

Eternally Secure

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

The basic problem for mankind is that we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:9-20). Man is separated from God because of sin. This separation is positional and experiential. Yet when a man trusts Christ for salvation, he is positionally reconciled to God forever. Romans 3:21-26 teaches that when we believe in Jesus, we are freely justified by grace forever.

Many Christians, however, do not believe that their salvation is eternally secure. They think that sin will be able to separate them from our precious Savior positionally as well as experientially. And when a backslidden Christian finds his way back to God, many Christians who do not believe in eternal salvation will put him on probation to make sure he is sincere. This is not God's heartbeat for the believer.

The devil, the accuser and slanderer of the brethren, has a constant ministry of accusing be-

lievers when they fail. Satan wants to make them doubt their salvation so they will not be restored to their relationship with God and continue to live in their failure. Therefore, we must have a strong and precise doctrinal conviction from the Word of God on this issue to refute attacks that come against the Finished Work—our resting place.

Salvation is a gift of God by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9). This booklet presents the evidence to support the doctrine of eternal security that covers every believer from the moment he receives Christ until he is face to face with Him in heaven.

Chapter One

IT IS WRITTEN

In Matthew 4, Jesus Christ was in the desert, fasting and praying. It had been forty days since His last meal. The Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness, and now Satan was coming to test the limits of the Son's humanity.

"I know You are hungry," the devil hissed. "But You are God and man, both human and divine. If You are the Son of God, take these stones and make Yourself a meal. Turn them into bread."

How many times have we been in that situation? We are waiting upon God for our provision and the devil tempts us to find our own way rather than waiting for God to provide. We pray for bread, but all we see are stones.

Jesus had a real material and physical need at this point. Satan wanted the Son to do something in Himself and not wait for the Father to provide. But Jesus answered Satan's temptation

with the Word of God:

“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

The Pattern for Victory

Other challenges were made to Jesus during that time, and every time He answered with “It is written.” His response represents our pattern for victory over Satanic projections. The Word of God, forever settled in heaven, is our answer today, just as it was the answer for the Lord Jesus. If it was good enough for Him, it has to be good enough for us.

Christ’s entire human experience was designed to prove the veracity of the Word of God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the Word made flesh (John 1:14). He dwelt on earth and lived a life full of grace and truth. At Calvary, Jesus proclaimed, “It is finished.” He committed His spirit into the hands of the Father, and then He died. This He did in His humanity, knowing the promise of Psalm 49:15: “But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave.”

Jesus the Man believed that death would be swallowed up in victory and that He was and is the Resurrection and the life. He was raised by

the power of the Holy Spirit and is now in heaven, interceding for us, seated at the right hand of the Father.

Every Word Is True

We have to start with the Word of God as our basis for truth. If a man does not believe the Bible to be true, then there is nothing we can do. The Bible says it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). What God has said, He will do. He shall make good on what He has spoken (Numbers 23:19). His Word is forever settled (Psalm 119:89, 152). It shall not fade away; the Word shall stand forever (Isaiah 40:8). Every word of God is true (Revelation 21:5).

If every word is true, then it is true that God will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

If every word is true, then it is true that we are new creatures in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).

If every word is true, then it is true that neither height, nor depth, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things to come shall ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Our position—that every Christian is eternally secure—has a sure foundation: the Word of God. Whenever Satan challenges our position

in Christ, our answer is always, "It is written." The Scriptures support no other position. *Every* word of God shall be fulfilled, including those pertaining to His children.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18).

The Scriptures Attest That Salvation Is Forever

"God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it" (Numbers 23:19,20).

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (Psalm 23:6).

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before Him" (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

"But my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished" (Isaiah 51:6b).

“But my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation” (Isaiah 51:8*b*).

“And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life: and I will raise Him up at the last day” (John 6:40).

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10).

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29).

“But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30).

“Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you” (2 Corinthians 4:14).

“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us” (Hebrews 6:18).

“Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he

ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

"Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

Scriptures to Show That God Keeps and Guards Believers

"For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance" (Psalm 94:14).

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:39).

"And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

"And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform" (Romans 4:21).

"But God commendeth His love toward us,

in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Romans 5:8-11).

