

Assurance of Salvation

Series 1-10

By Paul Tackett

VerseQuest Ministries

Introduction to the Series: Assurance of Salvation

Anchored in the New Birth, Sealed by the Spirit, Kept by God

There are few subjects more precious to the heart of a believer than the **assurance of salvation**. It is the spiritual oxygen for the weary soul, the anchor for the storm-tossed mind, and the bread of doctrine that feeds stability into the Christian walk. Without it, even the strongest disciple can become plagued with doubt, fear, and spiritual confusion. With it, even the weakest saint can walk in boldness, peace, and confidence toward God.

This subject is heavy on my heart—not just because of its doctrinal weight, but because of the many Christians I’ve met over the years who live in constant anxiety about their eternal destiny. They have trusted Christ, yes—but they are not always sure if He still has them. They wonder if they’ve sinned too much, repented too little, or felt the wrong things. Some have been taught that salvation is probationary—that they’re only saved as long as they behave, believe hard enough, or maintain some measure of fruitfulness. They’ve been fed emotional bread instead of doctrinal bread. And they’re starving.

That’s why this series exists. Because the Word of God—*the King James Bible*—does not leave the believer hanging on a cliff. It offers certainty, not speculation. Assurance, not ambiguity. God doesn’t save you to keep you guessing. He saves you to secure you. And once you’re His, you’re His forever.

As part of the broader vision of “**The Bread of the Word**” series, these ten essays are not spiritual milk. They are not temporary snacks. They are thick slices of **doctrinal bread**—baked in the fire of Scripture, filled with the nutrients of rightly divided truth, and served fresh to feed the inner man. If a Christian is going to endure in this world—especially in these last days—they need this kind of bread. Not religious fluff. Not devotional fluff. But Bible-fed assurance.

This series is foundational because **everything in the Christian life flows from it**. How can a man walk in victory if he’s unsure of his standing with God? How can a woman pray in faith if she’s afraid she’s already been cast away? How can anyone serve boldly if they’re not sure whether their name is still written in heaven?

The devil knows this too. That's why he attacks assurance first. He doesn't mind if you read your Bible—as long as you're unsure if it applies to you. He doesn't mind if you go to church—as long as you think God might still reject you. But when you get settled in the truth that you are *born of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit, washed in the blood, and kept by the power of God*—that's when you become a threat to the gates of Hell.

Each essay in this series builds like a structure, laid on the solid foundation of Scripture. We'll begin by exploring the **new birth**—what it is, why it's irreversible, and how it changes everything. Then we'll move to the **sealing of the Spirit**, the **immutability of God's promises**, the **eternal nature of grace**, and the **difference between chastening and condemnation**. We'll address common objections, spiritual warfare, and the believer's struggle with doubt. And we'll conclude by pointing our hearts to the **Blessed Assurance**—the finished work of Christ, in whom we rest secure.

If you're a believer who has ever wondered, "Am I truly saved? Can I lose it? Have I fallen too far?"—this series is for you. If you're a pastor or teacher needing doctrinal depth to help your flock, these pages are for you. If you're tired of feelings-driven Christianity and hungry for the bread of doctrine, this table is spread just for you.

So let us sit. Let us eat. Let us be fed not with cotton candy theology, but with **the living Bread** that nourishes the soul and never leaves us empty.

Because assurance isn't a luxury.

It's a necessity.

And it's yours—forever—in Christ.

1 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – Born of God: Understanding Your New Birth in Christ

Introduction: The Foundation of Our Faith

To understand *assurance of salvation*, one must first understand the very nature of salvation itself. At the core of this experience is the *new birth*—a spiritual transformation so radical, so permanent, and so divine, that Scripture refers to it as being "born of God." Without clarity on this new birth, Christians are left vulnerable to fear, doubt, and false doctrine.

Today's religious world is filled with those who are uncertain about their eternal standing. Many rely on feelings, works, or external validations. But for the believer who rests on the authority of the King James Bible, the question is not *how you feel* but *what God says*. And what He says is unmistakably clear: "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

I. What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

When Jesus told Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3), He was not offering a suggestion. He was declaring a spiritual reality—a necessity.

To be born again is to undergo a **spiritual birth** brought forth by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. This is not a metaphor or poetic flourish. It is a literal transaction of divine nature entering the human heart.

Peter affirms:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23).

This seed, unlike human sperm, is *incorruptible*—meaning it is not subject to decay, destruction, or reversal.

Just as physical birth brings us into this world and cannot be undone, spiritual birth brings us into God's family and cannot be reversed. This birth is not behavioral. It is *biological* in the sense of a new spiritual nature being implanted in you.

II. Natural Birth vs. Spiritual Birth

1. Source

- *Natural birth* comes from human parents.
- *Spiritual birth* comes from God: "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13).

2. Lifeform

- *Natural birth* gives you physical life, but you're dead in sin.
- *Spiritual birth* gives you eternal life: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1).

3. Nature

- Your first birth gives you Adam’s nature (Rom. 5:12).
- Your second birth gives you Christ’s nature (2 Peter 1:4).

4. Result

- The first birth ends in death.
- The second birth ends in resurrection and eternal life.

III. The Seed of the Word

Peter uses the image of **seed** to describe how we are born again. In human reproduction, life begins when the seed meets the egg. Spiritually, life begins when the *Word of God* enters a believing heart.

- “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).
- “The sower soweth the word” (Mark 4:14).

It is the Word—incorruptible, unchanging, eternal—that plants itself within the sinner. And when that Word is received by faith, the Holy Spirit regenerates the heart. This is not a gradual reformation. It is instantaneous transformation.

To undo this new birth would mean **corrupting the incorruptible**—which is impossible. If the seed is incorruptible, then the life it produces is incorruptible.

IV. The Spirit Birth Explained

Jesus said:

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6).

This is not poetic; it’s doctrinal. Flesh can only reproduce flesh. The Spirit alone can regenerate the spirit of man. This birth is not observable like physical labor—it is internal, invisible, but eternally real.

Paul confirms this:

- “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

And this creature is *born from above*, not from below. This is why the new man is sealed (Eph. 1:13), sanctified (1 Cor. 6:11), and **preserved blameless** (1 Thess. 5:23).

V. Why the New Birth Cannot Be Undone

Let's look at the reasons, doctrinally and logically, why the new birth is permanent:

1. It Is Divine in Origin

No human initiated it. God did. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth" (James 1:18). Since man didn't start it, man can't stop it.

2. It Is Incorruptible

1 Peter 1:23 says the seed is incorruptible. If the source is incorruptible, so is the life it produces.

3. It Results in a New Nature

A person who is born again does not receive a recycled version of the old man; they receive a **new man** created in righteousness (Eph. 4:24). God doesn't kill the old man and put him on life support. He **crucifies** him (Rom. 6:6) and resurrects a new creation.

4. God Is Not an Abortionist

Once God gives birth to a soul, He doesn't abort His children. He chastens them, corrects them, and even takes them home early if necessary (1 Cor. 11:30), but He never *un-births* them.

5. Family Membership is Permanent

Just as your parents cannot "unbirth" you in the physical realm, neither can God. Even the prodigal son, in rebellion and filth, never ceased being a son (Luke 15:24).

VI. The Witness of the Spirit

Romans 8:16 says:

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

Assurance comes not from religious rituals or personal performance but from the indwelling **Holy Ghost**, who testifies within us that we belong to the Father.

That Spirit:

- **Seals** us (Eph. 1:13)
- **Leads** us (Rom. 8:14)
- **Intercedes** for us (Rom. 8:26)
- **Grieves** over sin but never departs (Eph. 4:30)

Even when we stumble, the Spirit remains. He may be quenched or grieved, but He is never removed.

VII. Fruits of the New Birth

Though salvation is not *proved* by works, it is *manifested* by fruit.

Jesus said, “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:16). A new nature produces new appetites, new desires, new directions.

- Hunger for the Word (1 Peter 2:2)
- Hatred for sin (Romans 7:15–24)
- Love for the brethren (1 John 3:14)
- Conviction when wrong (Heb. 12:6)
- The inner cry: “Abba, Father” (Gal. 4:6)

These are not works of the flesh—they’re signs of life. Dead trees don’t bear fruit.

VIII. Addressing Common Objections

“*But What About Hebrews 6 and 10?*”

These passages speak not of born-again believers losing salvation, but of **those exposed to the truth**, yet rejecting it. They *taste* the heavenly gift but never *swallow* it.

