already done - even the final step. The only thing that could prevent it from happening is for God to cease to be God. Since that is not possible because He is always true to His very being, that leads us to the last reason for the basis of our security which is the perfect faithfulness of God.

THE PERFECT FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

What does the Bible mean when the word "faithful" is used? In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word most often translated into English as "faithful" is "aman" from which we get the transliteration of the word familiar to us as "Amen." It has a number of meanings which are closely related: to support or to confirm, to be established and reliable, and to stand firm. The idea of permanence is very much a part of the meaning of the word. In the New Testament, the Greek word which is typically translated as "faithful" is "pistos" and means trustworthy. In addition to the word "faithful, the King James Version renders the Hebrew and the Greek with the following: believe, assurance, trusty, sure, established, verified, continuance, stand fast, and true.

So what does it mean that God has perfect faithfulness? We find an answer from a multitude of texts in God's word.

We see in Psalms 33:4

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

We said earlier that we were bought with a price. The sacrifice of the Son of God is the incomprehensible price that was paid for you and me. Without the plan and purpose of God for our lives, we would be lost, helpless and hopeless.

Our response to this great love and the outworking of God's purpose in our lives is such that we should live a life that is "justified." Because we have been justified and declared to be righteous, then we are to be living everyday in such a way that we are becoming more like Jesus. Embracing obedience as our way of life and delighting to do God's will are evidences that we are saved and secure. Because the Holy Spirit is guiding us, then we flee from sin and we draw nearer to God so that we become more like Jesus. It is the one thing that we desire more than anything for our lives. Being justified does not give us a "free pass" to sin but it inspired us to put all sin (and even the appearance of sin) aside.

How does all this impact our security?

When Jesus paid the price for our sin, it was for all of our sin – past, present and future. It was an all-sufficient sacrifice. We have security in our salvation when we realize that Jesus DID pay it ALL. There is nothing excluded – past, present, or future. Since God has "all knowledge," then He already knew what sins we would commit (in the future) and He saved us anyway.

Is there something beyond being justified in this plan and purpose of God for our lives? Those whom He foreknew, He called and those He called He justified and those he justified He also glorified. The last step that is predetermined by God for your life and mine is being glorified. While you and I have not yet experienced that reality, it is a "done deal." It is as if it has already happened since it has been decreed by the Sovereign God. It is predestined to happen. One day, in the realms of glory, we will experience that which God has laid up for us when we see Jesus face-to-face. We shall see Him as He is and we shall be like Him (1 John 3:2).

- What does it mean to confess or profess Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to believe in your heart?
- How does believing result in righteousness?
- How does confession result in salvation?

First of all, this is **not** an "easy believism" that happens when you come forward in a crusade or at the end of a worship service and say some formula prayer and you answer "Yes" three times to a series of questions. This ritual happens so often in so many churches. *"Just walk down the aisle, say the right thing and you are told that you are saved and then you are baptized."* Is this what the Bible teaches? NO! If nothing beyond this has happened in your life, then you are not saved and you have no reason for assurance and no security - not now, nor for eternity.

Let's take the above questions and discover some answers as to what these familiar phrases really mean. We will take the first two question together since what we confess or profess is simply the evidence of what has already happened in our hearts.

Notice that in the Romans 10:9-10 passage, Paul sees at least two parts to the whole of salvation. In verse 10, we see justification as a result of belief or faith. What must we believe? As verse 9 tells us, "God raised Jesus from the dead." This expression is a summary and conclusion of all that God did for us in Jesus Christ in His taking on our sin, paying the price to redeem us and then gaining victory over death and the grave as demonstrated by His resurrection. Jesus is the Provision by which we are placed in right relationship to God. To believe this truth **in our hearts** means that in every part of "who we are" this truth is assimilated and becomes an integral part of us. It is more than just mental acceptance of the truth, but it is embracing this truth and having that truth becoming so interwoven into "who we are" that we are transformed by it.