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:31,32,35a).

"But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us" (2 Corinthians 1:9,10).

"Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts" (2 Corinthians 1:21,22).

"Faithful is He that calleth you, who also

will do it" (I Thessalonians 5:24).

"If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful, He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

"for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5*b*).

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5).

Chapter Two

JUSTIFIED: OUR POSITION AND OUR EXPERIENCE

“He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

“Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up” (Isaiah 50:8-9).

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10).

God is constantly reinforcing in our minds the principle of Romans 8:1: There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. No

one can condemn us. Satan accuses, but he cannot contend with us. He cannot even operate as our adversary without God's approval. By faith, we have been justified. By faith, we have peace with God. We have God's righteousness by faith; we did nothing to earn it. It was ours the moment we believed.

The doctrine of eternal security is one that Satan tries to pervert. He has half of Christianity fighting against it. Those who do not believe in eternal security say, "You teach a doctrine that means a Christian can do anything and still be saved."

Yes, we do. There are, of course, things that a Spirit-filled Christian will not do *because* he is saved. And if a child of God sins, he will be disciplined, but God will make him to stand (Romans 14:4). The basis for this position rests on the following scriptures:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28-29).

"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged” (Romans 3:3-4).

The Father Chastens Whom He Loves

“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

“For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Hebrews 12:4-11).

Because Christ is in us, there are things that we will not do (and if we do those things, we will be convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit and we will hate what we did). Yet, there are those who say that we lose our salvation every time we sin. The question then becomes, what constitutes a sin? James 2:10 says, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” Under this policy, if I had an angry thought against my brother this morning and did not repent, and if I were to die right now, I would go to hell. If a backslidden loved one does not attend church for several years and suddenly dies without confessing and repenting, is he going to hell? The problem with this viewpoint is that it goes against the character and nature of God and the veracity of His Word.

This does not mean that a Christian can do as he wishes and that God will overlook his ungodly behavior. According to Luke 8:18, God knows the heart of everyone who professes to be

saved—and clearly, not everyone who professes has truly been born again. If a person continues in sin without any conviction, it is questionable that what he “seemeth to have” is real conversion. We can choose our actions, but God will choose the consequences. If a Christian continues in sin, God will start the discipline process. He disciplines not to punish but to restore His children to a godly lifestyle.

In 1 Corinthians 5, a man who was saved was living in adultery, and he was in danger of committing the sin unto physical death. God does allow believers to die early, and I believe that as they die, they are not sure of their destiny.

No one who is living in sin can experience the assurance of their salvation because they have grieved and possibly quenched the Holy Spirit within—and He is the only one who can bear witness with the human spirit that we indeed are children of the living God (Romans 8:16; Psalm 37:24).

The wages of sin is death. That is true, and God does chastise His children; however, God’s discipline is always done in love. We did nothing to earn our salvation, and we can do nothing to lose it. We are kept forever by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5). If we fall, God will hold us

up (Psalm 145:14); we shall not be utterly cast down (Romans 14:4).

Once we were saved, we were sanctified or set apart because of the offering of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:10). He perfected forever them that are sanctified (Hebrews 10:14), so we are positionally set apart in Christ forever. In fact, the moment a person is born again by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, sixty-eight things happen to him that seal his salvation.* Like the thief on the cross, he may be on his deathbed and have no opportunity to perform righteous works, still he is secure forever in Christ.

Walk in the Power of God

Our position in Christ never changes, but our experience of walking with Him in the power of the Holy Spirit is a process of growth and development, of being changed into His image (Colossians 3:10). As we purpose daily to study the Word and to obey God, we grow in our experience of sanctification (see 1 Peter 1:2). One day, each of us will have a brand-new body—one that is free from the old sin nature. And at that moment, we will be perfected forever (1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:21; Romans 8:23).

But while we live on earth, Satan wars

against us, trying to gain influence over certain areas of our brains. The mind, the emotions, and the memory are influencing factors of our confession and our decisions. These areas must be filled with and exercised in doctrine, or they will be open to deception.