A real believer has **eternal life**, not conditional trial periods (John 3:16; 5:24; 10:28).

“*But I Don’t Feel Saved...*”

Feelings are like weather—up and down. Truth is like a rock. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life” (John 3:36). That’s a fact, not a feeling.

“*What if I sin after getting saved?*”

You will. That's why you need **1 John 1:9**, not a second birth. The new birth doesn't remove the capacity to sin—it introduces the **conflict** between the old man and the new man.

IX. Assurance Comes from Believing the Record

1 John 5:11–13 is a cornerstone:

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

Notice:

- It's **given**, not earned.
- It's **eternal**, not temporary.
- It's **in the Son**, not in ourselves.

Verse 13 says, *“These things have I written unto you... that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”*

Not hope, not guess, but **know**.

X. Living Out the New Birth

Understanding you are born of God isn't just a theological fact—it's a new identity. It affects:

- **How you view yourself** – A child of God, not a slave of sin.
- **How you respond to failure** – With confession and restoration.
- **How you deal with doubt** – By holding to the Word, not feelings.
- **How you live** – In gratitude, not guilt.

Ephesians 2:10 says you were created in Christ *unto good works*, not *by good works*. Works are the result, not the root.

Conclusion: The Unbreakable Birth

Being born again is not a spiritual upgrade—it is a complete regeneration. A new spirit. A new heart. A new family. A new destiny.

You may stumble. You may doubt. But if you have trusted in the finished work of Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection—you are **born of God**. And that birth cannot be undone.

You are His child forever.

2 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – Sealed Until the Day of Redemption: The Security of the Holy Spirit

Introduction: The Comfort of a Seal

In a world that constantly shifts and fractures under the weight of uncertainty, the believer has an unshakable promise: *he is sealed*. Not by effort. Not by ritual. But by the Holy Spirit of God. This divine seal is not symbolic—it is a doctrinal reality with eternal consequences.

The truth of this sealing is not merely comforting—it is **crucial**. It answers the lingering fear of abandonment. It silences the voice of religious insecurity. It stands tall in the face of legalism and self-doubt. Without this seal, a believer might ask, “*Can I be lost again? Can I undo what God began?*” But with it comes a thunderous answer: *No*. You have been sealed unto the day of redemption.

In this essay, we’ll journey through the Scripture, especially Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30, and uncover what it truly means to be sealed by the Holy Spirit. We’ll examine the practice of sealing in ancient Roman culture, its implications in biblical language, and the glorious security that it provides for every born-again believer.

I. Ephesians 1:13 – The Order of Redemption

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”
(Ephesians 1:13).

This verse offers us a timeline. A spiritual sequence of events:

1. **You heard** the word of truth (the gospel).
2. **You believed** the gospel.

3. **You were sealed** with the Holy Spirit.

This sealing is not the result of a process, a baptism, or a secondary experience. It is **immediate upon belief**. The moment a sinner believes the gospel—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for his sins—he is sealed.

Note that Paul refers to the Spirit as “that **holy Spirit of promise**.” This ties back to Christ’s words in John 14–16, where He promised to send the Comforter—the Spirit of truth—to indwell believers and guide them into all truth.

This seal is not emotional. It is not experiential. It is not something you feel. It is **positional, judicial, and eternal**.

II. Ephesians 4:30 – Sealed Unto the Day of Redemption

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Here we learn three key truths:

1. The Holy Spirit can be **grieved**, which proves He is a Person, not a force.
2. He is the One by whom we are **sealed**.
3. That sealing lasts **unto the day of redemption**.

What is “the day of redemption”? It is the future moment when the body is redeemed—the rapture, the resurrection, the full glorification of the believer (Romans 8:23). That means the seal *remains* from the moment of belief **all the way to glorification**. It is not revoked. It is not lost. It is not weakened by sin or circumstance.

III. The Meaning of a Seal in Ancient Culture

To understand the power of God’s sealing, we must understand what a seal meant in ancient times, especially under Roman law.

1. A Seal Marked Ownership

When a Roman citizen or official sent a document, he stamped it with a seal. That seal bore his crest or signet. It said: *“This belongs to me.”* The moment you are sealed by the Spirit, you are marked as **God’s property**.

“The Lord knoweth them that are his...” (2 Timothy 2:19).

You are no longer your own (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). God has put His mark on you.

2. A Seal Implied Security

When the tomb of Jesus was sealed (Matthew 27:66), it was meant to **prevent tampering**. When Daniel was placed in the lion's den, the king sealed the stone (Daniel 6:17). The seal represented legal protection. To break that seal was to violate authority.

The Holy Spirit seals you **so that nothing can break in—and you can't break out**. No devil, no temptation, no failure can break that seal.

3. A Seal Was a Guarantee

The Roman seal on a document guaranteed that the content was genuine and final. God's seal is His **down payment**, His earnest (Ephesians 1:14), His guarantee that the work He began, He will finish.

IV. The Seal as God's Mark of Ownership

When God seals a believer, He is publicly declaring: *This one is mine*.

This truth echoes throughout the Scriptures:

- *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his...”* (2 Tim. 2:19).
- *“Ye are bought with a price...”* (1 Cor. 6:20).
- *“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)

You didn't seal yourself. He did. And He doesn't make mistakes.

This is especially important in a world full of false religions, where people attempt to brand themselves as saved by works, sacraments, or human effort. God's seal isn't made with water, oil, robes, or relics. It is made by **the indwelling Person of the Holy Ghost**.

V. The Seal as God's Guarantee

The sealing of the Spirit is not just a label; it is a **pledge**—God's guarantee that He will finish what He started.

Paul reinforces this idea in:

- **2 Corinthians 1:22** – *“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”*
- **Ephesians 1:14** – *“Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...”*

The word “earnest” in the Bible is the same as a **deposit**, a **first installment** that promises more to come. God gave you the Holy Spirit not only to indwell you but as a down payment for what’s coming—your glorified body, your heavenly inheritance.

If God were to unseal you, it would mean He went back on His own guarantee. That’s impossible. *“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”* (Romans 11:29)

VI. Can the Seal Be Broken?

This is where the enemy attacks. He says: *“You’ve sinned too much. You’ve failed too often. Maybe God has removed His seal from you.”*

Let’s be clear: The seal **can be grieved**—but not **removed**.

Paul warns, “Grieve not the Holy Spirit...” Why? Because even when we disobey, the Spirit remains. You can’t grieve someone who’s not present.

David, after his great sin, begged, *“Take not thy holy spirit from me”* (Psalm 51:11). But that was under the Old Covenant. Today, the Spirit seals us permanently. In fact, the very reason David had to ask God not to take the Spirit is because **under the Old Covenant, He could**. But under the New Covenant, we are sealed unto the day of redemption. That’s the difference.

VII. The Seal as the Proof of Salvation

If someone asks, *“How do I know I’m saved?”*—you point to the gospel, yes. But you also point to the presence of the Spirit.

Romans 8:16 says:

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

This witness is not a feeling. It is a truth-based confidence anchored in Scripture. The moment you believe, the Spirit takes up residence in you (1 Cor. 12:13). And where He is, there is sealing.

“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Rom. 8:9)
But if you have Him—you’re His.

VIII. Grieving the Spirit vs. Losing Salvation

Some confuse grieving the Spirit with losing salvation. But those are not the same.

Grieving the Spirit:

- Happens when a believer sins.
- Results in conviction, sorrow, chastisement.
- Damages fellowship, not relationship.

Losing Salvation:

- Implies the seal is broken.
- Means God has failed to keep His promise.
- Contradicts dozens of verses.

The Spirit convicts you because He remains in you. He does not leave you when you fail. He calls you to repentance, reminds you of your identity, and testifies to your sonship.

IX. A Sealed Identity

The modern believer must reclaim this forgotten truth: *You are not working to stay saved. You are working because you are sealed.*

Your identity is fixed. You are not an orphan, hoping to be adopted again and again. You are a **child of God**, sealed with the King’s own signet.

That seal says:

- **Forgiven**
- **Justified**
- **Regenerated**
- **Accepted**
- **Secure**

The world may label you. The devil may accuse you. But the Holy Spirit seals you.

X. Practical Power from Sealing

The doctrine of the Spirit's sealing is not abstract theology—it's practical power. When you understand that you are sealed:

- **You stop trying to earn God's love** and begin living in the power of it.
- **You stop fearing tomorrow** and start resting in eternal security.
- **You endure trials and discipline** with confidence, knowing they are not rejections, but corrections.