The second part of the whole of salvation that Paul mentions is confession. What must we confess? Again, verse 9 tell us. "Jesus is Lord." Just as "God raised Jesus from the dead" is a summary of the whole truth of what God did for us in Christ; "confess with the mouth" is a summary of the "expression" or "profession" of the

Lordship of Jesus in our lives. In other words, we do need to say it, **but just saying it is not all there is to it.** (Some may think, "Well, you must really mean it when you say it." There is more to it than just saying it and really meaning it!) The Lordship of Jesus Christ is to be expressed (confessed) in every word, thought, and deed. This is the essence of obedience. So, then salvation results from faith (believing) which leads to justification (an act of God) and the evidence of that salvation is our confession of Jesus as Lord.

Paul goes on to say in verse 10 that the outcome of believing is righteousness (justification) and the outcome of confession (professing) is salvation. Next, we see words of assurance in verse 11 that "whosoever believes on Him shall not be disappointed or ashamed." If you could lose your salvation after believing in your heart and confession with your mouth, then that would certainly be a cause for disappointment or being ashamed. However, we have confidence in the sure promises of God (in His Word) that such disappointment will NOT happen. Verses 12 and 13 assure us that we do not have to be a special class of people to participate in God's plan of salvation. It makes no difference if you are Jew or Greek. In Paul's time there were only two distinction made as to who you were - you were either Jew or Gentile. God is not a respecter of persons but will save "whosoever" believes. The word translated "whosoever" literally means **all**. The criteria for salvation is not your background, not your culture, not your race, not your gender, not how wealthy you may or may not be: the criteria is *"do you believe in your heart (the truth of the gospel) and do you confess with your mouth (that Jesus is Lord)."*

Understanding the truth of what God has revealed in this Scripture will influence how we go about expanding the Kingdom of God in our local congregation. Sometimes we find ourselves reaching out to those who are "just like us" and we ignore all the rest. We target those with similar backgrounds or similar socioeconomic status or whatever we might think is important, but God wants us to target "whosoever." You see Jesus died for the "whosoever" of the world and they are the ones He has commissioned us to seek out and share the Good News of His great salvation. If they will "believe" and

We can know that we are being kept saved and secure for all eternity because He has a plan and a purpose for our lives. Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it (perfect it or complete it) until the day of Jesus Christ.

As Paul wrote in Romans 8:29 and 30: God not only predestined us (has a plan for us) but also He called us. He called us out of the world of sin and self (slavery to sin) and called us unto Himself and to a life that was set apart (sanctified) unto Him. He called us from a road that leads to hell and called us to a land where there is no more night. God called us "out" in order that He might bring us "in." The events in the life of the Children of Israel are given to us as physical examples of spiritual realities of what God is doing in the lives of those He has called to be His own. Just as God called the Children of Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, He has called us out of the kingdom of this world and has called us into the Kingdom of His Son.

God knew who would accept Christ and the free gift of His grace and He predetermined that they would become like Jesus. He called them out so that they would come into a knowledge of Him. Those He called, He also justified. "Justified" means that God has declared us to be in a "right relationship" with him and it is *just as if I had never sinned*. Now that IS Good News! We had been under a death sentence (the soul that sins, it shall die and all have sinned - Ezek 18:4 and Rom 6:23) but God has acquitted us. He has wiped away the sin in which we were born and the sins of our lives by the precious Blood of His Son that was shed for us. We have been declared to be innocent. We were guilty, but God has taken our guilt and our sin and laid it on His Son and has justified us because He loved us. When the Judge of All sees those who have been redeemed, then He sees the Blood and knows that we have remission (forgiveness and pardon) of our sins.

We were not able to do that for ourselves. We could never do enough to pay the price to redeem ourselves and we do not have the authority to declare ourselves to be justified.

do. The Apostle Paul told those in the early church to follow him. Was Paul making disciples of himself? No! The rest of what he said, was “Follow me, as I FOLLOW CHRIST.” Paul could follow Christ only because he had been to the cross and he wrote,

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
(Galatians 2:2)

If we bear the name Christian, then it is important that we be like Christ.

Are we, as Christians, discipling anyone? Unfortunately, most of us will answer “No” to that question since we are not actively involved in the spiritual walk of another person. However, the truth of the matter is that you probably are “discipling” someone without even knowing it. If people know we are Christians (people should be able to tell if we are) they will observe what we do and, they will follow or be influenced by our example. Therefore, it is incumbent upon every Christian that the example we set would be such that we could say with the Apostle Paul, “Follow me, as I follow Christ.” This should be the desire of EVERY believer.