The last thing Satan wants is for the believer to experience the doctrine of eternal security. If we are secure in our position and the love of God, then the devil knows that we will not fear failure. Fear is one of his most effective weapons, paralyzing our capacity for God so that we will not function properly spiritually. He knows that if we are faithful to hear the Word of God, and especially if we understand the doctrine of eternal security, then we will become strong enough to resist him and to make him flee.

**For a complete list and doctrinal summary, read What Happened When You Received Christ? by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1999.*

Chapter Three

LINE UPON LINE, COMPARING SPIRITUAL WITH SPIRITUAL

“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him” (1 Samuel 16:14).

“So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it” (1 Chronicles 10:13).

Saul was Israel’s first king. He was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel. He started out small in his own eyes, but in time he became arrogant and jealous. He did not follow God’s Word or God’s way, and his disobedience to God cost him his family as well as the throne.

The Lord does discipline His children, as the record of Saul’s life shows. Saul suffered terribly in his emotions, but he never lost his salvation. Yes, he did attempt to track down and kill David.

Yes, he did consult a witch. But consider God's words to Saul through the prophet, in 1 Samuel 28:19: "Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

From this passage, we must conclude that Saul was saved and belonged to the Lord. Remember that Samuel, Saul, and Jonathan lived under the Law; grace and truth would come by Jesus Christ. Yet, the heart of God has always been the same toward His people. These men were chosen and called by God according to the promise of the Messiah's coming. After their deaths, Saul and Jonathan would be with Samuel in paradise.

Saul lost his kingdom, and he died on the battlefield, but even he could not pluck himself out of the hand of God. Physically he died, but his spirit and soul joined Samuel's in paradise. And though Saul never repented of his jealousy that led to bitter striving against David, after Saul and Jonathan died, David said that they were lovely and pleasant in their lives and not divided or separated in their deaths (2 Samuel 1:23).

The Taste of Salvation

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

“Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

“And this will we do, if God permit.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy [Spirit],

“And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

“If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:1-6).

This is perhaps one of the most debated passages concerning eternal security because it refers to those “who fall away” after “tasting” the salvation of God. There are those who believe a Christian can lose his salvation, and they use this passage to prove that one can “taste and see” that the Lord is good and then become

blind again and return to darkness. They preach Hebrews 6:4, which says that it is *impossible* for those who have tasted salvation to renew their repentance. If it is impossible for those who have fallen away to “renew” their repentance, then why bother preaching to them? According to that viewpoint, those folks have no hope.

The Importance of Rightly Dividing God’s Word

Again and again in Scripture, we are counseled to *hear* what the Lord is saying. Jesus Christ challenged people through parables because, He said, “...hearing they hear not, neither do they understand” (Matthew 13:13). The word for hearing in this passage is *akouo*. It means to be endowed with the ability to hear and then to attend to or consider what is or has been said. Most important, it means to understand by perceiving the sense of what is said.

Orthotomeo is the Greek word for “rightly dividing” the Word. It speaks of cutting straight rows or paths and it infers handling the word aright, teaching the truth directly and correctly (2 Timothy 2:15). This means to approach a passage according to the times, the context, the people being addressed, the first mention of the

subject, the full thought as the subject is revealed throughout Scripture, comparing spiritual with spiritual, line upon line, here a little there a little. "Rightly dividing the word of truth" considers the language of the original text and the shades of meaning that are not easily rendered in our own language. It always takes into account the character of God, which never changes.

Careful exegesis of the Greek text of Hebrews 6:1-6 reveals what the author was saying to his readers.

The writer of Hebrews was trying to spark readers to go on to spiritual maturity. That is the context of much of the epistle. Believers are continually referred to as "brethren," which indicates a blood relationship. All Christians have been washed in the Blood of Christ and made clean. Possessing an eternal position in Christ, believers are encouraged to live out that position in their experience.

"For those who were once enlightened" appears as *tous hapax photisthentas* in the original Greek manuscript. The phrase literally means "once and for all illuminated," according to both Kenneth Wuest and the Amplified Bible. *Hapax*, in particular, speaks of something happening

once, with everlasting results, and therefore with no reason for it to happen again. It is not that it can never happen again, but that it need never happen again because it is a completed action. Simply put, this passage means that once someone receives the light of God, that light can never be turned out.