The doctrine of sealing produces stability. You don't live in guilt-driven performance. You live in grace-driven obedience.

Conclusion: Kept by the Spirit Until Glory

The day you trusted Christ, the Spirit came in—and He sealed you. Not temporarily. Not symbolically. Not until your next failure. But *“unto the day of redemption.”*

That day is coming. The trumpet will sound. The dead will rise. The corruptible will put on incorruption. And you, dear believer, will stand in the presence of your Savior—not by your merit, but because the Spirit kept you sealed the entire way.

No devil can unseal you. No failure can unmark you. No doctrine of man can override the decree of heaven.

You have been sealed.

You are secure.

You are His.

Forever.

3 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – Not by Works: The Power of Grace in Eternal Security

Introduction: The Fragile Illusion of Human Effort

There are few lies more damaging to a believer's walk than the subtle suggestion that God's grace must be maintained by man's effort. From the moment salvation is received, the enemy begins whispering, *"Now keep it. Don't lose it. Don't mess up. Don't stop performing."*

This idea—that salvation starts by grace but must be sustained by works—is not only spiritually exhausting, but entirely unbiblical. It places the burden of security not on the unchanging nature of God, but on the shifting sands of human faithfulness. It turns the gospel from good news into bad news. And it turns the Christian life into a treadmill of anxiety.

But Scripture is not silent. Again and again, the Word of God declares: **not by works**. Salvation is a divine act from beginning to end—**initiated, maintained, and completed by God**.

In this third entry of our *Assurance of Salvation* series, we will dismantle the doctrine of works-based maintenance, expose its danger, and reinforce the indestructible power of grace. Our aim is to liberate the believer from bondage, root their security in truth, and magnify the God who saves to the uttermost.

I. The Gospel Starts with Grace

Let us begin where all truth must begin: with the gospel.

Paul defines it clearly:

- *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel... that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).*

Nowhere in this gospel is a man's work required.

Ephesians 2:8–9 affirms:

- *"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."*

If it is a gift, it cannot be earned. If it is of grace, it cannot be of works. Paul made this dichotomy unmistakable:

- *“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work”* (Romans 11:6).

That verse should be painted on the gates of every church. Grace and works are **mutually exclusive** when it comes to salvation. You cannot mix the two without destroying both.

II. Salvation Is Not a Loan to Be Repaid

A common error is thinking of salvation as a “grace loan”—freely given, but expected to be repaid through faithful living. This idea is foreign to the Bible and toxic to assurance.

Romans 4:4–5 says:

- *“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”*

God does not save us and then hand us a ledger. He saves us **freely**, justifies the ungodly **completely**, and counts faith—not works—for righteousness. There is no payback plan. There is only gratitude, surrender, and spiritual growth that flows **from salvation**, not **toward it**.

III. Grace Is the Power that Keeps Us

If grace saves us, then grace also keeps us. Consider Titus 3:5:

- *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”*

How did He save us? Not by our righteousness. Not by our consistency. Not by our effort. He saved us **by His mercy**.

The entire book of Galatians was written to confront the heresy of maintaining salvation by works.

Paul says bluntly:

- “Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3)

If salvation began by the Spirit, it **cannot be perfected by the flesh**. That is the central error of legalistic Christianity: assuming the work of God needs the help of man to stay alive.

Paul further writes:

- “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4)

To try to *justify* or *secure* yourself by works is to **fall from grace**—not fall from salvation, but fall **away from the doctrine** of grace. You nullify its purpose and deny its sufficiency.

IV. The Nature of Eternal Life

Let us remember what God has actually promised the believer:

- “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish...” (John 10:28)

If the life given can be lost, it is not eternal.

Eternal life is not *probationary*. It is not “conditional eternal life” or “temporary security until failure.” The word *eternal* means without end. The moment a person believes, they **have** (present tense) eternal life (John 5:24).

If God gives something that is eternal, it cannot expire. It cannot be revoked. It cannot hinge on human maintenance.

V. The Danger of a Works-Based Gospel

When someone teaches that a Christian must “stay faithful” to remain saved, they are not teaching the gospel. They are subtly reintroducing **law, fear, and performance-based religion**. Let’s be clear: that is **another gospel**.

Paul warned:

- “If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:9)

A gospel that says Christ’s work was not enough to save and keep you is not good news. It’s bad news in religious wrapping.

This view:

- Makes man his own savior.
- Replaces rest with fear.
- Encourages hypocrisy and judgment.
- Breeds insecurity in the hearts of believers.

Most of all—it **robs Christ of His glory**. It suggests that His cross wasn't quite enough.

VI. The Fruits of Grace, Not the Roots

Yes, the Bible teaches holiness. Yes, the believer should bear fruit. But these things are **the fruits of salvation**, not the roots of it.

John 15 teaches that the branch must *abide* in the vine to bear fruit. But notice: the branch is already *part* of the vine. It belongs to the vine. It is connected, sealed, and living—before it ever bears fruit.

Jesus said, “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:20), not “Ye shall save them by their fruits.”

Works are evidence—but **not essence**—of salvation. They may reveal what is within, but they do not produce what is within.

VII. The Case of the Carnal Christian

Some object: *“But what about someone who believes but lives in sin? Surely they can't still be saved.”*

Scripture addresses this directly.

1 Corinthians 3:15 describes a man whose works are burned up—but **he himself is saved**, “yet so as by fire.”

This is not a loophole—it's a warning. A believer can suffer loss. A believer can backslide. A believer can walk in carnality. But that does not undo the new birth. It does not dissolve the seal of the Spirit.

Paul even called the Corinthians “carnal” (1 Cor. 3:3), yet still addressed them as “saints” (1 Cor. 1:2). Why? Because **their standing was based on Christ, not their conduct**.

VIII. Israel as a Warning and a Witness

Some use Israel's story as proof that believers can lose salvation. But Israel is a picture—not of individual salvation—but of national covenant and blessing. And even then, Paul says:

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

In fact, Romans 11 shows that **even rebellious Israel will one day be restored**. If God does not cast off Israel permanently, why would He cast off a blood-bought, born-again believer?

IX. The Consistency of Grace Through All Scripture

Grace is not a New Testament invention. It has always been God's way. Abraham was saved **by faith**, not works (Romans 4). David, after adultery and murder, still declared the joy of a man to whom God **imputeth righteousness without works** (Romans 4:6–8).

No man has ever been justified by law. Not one.

Even under Moses, the sacrificial system pointed to **atonement by substitution**, not **righteousness by performance**. Christ fulfilled it all—not so we could try to add to it—but so we could rest in it.

X. The Glory of Grace and the Rest of the Soul

There is **rest** in grace. That's what the epistle to the Hebrews argues.

- *“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works...”*
(Hebrews 4:10)

This does not mean we stop living righteously. It means we stop trying to earn, maintain, or deserve salvation. We work from our identity, not for it.

Grace sets the soul free:

- Free to obey—not because you're trying to keep salvation, but because you already have it.
- Free to grow—not from fear, but from love.

- Free to walk—not on eggshells, but in assurance.

Grace produces holiness **more effectively than fear ever could**. For the love of Christ constraineth us (2 Cor. 5:14)—not the terror of hell.

Conclusion: Grace Alone, to the End

Salvation is not a transaction. It is a transformation—initiated by God, sustained by God, and sealed by God.

We are not holding on to God. **He is holding on to us.**

Grace is not merely how you get in—it's how you stay in, stand firm, and finish well. The idea that God would adopt a child, only to disown them at their first failure, is not grace. It's religion.

Let every trembling saint rest. Let every doubting believer be comforted. Let every confused Christian return to the simplicity that is in Christ.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...” (Titus 3:5)

You are saved—because He is faithful.

You are secure—because His grace is greater.

You are kept—because His cross was enough.

Not by works. Never by works.

Only by grace. Forever by grace.

4 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – The Hands That Never Let Go: God's Grip vs. Human Feeling

Introduction: Holding On or Being Held?

We've all had days when the feelings don't match the facts. Moods change. Emotions falter. Doubt creeps in. The heart can be a stormy sea of questions, fears, and guilt. And for many believers, assurance is often tied to these shifting emotions.