To be such an example is most critical since what others see in us will have an influence in their making a choice as to whether they want to become a part of the family of God. There are a lot of “whosoever” who paths will cross ours and these are people for whom Christ died. Will we and our life examples be a stepping stone for them to be drawn by the Holy Spirit to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord or will our lives be a stumbling block that will drive them away from the only means of salvation. Peter tells us that God is not willing that any should perish. Jesus told us to be about the work of seeking and saving those who are lost. You see, the purpose and plan of God for our lives include our being conformed to the image of His Son, and it also includes Him using us to bring others into this relationship, also.

“confess” then salvation is theirs. We must witness and share the gospel with “whosoever.”

The third question is related to the relationship between believing and righteousness. We read in Genesis 15:6 from the NIV

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

This verse literally says “Abram amen-ed Jehovah and was reckoned righteous.” We see this same verse quoted by both Paul (Roman 4:3) and James (James 2:23) as they wrote about the righteousness that results from simply believing what God says. This righteousness is not a result of what we do as Paul so eloquently stated in Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

However, this righteousness comes about by God declaring it to be so. It is **not** earned, it is **not** a reward, it is a **gift** that God grants to those who **believe** Him and put their trust in His provision for salvation. By putting our trust in the fact that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead, then we accept (or receive) God’s priceless gift that justifies us so that our sins are no longer charged to our account. Instead we are accounted as being righteous in Christ. Notice the order: It is by God’s grace in which we believe (through faith) that He saves us. He is the One who took the initiative to provide a way and then He reached out to us. Our part is to accept and receive what He gives that comes from “Who He Is” and is motivated by His love and not from any merit or deserving that we have.

The problem most of us have is a natural tendency to run away from God. It is impossible to embrace the gift of God if we are running away from Him. The first step is to stop going away from God and turn to Him. The Biblical term for this simple action is “repentance.”

Before Jesus began His earthly ministry, God sent a messenger before Him to prepare the way. That messenger was John the Baptist and his message was essentially a one-word message: REPENT!

When Jesus came, His message was to declare the Kingdom of God and His invitation was Repent and Believe. If we turn to God and believe His word and put our trust for all eternity in His only provision for salvation then we will logically do the following:

- Ask for Forgiveness: Since it was and is **sin** that separates us from God and since the wages of sin is death, then we must seek God's forgiveness (of our sinfulness and our sins) that is available to us. It is available because of what God did in Christ Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection.
- Invite Jesus to be Lord of Your Life: The reason sin was a problem in the first place was that each of us was deciding for ourselves what was right and wrong, and most (if not all) of the time we missed the mark. Missing the mark is sin.

Identifying with the death of Christ on the Cross and agreeing that He died in your place is to "reckon yourself dead." Inviting Jesus to come into your heart and be Lord of your life is to receive new life from God that makes us members of God's family since we have been born of the Spirit of God. This is what it means to be **born again**.

Since God is eternal, then those who have the life of God in them (because they are in Christ) also have eternal life. Since the new life is the uncreated life of God, it can never die. Those who do not have this new life are already dead and have no security or assurance of salvation. You must first be **saved** in order to be "Saved and Secure."

THE BASIS OF OUR SECURITY

We find the basis of our confidence in the Word of God that tells us that our security is in

- **The Power of God**
- **The Position of the Believer**
- **The Prayer of Jesus**
- **The Prevailing Love of God**
- **The Purpose of God in Our Lives**
- **The Perfect Faithfulness of God**

When we see this, we start to think, I can't do that. It is impossible to do what He did. I can't live up to that standard. You are absolutely right! YOU can't. That is why God has a plan and it includes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives so that it is God Who is working in us both to "will and to do" those things that bring about this transformation in our lives so that we are ever being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ Who is the exact image of God.

Why does God want to do this? The Bible is its own best commentary - in the second part of verse 29, we see "so that He (Jesus) would be the firstborn of many brethren." In the Jewish culture, the firstborn held a position of importance in the family. He was given great responsibility and much honor. Jesus has that position of prominence and we, whom God has called, become a part of that family and benefit from the inheritance that God has for His children. We become co-heirs with Christ. This concept fits in perfectly with the idea presented earlier that we have been **bought** with a price and **adopted** as sons into the family of God.