The word used for “enlightened” is from the Greek word *photizo*. The grammar case is an aorist passive accusative participle. In this context, it means to be spiritually enlightened, once and for all, as a completed action.

“Tasted” is *geuomai* in the Greek text. Along with “to try the flavor of,” it means to partake of, to eat, and to experience. It is an aorist middle accusative participle, speaking of a completed action with a result. In this case, the result of tasting the heavenly gift is salvation. This same word is used in Hebrews 2:9, which speaks of Christ tasting death for every man.

More Than a Sampling

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).

Harold Barker, in his book *Secure into the Ages*, makes an important point by saying that the word *tasted* in Hebrews 6:5 goes "...beyond the idea of just sampling salvation or of coming to the threshold of salvation without really believing....Did Jesus just sample death or did He thoroughly enter into it?" Of course, we know that Jesus fully experienced death—physically and spiritually—and then became the firstborn from the dead in His resurrection.

In the same way, Hebrews 6:4 is speaking of people who fully tasted salvation; they experienced it and they are God's children. A Christian can slide away from fellowship with God just as we can slide away from fellowship with our family members. But this fellowship can be restored and refreshed in an instant; however, the blood-bought relationship of the Christian to the Father cannot be altered. Once we come to Christ, we are His forever.

"...And were made partakers of the Holy [Spirit]" (Hebrews 6:4).

The phrase "were made" is *ginomai* in the Greek. The grammar form is an aorist passive accusative participle. This means, again, that the action was completed with a permanent result.

"Partakers" is *metochos* in the original Greek

text. This means to share in, to become part of, or in this case, to become a partner with the Holy Spirit. Only when a believer truly accepts Christ as Savior does the Holy Spirit come to indwell him (1 John 3:24; 4:13). The Holy Spirit seals the believer with an irrevocable promise of the believer's future redemption as God's present possession (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30). The indwelling Holy Spirit is the "earnest"—the down payment or security deposit—that God has placed on our souls, marking us in the spirit world as His property, securing our eternal salvation (2 Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5; Ephesians 1:14).

Therefore, based on what the Bible clearly teaches, it is "impossible" for a Christian to recreate his salvation experience. If it were possible, the writer of Hebrews says it would be the same as Christ having to be crucified again and again and again. Christ died "once for all." His sacrifice is one that will never have to be made again. Once we become hid with Christ in God, our position is set and our place in eternity is forever secure.

The Argument for Insecurity

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy [Spirit],

“And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

“If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Another viewpoint says that this passage refers to people who were never saved. Some church scholars interpret the word “taste” to mean that certain ones have “tasted” the Gospel and spit it out, just as Jesus tasted and spat out the vinegar while He was on the Cross. This view comes from their interpretation of the Greek tenses. They do not recognize the aorist middle accusative participle, which shows a completed action, with the emphasis of the action referring, in this case, to salvation. The action—tasting—was entire. It included partaking, eating, and experiencing. Regarding salvation, the action was complete.

According to that erroneous viewpoint,

some have taken the participle *geuomai* ("tasted") to mean that what was received was aborted before the process of regeneration was complete. Their contention is that those who "fall away ...crucify Christ afresh" by returning to the animal sacrifices of the old Hebrew ritualistic ceremonial laws. They claim that it is impossible for these people to repent because they continue to take the information of the Gospel and crucify Christ afresh every day by not receiving Him.

This viewpoint, which challenges the doctrine of eternal security, also says that the phrase "partakers of the Holy [Spirit]" means that some people are 'worked on' by the Holy Spirit, that they comprehend the Gospel and even acknowledge that it is true, but that they never receive Christ. It is like someone who receives a tract, reads it, and comes under great conviction, but is never regenerated.

Again, this view fails to take into account the culminative aorist tense in the Greek text, which causes this passage to mean that they have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit to the full extent through receiving the free gift of salvation, and that there is nothing more that can be done for them. The true implication of Hebrews 6:4-6 is this: For all Blood-bought believers who fall

away in their experience and do not choose to get up and go on with God, as shameful as their state may be, their sin is no longer the issue. Their position—that they are hid with Christ in God—is unchanged. The Blood of Christ paid the debt for their sin, and the only thing left is for them to look unto Jesus and be turned at some point in the process of discipline.