But salvation was never meant to be anchored in *how we feel*. It was meant to be grounded in *who God is*. If your salvation were based on your grip on God, then any weak moment could mean eternal loss. But the Bible teaches something better, something stronger—**His hands hold you, and He never lets go.**

In this fourth entry in the *Assurance of Salvation* series, we will explore the unbreakable grip of God through passages like John 10:28–29 and 2 Timothy 2:13. We’ll discover that God’s promises hold firm even when our hearts waver—and that our security is based not in the volatility of our feelings but in the faithfulness of our Savior.

I. The Illusion of Emotional Faith

Many Christians mistake emotion for evidence. They think:

- *“If I feel saved, I must be saved.”*
- *“If I feel distant, maybe I’m not saved.”*

This mindset creates spiritual schizophrenia—up one day, down the next. But nowhere in the Bible does God call us to trust our emotions. Instead, He calls us to trust His **Word**.

Jeremiah 17:9 reminds us:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Your heart is not a compass. It’s a conflict zone. It responds to stress, circumstances, hormones, sin, and even weather. If your eternal destiny is tethered to your feelings, you’re on a ride with no seatbelt.

God never promised you’d always feel saved. But He did promise that those who believe are:

- *“passed from death unto life”* (John 5:24)
- *“justified by faith”* (Romans 5:1)
- *“sealed unto the day of redemption”* (Ephesians 4:30)

Those are facts. And facts are stronger than feelings.

II. God’s Grip According to John 10:28–29

Let’s examine one of the clearest statements Jesus ever made regarding our security:

“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)

These verses are gold for the believer who struggles with assurance.

1. “I give unto them eternal life”

Eternal life is a **gift**, not a contract. Jesus doesn't loan it to you—He **gives** it. And if He gives it, it's yours. Romans 11:29 says, *“The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”*

2. “They shall never perish”

How long is *never*? What loopholes exist in *never*? Jesus didn't say “unless,” “maybe,” or “if they try hard enough.” He said *never*. The Greek word is emphatic—*ou mē apolōntai eis ton aiōna*—meaning **not ever under any circumstance for all eternity**.

3. “Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand”

This isn't a loose grip. This is a divine vice grip. And in case someone says, “Well, you can jump out of His hand,” Jesus adds a layer of security...

4. “No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand”

The believer is held by **both the Son and the Father**—double-sealed in omnipotence. If you could lose your salvation, you'd have to be stronger than God's hand. And you're not.

III. When Feelings Don't Match Truth

Consider a child holding a father's hand while crossing a busy street. The child may stumble, panic, or even try to pull away—but the father holds on. It is not the child's strength that gets them across the street—it is the father's grip.

That is how salvation works. God does not rely on your consistency to keep you saved. He relies on His own.

When your mind says, *“I feel far from God,”* remind yourself:

- *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you”* (James 4:8)

When your guilt says, *“You've sinned too much,”* remember:

- *“Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”* (Romans 5:20)

When fear says, *“You've let go,”* answer with:

- “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure” (2 Timothy 2:19)

IV. God’s Faithfulness in 2 Timothy 2:13

Paul gives us one of the most comforting truths in the entire New Testament:

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

This is stunning.

Even **when your faith falters**, His faithfulness doesn’t. Even **when you are inconsistent**, He remains **unchanging**. Why? Because your salvation is tied to **His nature**, not yours.

To deny you would be to deny Himself, because **you are in Him**.

V. Feelings Can Be Liars

Let’s look at a few biblical examples of godly people who wrestled with feelings:

1. David

- “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?” (Psalm 42:5)
- David often felt abandoned—but he still belonged to God.

2. Elijah

- After calling fire from heaven, Elijah felt so hopeless he asked God to let him die (1 Kings 19).
- God didn’t rebuke him. He refreshed him. Because God doesn’t discard His children when their emotions crash.

3. Job

- Job felt utterly forsaken. Yet God declared him *perfect and upright* (Job 1:8).

If these spiritual giants felt despair, don’t be surprised when you do. Emotions make us human—but truth is what makes us secure.

VI. What About When I Sin?

One of the greatest killers of assurance is **sin**. We think, *“If I were really saved, I wouldn’t have done that.”*

But consider Peter. He denied Jesus three times. Swore. Cursed. Ran away. But he was still Christ’s disciple.

What changed after the resurrection? Jesus didn’t say, “You blew it, Peter.” He said, *“Feed my sheep.”*

You may fall—but you fall **into His hand**, not out of it.

Hebrews 12:6–7 reminds us:

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

Sin invites **chastening**, not abandonment. God disciplines His children—not to punish them into fear, but to restore them into fellowship.

VII. Assurance Isn’t Arrogance

Some mistake assurance for pride. They think saying, *“I know I’m saved”* is boastful.

But assurance isn’t confidence in **your performance**. It’s confidence in **His promise**.

1 John 5:13 says:

“These things have I written unto you... that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

God wants you to **know**. Not wish. Not hope. Not assume. **Know**.

Faith is not arrogance—it’s obedience to believe what God said.

VIII. The Spirit vs. the Soul

Hebrews 4:12 tells us:

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful... dividing asunder of soul and spirit...”

This verse is key. The **soul** is where emotions reside. The **spirit** is where truth is sealed.

Your soul can be depressed while your spirit is secure.

Your emotions can say, “I feel lost,” while the Spirit within you says, “You are sealed.”

This is why Scripture must guide us—not moods, not music, not hormones. Only the Word of God rightly divides between **how I feel** and **what is real**.

IX. Holding Fast Because He Holds First

Hebrews 10:23 encourages:

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”

You hold fast—not to keep your salvation—but because **He is holding you**.

It’s like riding in a train. You may stand, fall, walk around, or lose balance. But you’re still on the train—not because you’re gripping the rails, but because the train itself is carrying you.

That’s salvation. You’re not walking the path—you’re **being carried** by the Shepherd.

X. Final Comforts: When Doubt Lingers

If you're still wrestling, here are truths you can tattoo on your soul:

- *“He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”* (Phil. 1:6)
- *“The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me...”* (Ps. 138:8)
- *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...”* (Rom. 8:1)
- *“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.”* (Rom. 8:33)

You are not holding on for dear life. **He is holding on to you**—and His hands don’t slip.

Conclusion: Resting in the Unfailing Grip

You may not always feel strong. You may not always feel holy. You may not always feel close to God.

But salvation is not about your **feelings**. It’s about God’s **faithfulness**.

You are sealed by His Spirit. Anchored in His Word. Carried by His grace. And held in His hand.

And those hands never let go.

So when emotions waver, rest in the truth.

When fear whispers, shout the facts.

And when your grip weakens—praise God that His never does.

5 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – Verses Every Believer Should Know: Your Spiritual Survival Kit

Introduction: When the Battle Comes

The Christian life is not a playground—it’s a battleground. And in battle, you don’t just need armor—you need ammunition.

There will be days when you feel weak. Days when your mind is clouded with guilt. Days when the enemy whispers, *“Are you sure you’re really saved?”* And if you don’t have truth to stand on—Scripture, memorized and anchored in your heart—you’ll be left defenseless.

God never meant for His people to live by feelings. He designed us to **live by faith**—and *“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17). When assurance is under attack, it’s the Word that fights back.

This essay is your **spiritual survival kit**—a curated list of **12 powerful verses** every believer should know by heart. These are not just doctrinal anchors—they are **weapons, comforts, and reminders** of the God who saves and keeps you. For each verse, we’ll offer practical commentary and explain when and how to use it in the fight for assurance.

1. 1 John 5:13 – Know, Don’t Guess

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

This verse is your **first line of defense**. God did not leave you in the dark. He gave you His Word so you could **know**, not wonder.

When to use it:

When doubt creeps in and you begin to question, go to this verse. Say it out loud. Memorize it. Assurance is based on what is *written*, not what is *felt*.

2. John 5:24 – Passed From Death to Life

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

There are **three guarantees** here:

1. You *have* everlasting life now.
2. You *will not* face condemnation.
3. You *have passed* from death to life.

When to use it:

When guilt tells you that God is done with you, this verse speaks louder: *You’re not going to be condemned. You’re already alive in Christ.*

3. Romans 8:38–39 – Nothing Can Separate

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities... shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Paul lists **ten unbreakable barriers** that cannot sever you from God's love. Not even sin, failure, or Satan can undo what Christ has done.

When to use it:

When you feel distant, unloved, or unsure of your standing, read this out loud. God’s love isn’t fragile—it’s **fortified**.