We came into this family with a lot of baggage and a lot of "cultural" differences compared to what is the norm for our New Family. Even though we have been born again of the Spirit of God, we still have ideas and thought patterns that were formed when we were slaves to sin. We learned a lot of the "ways of the world." God's plan is to use all things we encounter in our lives so that we can become like a member of God's family as exemplified by the perfect example of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus. That is why Paul wrote in Romans chapter 12: "Be you, therefore, transformed by the renewing of your minds." Paul also wrote in Philippians 2:5: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Be Like Jesus!

We are told to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them those things that Jesus has taught us. We are told that the way to do that is to immerse them into the very character and nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are **not** to make disciples of ourselves but are to make disciples who are being conformed to the image of the Son.

If we are working with a new Christian and helping to disciple him, then there will be a strong tendency for that person to follow what we

Now, let's look at verses 29 and 30 of Romans Chapter 8 to gain additional insight regarding what God is doing in our lives and the lives of every believer.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

We see in these verses that God has a purpose for us in all that is going on in our lives. We could recall the very well-known and often-quoted verse immediately preceding these two: "For we know that ALL things work together for good for those who love the Lord, for those who are the called according to HIS PURPOSE." We can add this to the list of the basis for our security.

THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

Since God is all knowing (omniscient), then He knows all things for all time. He sees the end from the beginning. Nothing catches God by surprise. He knows who will choose to follow Him and who will rebel and go their own way. For those who will make the right choice, He has a desired outcome for their lives and has preplanned something for them. That outcome is simply this: that they will become like Jesus – become conformed to the image of His Son. When we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus, when we invite Him to come into our lives and sit on the throne and be Lord, then God's plan for our lives is to bring about the necessary changes to make us like His Son Jesus.

If we want to know God's Plan or Will for our lives – it is simply this: Be Like Jesus! The "how to" is provided for us in the Word of God. We can see, from what was recorded in the Scriptures, the things Jesus did. Did He not tell us in John 14:12 that we would do the works that He did? We can see from what was recorded in the Scriptures the character of Jesus. We know that He was loving, compassionate, kind. He was caring, he was forgiving, he was ready and able to help others. He was able to do the lowliest tasks because He knew Who He was. He was willing to make unbelievable sacrifices for the benefit of others. Be Like Jesus!

THE POWER OF GOD

God's power comes into consideration when we consider that

- He Bought Us
- He Seals Us
- He Keeps Us

Bought

God has a special relationship with us once we are saved. Paul describes this relationship in terms of a transaction that was common place in the slave markets of that day. A slave was auctioned off to the highest bidder. We were slaves to sin and had no means to set ourselves free, but God through the perfect atoning work of Jesus Christ **paid the price** so that we are no longer "slaves to sin" but are now "slaves to righteousness." (See Romans 6:17-22). In simple terms, God **bought us** and paid the unimaginable high price of the death of His only begotten Son. We see the **Power of God** at work here in that no one else was able to redeem us and to pay the price for our salvation. There had to be a sacrifice (without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin) and only Jesus was able to provide the perfect and all sufficient sacrifice for not only your sin but the sin of the whole world - whosoever.

Paul shared this same truth with the church at Corinth as we read in 1 Corinthians 6:17-20

"But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been **bought** with a price, therefore glorify God in your body."

Since He bought us we now belong to Him. What a relationship! We are the precious possession of the Almighty, Creator God of the universe.

Sealed

The picture we have here is that of an official (perhaps a king) using his signet ring to imprint his mark on a document or even upon an object to give it a designation of being special or protected or authenticated. Ephesians 1:13-14 says we are sealed by God.

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were **sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

As expressed here, the seal is used to certify, make sure, or assure the truth of a what God has done for us in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus and the believers response to accept and receive salvation. In our case, when we were saved, God put His seal upon our lives and the seal is none other than the Spirit of God Himself. He, living in the believer, provides the witness within and is Himself the assurance which God gives to those who love Him and place their confidence in Jesus as the only and sufficient means of salvation.