God Cannot Deny Himself

“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself” (2 Timothy 2:11-13).

Again, a passage of Scripture must be reviewed in its context. The context of verse 12 is speaking of having perseverance in suffering, and receiving rewards for holding on to Christ. Some take 2 Timothy 2:12 and stand it up on its own without the verses that surround it. By itself, this verse seems to indicate a way for a believer to “sin” himself out of his salvation by denying Christ.

The Greek word translated as “deny” is *arne - omai*. This word refers to denying the faith. But

we have to continue reading verse 13, which explains that God will remain faithful to us, even if we do not believe.

If you are born again, the moment you were saved, the Holy Spirit quickened your human spirit and Christ took up residence inside of you. At the same time, you became an integral member of the Body of Christ, and you were hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Therefore, because God cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13), and because He now lives in you (Colossians 1:27), you are eternally secure in Him.

In his *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, Spiros Zodhiates explains the Greek text of 2 Timothy 2:12: "This [denial] does not refer to a denial of entrance into heaven...but only the privation of privileges and rewards even as the believer failed his Lord on earth."

"Believe not" is *apisteo*, which speaks of not having trust in, or of failing to exercise proper faith, confidence, or dependence upon Christ. Even when we do not exercise the proper kind of faith, God remains faithful. "His trustworthiness does not depend on our trustworthiness," Zodhiates says. "There is a certain faithfulness, which God demonstrates toward His children, which is not conditional."

God knows what we are like. He knows that we are but dust. For this reason, every new believer is hid with Christ in God the moment he believes. From that moment on, we are beyond Satan's reach. In 1 John 5:18*b*, speaking of everyone who is born of God, the wicked one touches him not. We have been made new, and the old things have passed away. What we once were, we can never become again.

We were saved by grace. It is not of ourselves. Salvation has never been about us. It is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). Jesus Christ is both the Author and the Finisher of our faith. The *Lord* is our light and our salvation. He is the strength of our lives. Therefore, there is no reason to fear (Psalm 27:1).

CONCLUSION

What is eternal security? When the believer received Christ as his Savior, God gave him eternal life. He sanctified him, He gave him His righteousness, and He filled him with the Holy Spirit, once and for all. This means that the believer can never lose his salvation because Christ died for all of our sins. He bore the penalty of our sin and then opened the way of being reconciled to God by applying His Blood on the mercy seat in heaven (Jonah 2:9*b*; Romans 3:21-26, 5:15-21, 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:26*b*, 28*a*; 1 Peter 2:24*a*; 1 John 2:1-2; Titus 3:5*a*; Proverbs 28:13).

God cannot deny us because He cannot deny Himself, and it is He who indwells us. Thank God today that we are justified in Him (Romans 5:9). Confess that you are justified forever. You are sanctified because of the Blood shed at Calvary. You are His, and nothing can take you from Him.

God the Father gave His only Son. What

more could He do? Do you think He would sacrifice His Son to save us and then leave it to us to keep our salvation secure? "For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10).

Thank God for eternal security. If you have received the free gift of salvation, you are eternally secure in the love of God that never, never changes. But if you, for whatever reason, do not experience the joy of the Lord as your strength, and now God seems so distant, this does not mean that you lost your salvation. Just turn to the Lord. Acknowledge the finished work that took place at Calvary, and let Him turn your heart with true repentance so you can sense His presence once again.

If you have never received Christ as your Savior, believe that He loves you so much that He was willing to die for you on the Cross and pay for all of your sins. Let Him into your heart. He will take care of changing you into His image. In fact, He will make you a brand-new creation.

There is not one soul who is good enough on his own (Isaiah 64:6). And thank God, there is not one soul who is so far gone that God cannot

make him brand-new if he will just come, believe, and receive. Would you pray right now?

Dear Lord Jesus, I now receive You as my Savior. Thank You that You died on the Cross to purchase my eternal salvation. Thank You for giving me a brand-new life, a brand-new heart, and a brand-new soul. Lead me through Your Word. As you send people who will minister Your life to me, help me to grow and to be a light to show others the way to the Father. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.