4. Philippians 1:6 – He Will Finish What He Started

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

You didn’t start your salvation—**God did**. And He doesn’t abandon His projects.

When to use it:

When you feel unfinished or like a failure in progress. God's not done with you—and He won't quit.

5. Ephesians 1:13-14 – Sealed with the Spirit

"...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession..."

The Holy Spirit is your **divine seal**—your guarantee. He's not leaving. You're sealed until redemption.

When to use it:

When fear tells you that you've fallen too far, remember: you're sealed by God's Spirit, not your success.

6. 2 Timothy 1:12 – He Is Able to Keep You

"...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."

Salvation is a **deposit** placed in Christ's hands. And He is **able to keep it** until you're standing in glory.

When to use it:

When your mind is full of "what ifs," remind yourself: *I've committed this to Christ. He's got it—and He's got me.*

7. Jude 24 – He Will Keep You from Falling

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy..."

You don't hold yourself up. He does. And not only does He keep you—He presents you **faultless**.

When to use it:

When you're overwhelmed by your imperfections. Remember: you will be presented **without blemish**, not because of your works—but because of His mercy.

8. John 10:28–29 – No One Can Take You Out

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand... no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”

You are **double held**—by the Son and by the Father. Your salvation is not in your grip. It’s in **His hands**.

When to use it:

When fear tells you that you’re slipping, remember—you’re not holding Him. He’s holding you.

9. Romans 11:29 – His Gifts Are Without Repentance

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

When God gives eternal life, He doesn’t take it back. He doesn’t second-guess Himself.

When to use it:

When the enemy whispers, “Maybe God’s changed His mind,” fire back: *God doesn’t change His mind about His children.*

10. Hebrews 7:25 – He Ever Liveth to Make Intercession

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Jesus isn’t just your Savior—He is your **intercessor**, constantly representing you before the Father.

When to use it:

When condemnation rises, remember: Jesus is **praying for you**, even when you forget to pray.

11. Titus 3:5 – Not by Works, But by Mercy

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”

Your salvation was never based on your goodness. It was always mercy.

When to use it:

When legalism makes you doubt, go back to mercy. Say it aloud: *“I wasn’t saved by works, and I’m not kept by works.”*

12. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 – Faithful Is He Who Calls

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly... Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

God doesn’t just call—you—He completes you. He finishes the race He starts in you.

When to use it:

When you feel like quitting, remind yourself: *He’s the one doing the sanctifying. I’m just trusting Him along the way.*

Why These Verses Matter

The Christian life is not about being emotionless—it’s about being **anchored**. These verses are your anchor.

When assurance is questioned, when feelings fade, when guilt looms—**you fight back with truth**.

Memorize them. Meditate on them. Preach them to yourself. These are not “nice quotes.” These are **soul-saving truths** forged in divine fire.

How to Use This Survival Kit

1. Print and Post:

Keep a printed version of these verses in your Bible, your wallet, or your desk. Let your eyes fall on them often.

2. Memorize One Per Week:

Over 12 weeks, you can arm yourself with this arsenal—ready at all times.

3. Preach to Yourself Daily:

Even when you don’t feel like it, declare God’s truth out loud. Your soul needs to hear the promises more than your mind needs to feel the comfort.

4. **Encourage Others:**

Use these verses to help fellow believers struggling with doubt. Become a source of stability for those under fire.

Conclusion: The Sword in Your Hand

The Bible calls itself a **sword** (Hebrews 4:12)—not a cushion. It's not there to make us feel good. It's there to fight lies and destroy doubt.

These 12 verses are more than words. They are **spiritual weapons**. They are the voice of your Shepherd calling louder than the voice of your accuser.

When you doubt, **you do not need a feeling—you need a verse.**

So commit them to memory.

Carry them with you.

Let them speak when your heart cannot.

6 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – The Inheritance that Cannot Be Lost: Kept by the Power of God

Introduction: What God Reserves, Man Cannot Ruin

If salvation could be lost, corrupted, or forfeited, then our hope would hang by a thread—our performance, our perseverance, our willpower. But Scripture proclaims a greater truth: *our inheritance is reserved in heaven for us, and it is kept—not by our effort, but by the power of God Himself.*

In this sixth entry of the *Assurance of Salvation* series, we turn our attention to **1 Peter 1:3–5**, a passage bursting with eternal promise and divine security. While the Old Testament shows us men who forfeited earthly inheritances, the New Testament gives believers something far greater—**an incorruptible inheritance** beyond the reach of failure, guarded by God's omnipotence.

This essay will examine the nature of this heavenly inheritance, contrast it with Old Testament patterns, and explain why **a truly born-again believer cannot lose what they never earned and do not keep by their own strength.**

I. The Power and Poetry of 1 Peter 1:3–5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

(1 Peter 1:3–5)

These three verses form a towering pillar of assurance. Let’s take them phrase by phrase.

1. “According to his abundant mercy”

It all begins with God’s mercy—not our merit. The plan of redemption is rooted in the compassion of God toward sinners, not in the consistency of sinners toward God.

2. “Hath begotten us again unto a lively hope”

This new birth (John 3:3) produces not a dead system of religion but a **lively hope**—a living, pulsing certainty that rests on the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ.

3. “To an inheritance”

Every child of God has been born into an inheritance. This is not an earthly allotment like Israel’s tribes received. This is a **heavenly possession**, granted by grace, guaranteed by covenant.

4. “Incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away”

Three key truths define our inheritance:

- **Incorruptible:** It cannot decay.
- **Undefiled:** It cannot be polluted.
- **Fadeth not away:** It will never expire, diminish, or disappear.

5. “Reserved in heaven for you”

Reserved. Like a seat in glory with your name on it. Not stored in your own hands where you can drop it. Not placed in your emotions. Not tied to your daily performance. It's **in heaven**, where moth and rust cannot corrupt.

6. “Who are kept by the power of God”

This is the linchpin. Not only is the inheritance preserved—but **you are too**. Kept. Not by your tenacity. Not by your discipline. But by **God’s omnipotent power**.

7. “Through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”

Our salvation is both **present and future**. We are saved now, and we will be revealed in fullness when Christ returns. The same faith that saved you is the faith that keeps you. And that faith is undergirded by God’s promise, not your performance.

II. What Is This Inheritance?

The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes that believers are **heirs**:

- *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...”* (Romans 8:17)
- *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance...”* (Ephesians 1:11)
- *“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance...”* (Colossians 3:24)

This inheritance includes:

- **Eternal life** (Titus 3:7)
- **Glorification with Christ** (Romans 8:17)
- **A heavenly home** (John 14:2–3)
- **A new body** (Philippians 3:21)
- **Ruling and reigning with Christ** (2 Timothy 2:12)

And this inheritance is not **earned**—it’s **received**. It's part of your birthright as a child of God. To lose it would be to reverse the new birth, which is impossible.

III. Old Testament Inheritance vs. New Testament Reality

In the Old Testament, Israel was given a **physical inheritance**—the Promised Land. It was conditional: based on obedience, covenant fidelity, and communal purity. And indeed, they lost it—more than once—because of sin, idolatry, and rebellion.

So why doesn't the believer today lose their inheritance?

Because the **New Covenant** is not like the old.

Jeremiah 31:31–34 promised a **new covenant** that would:

- Be written on the heart, not on tablets of stone.
- Forgive sin fully.
- Establish an unbreakable relationship between God and man.

Hebrews 8:6 calls it a **better covenant**, founded on **better promises**.

Old Testament saints could lose their land. New Testament believers **cannot lose their salvation**. Because our inheritance is not physical—it's **spiritual, heavenly, and secured by the blood of Christ**.

IV. Kept by Whose Power?

Let's return to that phrase: *"Kept by the power of God."*

The word "kept" in the Greek is *phroureō*—a military term meaning to **guard, garrison, or protect by a sentinel**. It implies active, intentional safeguarding.

You are not casually watched. You are **militantly protected**.

You are not in a fragile state of probation. You are under **divine surveillance**—held fast by omnipotent grace.

- *"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."* (Psalm 121:8)
- *"He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."* (Psalm 121:4)

God doesn't blink. He doesn't forget. He keeps you **day and night**—not because you are worthy, but because He is faithful.

V. Can the Inheritance Be Forfeited?

Some argue, “*But Esau forfeited his birthright! Saul lost his kingdom! Doesn’t that show believers can lose their inheritance?*”

Let’s examine that.