When it comes to being secure in our salvation, do we really believe that the devil or anyone else is so strong that he can break the seal of the Holy Spirit of Almighty God? The power of God is beyond measure and there is nothing that can be compared to it. We could ask the question with regard to the power of God: “What part of **omnipotent** don’t you understand?” God is omnipotent, He is omnipresent (every where) and He is omniscient (all knowing). The devil is none of those. We have been bought by El Shaddai, the Mighty God, and we have been sealed by this same Mighty God.

Paul used the term “pledge” or “earnest” of our inheritance that represents God’s commitment to each believer that our redemption was real and that we belong to God.

Kept

The third part of the role of the power of God in our security is what follows naturally after we have been **bought** and **sealed**.

THE PREVAILING LOVE OF GOD

In Romans 8:31 and following we see the incredible evidence of the prevailing love of God.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How much does God love us? More than we can comprehend. Just think: “What earthly father would give his only son as a debt payment to rescue a person who was awaiting execution for crimes he had committed? That’s what God did for you and me. If He loved us so much as to allow His Son to die a horrible death on the cross, then is it not reasonable that he also keeps us safe and sees us through problems and trials so that we can overcome every obstacle we encounter. As Paul wrote to the Christians at Rome, in all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. The King James Version says the we are “more than conquerors.” If there is nothing and no one who can separate us from the love of Christ, then our **salvation is secure**. His love prevails since it does not make any sense that God would pay such a high price to save us and then would allow us to be lost and lose that salvation? Think about in this way, “What sin do you or I have that is greater or more powerful than God’s love.” The answer is obvious, “There is none!”

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

We see this is a prayer for **us** and it applies to **today** if we are believers, born again of the Spirit of God and sealed and kept for all eternity by the immeasurable power of God.

One in Him

Everything God does is for a reason and we see that reason in verse 21

that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Think about it: If we have unity (or oneness) with each other and we are united to Christ and to the Father in the same way that Jesus was in the Father and the Father was in Him, then how logical is it that we could lose our salvation when we are united with God in that same kind of relationship. When did the Father ever stop loving Jesus? The answer is an obvious NEVER! Even when Jesus was on the cross and God looked away because he could not bear to see the sins of the whole world heaped upon His Son, He did NOT stop loving Him. If anything, He loved Him more (if that were possible). If we have that same kind of oneness, then when will He stop loving us? It has to be the same answer as before: NEVER!

Why should it matter that Jesus prayed and still prays for us? What difference does it make? We can answer those questions with another question: Which prayer of Jesus has ever gone unanswered? Since He only does the will of the Father and anything that we ask according to His will is going to happen, then we have the assurance that EVERY prayer of Jesus has been and will continue to be answered. Combine that with the knowledge that He prayed and prays for us, then the assurance of our salvation and security for all eternity should be so high that it can't be measured! The basis for our confidence does not rest in our ability to live a sinless life but it resided in the Power of God, the Position of the Believer, the Prayer of Jesus and in the Prevailing Love of God.

We are **kept** secure until that day when we shall see Him face-to-face. Paul described it this way in his second letter to Timothy:

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is **able to keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12

We may find ourselves in situations where we are persecuted and we may be discouraged and not feel we are victorious in our lives. Regardless of the circumstances we will not be disappointed and will never have cause to be ashamed because we know God is **able** to not only buy us and seal us but also to keep **all** that we have entrusted to his care for as long as it takes. If we are saved, then we have committed everything to Him. All that we are and all that we hope to ever be is committed to Him. We are not relying on anything else. Our trust must be placed completely in Him. There is no alternative plan of salvation.

THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER

The believer's position gives us confidence in our security when we consider that

- We have become new creatures
- We have the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit
- We have been adopted into the family of God.

New Creatures

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the Apostle Paul writes. under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that if we have truly been saved, then we are different. We are changed from who we were before we were born again of the Spirit of God.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

When we are truly saved, then everything about us is saved: the way we talk, the way we think, what we do for recreation, what we read, where we go, our relationships, and even our wallet.

The last phrase of verse 17 in the Greek literally says “all became new.” Not only are you NEW, everything about you is NEW. If the “old things” have **passed away**, then we cannot return to something that no longer exists.

