

Christian Discipleship Guide



“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

3. Assurance of Salvation

Once an individual has settled the question of salvation as the Bible declares it, that is, saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, it is imperative that he understands how that decision has affected his eternal life. From Biblical facts, a person can settle the question of the eternal security of the Christian believer. In other words, once saved, always saved.

Jesus Christ promised that He will not cast us out of His family under any circumstances (*John 6:37*). He also made it clear that no man can cause us to lose our salvation, because God our Father is greater than all men; therefore no man is able to pluck us out of His hand (*John 10:27-29*).

But, can we do something that would cause us to lose our salvation? The Bible states that salvation is by grace through faith, and not by works. It is a gift from God. No man can lose his salvation on his own, because no man earned his salvation (*Ephesians 2:8-9*). If we had to do anything to earn or keep our salvation, we would lose it easily (*Galatians 3:10; James 2:10*). It is Jesus Christ who keeps us saved, not we ourselves (*2 Timothy 1:12*). The Bible states clearly that, if we could become righteous by anything we do, then Jesus Christ's death on the cross was in vain (*Galatians 2:21*).

If God won't cast me out, if no man can cause me to lose my salvation, and if I can't lose it myself, then is there anything else that can cause me to lose my salvation. No, because according to the God's Word in *Romans 8:38-39*, we can't lose it when we die; we can't lose it while we're alive; angels can't take it from us; the government (principalities) can't take it from us; the powers of the devil can't cause us to lose it; nothing happening right now today can take it away; nothing in the future can make us lose it; and nothing above us (height), nothing below us (depth), nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We can be sure that we have eternal security because our relationship with God is now a father/son relationship by spiritual birth (*John 1:12-13*). When we were born physically, there was a record made of our birth called a Birth Certificate. When we were "born again" spiritually, a record was also made in heaven (*1 John 5:11-13*). Our birth certificate was stamped with a seal. Our spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God (*Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30*). We will be our physical father's son for eternity, because we were born of his seed. We could leave the country, disown each other, change our name, and never see him, hear from him, or even think about him for the rest of our lives, but it will never change the fact that he is our father. The same is true of our heavenly Father. We can die, but we can never be unborn. Our birth is fixed forever, both physically and spiritually, and even God Himself cannot change that fact.

Even if we don't feel saved, our salvation is not based on our feelings, but upon the objective factual truth of the Word of God. *1 John 3:20* says, "For if our heart condemns us (that is, if we think or feel unsaved), God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." God knows if we are saved, even if we don't feel saved. God promised eternal life to those who believe, and God cannot lie (*Titus 1:2*). Trust God and believe what He has promised (*1 John 2:25*).

Questions:

1. What is the promise we can claim from *John 6:37*?

2. From *John 10:27-29*, why is it that no one can cause you to lose your salvation?

3. We cannot do anything ourselves that would cause us to lose our salvation. What can we learn from *Ephesians 2:8-9* to support this?

4. What does *1 John 3:20* teach us concerning the promise of eternal life?

Additional Scripture Verses:

John 1:12-13; John 3:16; John 3:36; John 5:24; Romans 10:9-13; 1 John 5:12-13; 1 John 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 13:5.