Esau:

- Lost his **earthly birthright**—but Hebrews 12:17 is speaking of **regret**, not salvation.
- Esau is never used as a model for New Testament salvation.

Saul:

- Lost his **kingdom**, not his soul.
- Saul was a king by anointing, not a believer by regeneration.

Israel:

- Lost their land, but not their identity.
- Romans 11 promises **their full restoration**—even after centuries of rejection.

But you, believer, are **not under the Old Covenant**. You are **in Christ**—and that union cannot be broken.

Your inheritance is not **on loan**. It is **locked in heaven**.

VI. What About Reward vs. Inheritance?

Some confusion comes from not distinguishing between **inheritance** and **reward**.

- **Inheritance** = what every believer receives by new birth.
- **Reward** = what is earned based on faithfulness and obedience.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 shows that a believer’s **works** can be burned up—but **he himself shall be saved**.

You can lose **reward**—but never **relationship**. You can forfeit **crowns**—but not **sonship**. God may chastise—but He never disowns.

VII. Why This Matters for Assurance

If you think you can lose your inheritance:

- You will live in **fear**, not faith.
- You will serve God from **obligation**, not love.
- You will doubt His character every time you fail.

But when you realize your inheritance is:

- **Incorruptible**
- **Undefiled**
- **Unfading**
- **Reserved in heaven**
- **Kept by His power**

...then you walk in peace, confidence, and gratitude.

VIII. What If I Don't Feel Worthy?

You're not.

That's the point.

You weren't saved because you were worthy. You were saved because **He is merciful**.

You don't keep your inheritance by strength. You keep it because **you are sealed, adopted, and guarded**.

When your heart says, "*You're too messed up,*" answer with:

"God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us..." (Ephesians 2:4)

When your mind says, "*You've disqualified yourself,*" remind yourself:

"He hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." (Colossians 1:12)

God has already qualified you. He isn't waiting on your worthiness—He's standing on His promise.

IX. Glory That Cannot Be Taken

Peter goes on to say in 1 Peter 5:4:

“And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Notice again—“**fadeth not away.**”

Everything in this world fades:

- Money rusts.
- Health declines.
- People fail.

But your **inheritance doesn't fade**. It grows brighter. Stronger. Closer.

One day soon, the trumpet will sound. And you, believer, will receive:

- A **crown**.
- A **body incorruptible**.
- A **place at the table of the King**.

Because you are kept. You are sealed. You are beloved.

X. The Final Word: It's God Who Keeps

Let's end with Jude 24:

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”

He is the One who keeps you. He is the One who presents you. And He will do it **with joy**.

Your inheritance is:

- Not up for auction.
- Not tied to your strength.
- Not held by your memory.

It is held by **nail-pierced hands** that never let go.

Conclusion: Inheritance Secured, Faith Assured

1 Peter 1:3–5 is a hymn of security. A doxology of assurance. A chain of truth unbreakable from eternity past to eternity future.

You were:

- **Begotten again** by mercy.
- **Given a living hope.**
- **Granted an inheritance** incorruptible.
- **Reserved in heaven** by name.
- **Kept by the power of God** until the day you see Him face to face.

Your inheritance is not a reward for your consistency. It is a **gift** of grace from the One who never fails, never forgets, and never lets go.

Live in that freedom. Walk in that joy.

You're not trying to hold heaven.

Heaven is already holding you.

7 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – The Chastening, Not the Casting Away: Understanding Discipline vs. Damnation

Introduction: A Father's Love Includes Correction

One of the most misunderstood aspects of the Christian life is the discipline of God. Many believers, when facing suffering or conviction, begin to wonder: “*Has God abandoned me? Am I still saved? Did I go too far this time?*” These fears can grow quickly in the soil of guilt and spiritual ignorance. That’s why it’s essential to understand a crucial doctrine—**chastening is not casting away.**

The Bible is clear: God disciplines His children—but He never disowns them. He corrects them—but He never condemns them. He may break their will—but He never breaks His covenant with them.

In this seventh entry of the *Assurance of Salvation* series, we’ll study **Hebrews 12:6** and **Revelation 3:19** to understand the loving hand of God’s chastening. We’ll also expose the

difference between **discipline and damnation**, so that the believer may rest in God's faithfulness even in moments of rebuke.

I. Discipline Is a Sign of Sonship

Let's begin with the clearest passage in the New Testament on this topic:

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
(Hebrews 12:6)

This one verse crushes the notion that chastening equals rejection.

Key truths:

1. **God chastens those He loves.**

Chastening is not punishment born out of wrath. It is discipline born out of love.

2. **He chastens every son.**

If you're a child of God, **you will be chastened**. It's not an exception—it's the rule. And it's proof that you're His.

3. **Chastening is not wrath, but refinement.**

It's God working *in you* to bring about growth, holiness, and maturity.

When chastening comes, it's not time to fear your salvation—it's time to rejoice that you're His.

II. The Whole Context: Hebrews 12:5–11

Let's look at the full passage:

"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."

(Hebrews 12:5–8)

The author's point is simple: **if you're not chastened, you're not a true child.**

Discipline confirms your adoption. If you're a believer, you should expect discipline—it proves that you're not an outsider pretending to belong, but a son who truly does.

III. The Purpose of Chastening

Hebrews 12:10–11 continues:

“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...”

Chastening is **profitable**. It is not comfortable—but it is **purposeful**.

God chastens to:

- **Correct disobedience**
- **Refine the heart**
- **Draw us closer to Him**
- **Strip us of idols**
- **Produce righteousness**

It is not destruction—it is discipline with divine direction.

IV. Casting Away Is Reserved for the Lost

Now contrast this with what casting away means in Scripture.

Romans 11:1 says:

“Hath God cast away his people? God forbid...”

God’s “casting away” of Israel is national, temporal, and partial—and even that is **not total**. The remnant is still preserved. But for the believer in Christ, **there is no casting away** at all.

Jesus said:

“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)

That promise is unbreakable. God does not accept and later eject. If you are in Christ, you will **never** be cast away. Even if chastened, **you are still in His hands**.

V. What About Revelation 3:19?

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

These words are spoken to the lukewarm church of Laodicea. They were wealthy, self-sufficient, and spiritually blind. But notice what Jesus says:

1. **He still loves them.**
2. **He rebukes and chastens them.**
3. **He calls them to repent and return.**

This is not wrath—it is **grace**. He stands at the door and knocks (v. 20)—an open hand, not a clenched fist.

Even a lukewarm church receives the **gentle rebuke of a loving Savior**, not the condemnation of a judge.

VI. Biblical Examples of Chastening, Not Casting Away

1. David

After his sin with Bathsheba, David was severely chastened:

- His child died.
- His household suffered rebellion and unrest.
- His public reputation was shattered.

But was he cast away? No.

Psalm 51:11:

“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”

David feared being cast away like Saul—but **he wasn't**. God chastened him, but He **restored** him. David remained **a man after God's own heart** (Acts 13:22).

2. Peter

Peter denied Jesus three times. He wept bitterly. But did Jesus cast him away? No.

John 21 shows a tender restoration:

- “Do you love me?”
- “Feed my sheep.”

Peter was not fired. He was forgiven.

3. Corinthian Church

In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul rebukes a church tolerating gross immorality. But in 2 Corinthians 2, the same man is restored, and Paul exhorts them to forgive and comfort him.

This wasn't **excommunication unto damnation**—it was **discipline unto restoration**.

VII. What Chastening Might Look Like

Chastening isn't always fire from heaven or direct judgment. It may come in forms such as:

- **Conviction** from the Spirit
- **Loss of peace**
- **Hindered prayers**
- **Painful consequences of sin**
- **Spiritual dryness**
- **Sickness (1 Cor. 11:30)**
- **Even physical death** (as in Ananias and Sapphira—Acts 5)

But none of these equals damnation.

Paul said some in Corinth **slept (died)** because of abuse of the Lord's Supper, yet he said they would **not be condemned with the world** (1 Cor. 11:32). They were **judged in this life**, but not lost eternally.

VIII. The Devil's Lie: “You've Gone Too Far”

One of the enemy's sharpest darts is the whisper:

“You've sinned too much. You've crossed the line. God's done with you.”

But what does Scripture say?

“Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (Romans 5:20)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...” (1 John 1:9)

God does not run out of grace. He is not shocked by your failure. He disciplines to draw you—**not drive you away**.