Abiding Presence of the Holy Spirit

How do we know that the Holy Spirit abides in us? Look at the words of Jesus recorded by John in 14:17

“That is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He **abides** with you and will be in you.”

How do we know that you are saved? It is by the presence of God in our lives in the Person of the Holy Spirit. He is the proof of our salvation. As mentioned earlier, He is the “pledge” or “earnest” of our inheritance that represents God’s commitment and “down payment” to us that guarantees our redemption is real and that we belong to God.

We may not understand all there is as to why God dwells within us, but He does. He chose to do so. In verse 12 of this same chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus made an astounding statement to His disciples that the works He did, they would do also because He was going to His Father. You may be wondering, “What’s the connection between doing the works of Jesus and His going to His Father and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit?” We find the answer to that question in John 16:7

“Unless I go away, the Counselor (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

The abiding presence of the Spirit in our lives is the means by which we are comforted and counseled and convicted. We can know that He is there because of His witness. We could say that we sense His presence in our lives. We don’t sense it with our physical senses of (touch, taste, hearing, smelling, and seeing) but we sense His presence in our spirits and in our souls. He can touch us in our hearts, we can (as the Psalmist said) taste and see that the Lord is good. We can hear Him speaking to us through the events of life, through a friend and

- **For us to have His joy (v.13)**
- **For God to keep us from the evil one (v.15)**
- **For us to be one in Christ (v.20-21)**

Joy

Verse 13 tells us

But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

The first thing we see is that Jesus prayed for His joy to be perfected, completed or made full in the believer. We might ask, what gave joy to Jesus? We recall the passage from Hebrews 12:2 that tells us “*for the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross.*” Everything Jesus did was to fulfill the will of the Father. He said, I do **only** the will of My Father. We read in the Psalms 40:8, “I delight to do Thy will, O my God.” The concepts of “delight” and “joy” and experiencing that which is pleasant are closely related. We could argue that “*doing the will of the Father in bringing about a means of salvation*” was the joy set before Jesus. We can then extend that thought and apply it to us. For us to have the joy of Jesus made full in us, we should also be about the business of doing the will of the Father in bringing the lost to a saving relationship with Him through what Christ did on the Cross.

It is not likely that we will be involved in activities that would cause the joy of Jesus to be perfected or completed in our lives by sharing the Good News of God’s salvation if we have to be concerned about losing our own salvation. His joy can never be fulfilled in us if we have no certainty of our security for now and for eternity.

Kept from the Evil One

We read in verse 15

I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

Jesus prayed for our protection from the schemes and plans of the devil. Not only did Jesus pray this for His disciples but He prayed it for us. Look at verse 20

Notice that the Word says, HE IS ABLE TO SAVE. The reason He is able to save forever and to the uttermost is found in the second part of that verse: 'He ever lives to make intercession for those who are saved.'

In Hebrews 9:24, we see

"For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"

Again, we see that Jesus is there **for** us. It is always good to have some one praying for us. It is beyond our comprehension that God, the Son is praying for us, interceding on our behalf in the very throne room of Heaven. It doesn't get any better than that. Even when we don't know what to pray for, we have the assurance that the Spirit of God makes intercession for us with groaning that are beyond our ability to verbalize. So we, who are saved, have the Spirit within us and the Son in Heaven interceding on our behalf before God the Father.

We see the same assurance in Paul's letter to the Romans

"who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." (Rom 8:34)

Further confirmation is found in 1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Here's the answer to a question such as "What happens when we sin after we are saved?" Jesus is our lawyer representing us and interceding for us. We certainly need that kind of help because we will "miss the mark" even after we are saved.

Not only is Jesus praying for us now but He also prayed for us in one of the darkest hour of His time on earth. The night before the crucifixion, He was in the Garden and prayed for Himself **and** He prayed for us. Three of the specifics for which He prayed are found in John, Chapter 17.

through His word. He creates an aroma about us that is a sweet smelling savor of our God and we can certainly see the evidence of His work all around us. Paul summed it up this way: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." (Rom 8:16)

Also, it is He Who works in and through us collectively (in the church) to do the greater works of which Jesus spoke. It is also the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives by which we are instrumental in winning the lost to Christ for it is His presence in our lives that brings conviction of guilt with regard to sin and righteous and judgment (See also, John 16:8). He also brings to mind that which we need to say as we share the Good News with the lost

Those who have the Spirit are those who are counted as belonging to Christ and they are the ones whom Christ will gather to Himself when He returns. The proof that we belong to Him as being the presence of the Holy Spirit is stated as clearly as can be in Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

We know that our position has change not only because we are new creatures and that we have the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, but also that we have been **adopted** into the family of God.