IX. Don't Confuse Feelings with Facts

Many believers assume chastening means condemnation because **it feels like rejection**.

But feelings are not facts.

- A father spanking a child doesn't stop loving him.
- A teacher correcting a student doesn't expel him.
- A surgeon cutting flesh doesn't hate the patient—he's saving him.

Chastening hurts—but it heals.

Never measure your salvation by how it feels. Measure it by what God **says**.

X. How to Respond to Chastening

1. Don't Despise It

“My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord...” (Heb. 12:5)

Don't harden your heart. Don't ignore it. Don't grow bitter. Chastening is a gift.

2. Don't Faint Under It

“Nor faint when thou art rebuked of him.” (Heb. 12:5)

Don't despair. Don't spiral into self-hatred. This is not wrath—it's refinement.

3. Confess and Repent

“Be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Rev. 3:19)

Come back. Return to the Father. He's not frowning with arms crossed—He's waiting with open arms.

4. Accept It as Proof of Sonship

If God disciplines you, it's because you are **His child**.

XI. What God Chastening Is Not

- It is **not damnation**.
- It is **not rejection**.
- It is **not loss of salvation**.
- It is **not the sign you were never saved**.

Chastening is evidence you are loved, secure, and being sanctified.

Conclusion: Assurance in the Midst of Correction

When God's hand is heavy, His heart is still tender. When He disciplines, He doesn't discard. When He rebukes, He doesn't revoke your salvation.

He is the **perfect Father**—loving, just, merciful, and always committed to your eternal good.

So the next time chastening comes—whether through loss, hardship, conviction, or correction—remember:

- **You are not being cast away.**
- **You are not under wrath.**
- **You are not condemned.**

You are being drawn. Shaped. Refined.

Because He loves you too much to leave you alone.

8 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – Assurance in the Midst of Failure: When You Fall, Not If

Introduction: Falling Is Human – Being Held Is Divine

The Christian walk is not a flawless march from justification to glorification. It is a journey filled with stumbles, detours, weakness, and sometimes outright rebellion. Even the most faithful believers fall. They sin. They stray. They wrestle. But here is the heart of biblical assurance: **God doesn't let go when we let go.**

Scripture never hides the failures of its greatest men—David's moral collapse, Peter's denial, Paul's early rage against the church. Yet all three are powerful witnesses to the truth that though a believer may fall, **he is not forsaken.**

In this eighth entry of the *Assurance of Salvation* series, we explore the reality of failure in the believer's life, not as an excuse for sin but as a **revelation of grace.** With Psalm 37:24 and Luke 22:32 as our anchors, we'll learn that assurance is not the absence of falling, but the presence of a faithful God who picks us up every time.

I. The Biblical Promise: You May Fall, But You Won't Be Forsaken

"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

(Psalm 37:24)

Let this verse echo in your soul: **"Though he fall..."**

God is not shocked when His children fall. He doesn't say *if*—He says *though*. Failure is not theoretical. It's inevitable. But it is **not final.**

And why not?

Because *"the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."*

The believer does not stand on his own moral perfection. He stands upheld by **the grip of grace.**

II. Peter: From Denial to Restoration

Peter was bold, brash, and deeply devoted. He swore he would die with Jesus (Luke 22:33). Yet within hours, he denied Him three times.

But what did Jesus say beforehand?

"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

(Luke 22:32)

This verse reveals three things:

1. **Jesus knew Peter would fall.**
2. **Jesus prayed not that Peter wouldn't fall, but that his *faith* wouldn't fail.**
3. **Jesus already saw Peter's restoration.**

Peter's failure did not surprise Jesus—it was already factored into His plan. Peter was broken—but not forsaken. He wept bitterly (Luke 22:62), but he was never abandoned.

In John 21, Jesus restores him publicly—not with condemnation but with **love, questions, and a call**: “*Feed my sheep.*”

Peter went on to preach at Pentecost, write two epistles, and become a pillar in the early church.

His fall didn't end him. It refined him.

III. David: From Adultery and Murder to a Broken, Restored Heart

David, the man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), fell into the darkest sin imaginable—lust, adultery, deception, and murder.

And yet, when Nathan confronted him (2 Samuel 12), David **repented**. Psalm 51 captures his grief:

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation...” (Ps. 51:12)

Note: he didn't ask for salvation to be restored—but for the **joy** of it to be restored. He knew his standing with God had not been erased—but the sweetness of fellowship had been lost.

David suffered earthly consequences. His house endured unrest. His sin was recorded in Scripture for all generations.

But David was not **cast away**. He was chastened. Forgiven. Restored.

Psalm 37:24 was not theory to David—it was **his testimony**.

IV. Paul: From Enemy of the Cross to Apostle of Grace

Before he became Paul the Apostle, Saul of Tarsus was a violent, religious zealot. He persecuted the church. He dragged believers to prison. He consented to Stephen's death.

“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy...” (1 Timothy 1:13)

Paul saw his entire life as a **story of undeserved grace**. He had fallen so far—but God lifted him higher than he ever imagined.

Even *after* salvation, Paul struggled:

“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24)

Paul understood that failure wasn’t a thing of the past—it was still a present struggle.

But his confidence was not in his perfection—it was in Christ’s:

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

V. The Fall Is Not the End – It’s the Turning Point

Falling can serve a holy purpose. It reminds you that:

- You are not your Savior.
- You are not self-sufficient.
- You are completely dependent on grace.

The fall humbles. The fall wounds. But for the believer, **it never destroys**.

Proverbs 24:16 says:

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again...”

The righteous do fall. But they rise—because God lifts them.

VI. Why Assurance Must Include Room for Failure

If your assurance is based on your ability to avoid sin, you will live in constant fear.

Assurance must be based on:

- **God’s character**
- **Christ’s finished work**

- **The Spirit's sealing**
- **The promises of Scripture**

Psalm 103:14 says:

“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”

God doesn't love a cleaned-up version of you. He loves the real you—including your mess.

He doesn't seal you with the Spirit and then unseal you when you fall.

He chastens you, corrects you, convicts you—but He never **abandons you**.

VII. Common Questions About Failure and Assurance

1. “What if I keep sinning in the same area?”

This shows struggle—not abandonment. The fact that you hate it, wrestle with it, and long to be free is proof that **you are alive spiritually**.

Romans 7 is Paul's description of this exact battle.

2. “What if I don't feel saved after I sin?”

Feelings are poor judges. The question is: *Do you believe the gospel?* If so, you are saved—whether you feel worthy or not.

3. “Doesn't 1 John say those who sin aren't saved?”

1 John addresses **habitual, unrepentant sin**. But it also says:

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...” (1 John 1:8)

John isn't promoting sin—he's calling for **honesty** and **confession**.

VIII. What to Do When You Fall

1. Acknowledge It Honestly

Don't make excuses. Don't blame others. Own it before God.

Psalm 51:4 – *“Against thee, thee only, have I sinned...”*

2. Confess It Immediately

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us...” (1 John 1:9)

There is **no waiting period** for mercy. God is ready to forgive at the first cry of repentance.

3. Receive God's Mercy

Stop trying to earn your way back into His favor. If you're in Christ, you're already **accepted in the beloved** (Ephesians 1:6).

4. Get Back Up and Move Forward

The enemy wants you paralyzed in guilt. God wants you restored in grace.

Failure is not your final chapter—it's the setup for your return, your testimony, your growth.

IX. What If I Fall Again?

You probably will.

But Jesus is not tired of you. He is not keeping a tally to decide when to give up.

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." (Psalm 103:8)

He who started the work **will finish it** (Philippians 1:6).

Your journey includes bruises—but also beauty. Scars—but also sanctification. Setbacks—but also resurrection.

X. You Are Kept, Even When You Collapse

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

You are not kept by your grip—but by His.

You are not sustained by consistency—but by covenant.

And even when you fall—He still calls you *son*. Still seals you with His Spirit. Still loves you with the same eternal love.

Because your salvation never depended on your success—it always depended on His.

Conclusion: Rise Again, Child of God

You will fall.

Sometimes in ways that embarrass you.

Sometimes in ways that shake you.

But never in a way that **separates you from the love of God in Christ Jesus** (Romans 8:38–39).

When you fall, **run to Him—not from Him**. Cry out. Confess. Rise up. And keep walking—because He’s not done with you.

Your name is still written.