"For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father'" (Romans 8:15)

Recall that we learned we have assurance of our salvation because God took the initiative and "bought" us who had been slaves to sin, but now we have becomes slaves to righteousness. That is certainly Good News and we see that it is even better than we thought because we are **not** considered as slaves by God but are viewed as His sons. We don't have a spirit of slavery but a spirit of adoption in that we are the sons of God. That sense of "sonship" in the believer is such that we feel comfortable in crying out to the Creator God of the universe; "Daddy!" That speaks of an intimate relationship that is very close. It should give us great confidence as we picture ourselves in the protective arms of our "Daddy" Who is all powerful.

This idea of *adoption* really communicated volumes to the first century Christians. Some slave owner would adopt slaves as their sons. This was not something that was done lightly in that the slave owner, by adopting the slave as a son, was making a permanent, lifetime commitment that could not be revoked. A father might disown his natural born child or might disinherit him; however, that option was not available if the child were adopted - it was not legally possible to do. Adopting a person was a stronger, more permanent commitment than one had with a natural born child. A spirit of adoption is a sense of security and well-being that we have who are part of the family of God.

It gets even better, because in the natural realm, the adopted son has all the rights and privileges of family and the security that comes from adoption but he does **not** have any genetic relationship with the father of the family. In the supernatural reality, not only are we **bought** (redeemed from slavery to sin) and **adopted** but we also have been infused with the same Spirit that was in Christ and have been **born again** with a spiritual birth so that we (dare we say it) have a “genetic” connection to God through the Holy Spirit. It is His life that gives life to our spirit and we are different than we were before it happened. When we have been born again, we can no longer truthfully say, “I’m only human!” That excuse does not belong in the vocabulary of the Christian.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

In addition to the Power of God and the Position of the Believer, we have a strong basis for our confidence that we are Saved and Secure in the Prayer of Jesus. There are several Scriptures that tell us of the intercession of Jesus on our behalf. Look first at Hebrews 6:19

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (NKJV)

The hope referred to in this verse is that confident expectation we have in Jesus Christ – or, specifically, our salvation that is in the Lord. An anchor is used to secure the position of a ship during times when there

are storms or when the ship is not traveling. It keeps a ship from drifting from where it is supposed to be. The anchor of our soul is the hope we have in the Lord Jesus. For an anchor to do any good it must have a connection to something that is immovable such as the floor of the ocean. Where does the anchor of our soul connect? The Scripture tell us “within or behind the veil” which is a reference to the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament Tabernacle or Temple and was representative of the dwelling place of God. That means that our salvation is anchored in the Holy of Holies or in the very presence of God Himself. It was taken there and it is under the watch care or advocacy of Jesus Christ Himself. He fulfills for us the role of the High Priest. However, He is a different kind of High Priest than those of the lineage of Aaron in that He is an eternal High Priest and His place of ministry is not in a temple made with hands but in Heaven itself.

Jesus is there in that Heavenly Temple **for us** as our Advocate before the Father. As a High Priest, He represents us and serves not only as the bridge builder but also the Bridge between mortal, finite man and the immortal and infinite God. Considering where the anchor of our soul rests, considering Who took it into the very presence of God, and considering Who is holding on to it on our behalf, then we should have the **ultimate confidence** in the security of our salvation.

We said that Jesus was there **for us**. What is He doing on our behalf? Look next at Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Notice that Jesus is able to save forever (NAS) - to the uttermost (KJV) - completely (NIV) those who draw near to God through Him. What else do we need to give us the uttermost confidence. How much more is needed beyond forever and completely?

Some will argue that He is able to save completely but we are not able to stay saved. That argument would make sense if we had saved ourselves. But we did NOT and can NOT save ourselves.