Your inheritance is still reserved.

Your future is still guaranteed.

Because **grace doesn’t give up when you fall—it picks you up and walks with you to the end**.

9 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – God’s Faithfulness, Not Yours: Why the Covenant Cannot Be Broken

Introduction: The Strength of the Covenant Does Not Rely on You

In a world where promises are often broken, contracts have loopholes, and loyalties fade, the idea of a covenant—especially an unbreakable one—can feel foreign. Even in Christian circles, many believe their salvation is secure only as long as their behavior holds up. But the Bible teaches something radically different: **salvation is not upheld by our faithfulness—it is upheld by God’s**.

The covenant that saves us is not the Mosaic covenant of law and conditions. It is the **New Covenant**, ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ, anchored in God’s faithfulness, and **absolutely unbreakable**.

In this ninth entry of the *Assurance of Salvation* series, we’ll examine **Hebrews 8** and **Romans 4:16** to understand the nature of the New Covenant, why it cannot fail, and why the believer’s eternal security rests not in human consistency but in divine commitment.

I. The Nature of Covenant in Scripture

The word *covenant* appears hundreds of times in the Bible. It refers to a solemn, binding agreement, usually made by God to man.

Two primary covenants shape redemptive history:

1. **The Mosaic Covenant** – A conditional covenant of law given to Israel through Moses.
2. **The New Covenant** – An unconditional covenant of grace, sealed by Christ’s blood.

Understanding the difference between these two is essential for understanding **why assurance is possible** in the Christian life.

II. The Mosaic Covenant: A Broken Agreement

The Mosaic covenant was bilateral and conditional. It depended on Israel’s obedience to the Law.

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me...” (Exodus 19:5)

But Israel failed repeatedly. They turned to idols, violated God’s commands, and broke the covenant.

Jeremiah 31:32 calls it:

“My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them...”

The Law was holy, but man was weak. The Mosaic covenant **exposed sin** but could not **remove sin**. It was like a mirror—it showed dirt, but could not wash it away.

Galatians 3:24 says:

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ...”

The Law prepared the way for a **better covenant**—one not dependent on man’s righteousness, but on **God’s faithfulness**.

III. The New Covenant: God’s Unbreakable Promise

Hebrews 8 introduces the New Covenant with these words:

“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” (Hebrews 8:6)

What makes it better?

1. It is unconditional.

- God makes all the promises.
- God keeps them, regardless of human failure.

2. It is internal, not external.

- *“I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts...”* (Heb. 8:10)
- Unlike the Law written on stone tablets, the New Covenant works from the inside out.

3. It is relational.

- *“I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people...”* (Heb. 8:10)
- This covenant restores intimacy, not just obedience.

4. It provides full forgiveness.

- *“Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”* (Heb. 8:12)
- Total, irreversible, eternal forgiveness.

This is not a contract based on your performance—it’s a covenant based on **Christ’s perfection**.

IV. Romans 4:16 – By Faith, That It Might Be by Grace

“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed...” (Romans 4:16)

This verse is the bedrock of assurance.

Let’s break it down:

1. *“It is of faith...”*

- Not of works.
- Not of law.
- Not of effort.

2. *“That it might be by grace...”*

- If faith had to be earned, it wouldn’t be grace.
- Grace means **undeserved, unearned favor**.

3. *“To the end the promise might be sure...”*

- Why does God save by grace through faith?
- **So the promise can be sure—secure—guaranteed.**

If salvation depended on man, it would always be uncertain. But because it depends on **grace**, it is absolutely certain.

V. Examples of God’s Unchanging Faithfulness

1. Abraham

God made a covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15. And what did Abraham do during the covenant ceremony?

He **fell asleep** (Gen. 15:12).

God alone passed through the pieces of the sacrifice, signifying: *“I will fulfill this covenant by Myself.”*

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

Abraham’s faith was **in God’s ability**, not in his own.

2. Noah

After the flood, God promised never to destroy the earth again with water—and He gave the rainbow as a sign.

This covenant was not based on Noah’s obedience, but on **God’s mercy**.

“I will establish my covenant with you...” (Genesis 9:11)

3. David

God promised David that one of his descendants would sit on the throne forever (2 Samuel 7:12–16).

Though David sinned gravely, God did not revoke the covenant. Christ—the Son of David—fulfilled it eternally.

VI. Why the Covenant Cannot Be Broken

1. It Was Made by God, Not Man

Hebrews 6:13:

“For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself...”

God made the promise. God sealed it. God keeps it.

2. It Was Sealed by Blood

“This cup is the new testament in my blood...” (Luke 22:20)

The New Covenant was not signed in ink—it was signed in the **blood of Jesus Christ**.

If His blood is enough to atone for sin, it is enough to **secure your salvation**.

3. It Is Guaranteed by Christ’s Priesthood

Hebrews 7:25:

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Christ **ever lives** to intercede for you. He is your eternal Advocate.

You do not save yourself—and you do not keep yourself.

VII. What About Sin After Salvation?

Does the New Covenant give license to sin? Paul answers clearly:

“What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.”
(Romans 6:15)

Grace does not **encourage** sin—it **frees** us from sin’s dominion.

But when a believer **does sin**, the covenant does not break.

- Fellowship may be hindered.

- Chastening may come.
- Joy may be lost.

But **sonship remains**.

VIII. The Danger of Mixing the Covenants

Many believers live with one foot in the Old Covenant and one in the New. They trust Christ but think their security depends on law-keeping, church attendance, or moral performance.

This leads to:

- Fear-based obedience.
- Legalism.
- Insecurity.
- Condemnation.

Paul warned the Galatians about this:

“Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”
(Galatians 3:3)

You didn’t start your salvation with effort—you started it with faith.

And it is **faith in God’s promise**, not faith in your consistency, that assures you of your standing.

IX. The Fruits of the New Covenant

The New Covenant doesn’t lead to lawlessness. It produces **fruit**:

- A heart that loves righteousness.
- A desire to obey out of gratitude, not guilt.
- An awareness of God’s presence within.
- A hunger for holiness, not to earn favor, but to honor grace.

Titus 2:11–12:

*“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,
and godly...”*

Grace teaches. Grace transforms. And grace keeps.

X. Why This Brings Rock-Solid Assurance

When your salvation is based on your faithfulness, it rises and falls with your mood, your performance, and your battles.

But when your salvation is based on **God’s covenant**, then it rests on:

- His unchanging nature.
- His finished work on the cross.
- His eternal intercession.

You are secure because **God is faithful**.

Even when you are not.

2 Timothy 2:13:

“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”

Conclusion: Resting in the Unbreakable Covenant

The gospel is not “Do and live.” It is “**Believe and be saved.**”

You are not holding on to God with trembling hands. He is holding on to you with **nail-pierced hands**.

You didn’t initiate the covenant—God did.

You don’t sustain the covenant—Christ does.

And you can’t break the covenant—because it was never based on your faithfulness.

You are sealed. Secure. Kept. And promised an inheritance that will not fade.

Why?

Because the covenant rests on **God’s faithfulness, not yours**.

And His faithfulness never fails.

10 of 10: Assurance of Salvation – Blessed Assurance: Resting in the Finished Work of Christ

Introduction: The Anchor of the Soul

There is no sweeter song in the heart of the believer than that of *blessed assurance*. It's more than a hymn—it is a **declaration** of peace, a resting place for the weary, a fireproof truth in a world of fading hope. Assurance is not arrogance. It's not emotionalism. It is the **settled confidence** that Christ's work is finished, His promises are true, and our salvation is **secure forever**.

We've spent this 10-part series unfolding the doctrines that guarantee eternal security: the sealing of the Spirit, the power of grace, God's unbreakable covenant, the purpose of chastening, and the steadfast love that lifts us even when we fall. But now we come to the mountaintop—a view of salvation that leaves no room for fear, no room for boasting, and no room for doubt.

In this capstone essay, we will bring together all the threads into a unified tapestry. Our key verse is **Colossians 2:10**:

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”

To be complete in Christ is to **lack nothing**. No more striving to be accepted. No more questioning your standing. No more wondering whether He'll finish what He started. In Christ, we rest—not in laziness, but in **confidence**.

This is the victory of faith. This is **blessed assurance**.

I. The Finished Work of Christ

At the heart of all assurance is one truth: **Jesus finished the work**.

“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

This cry from the cross is not a cry of defeat—it is a cry of triumph. The Greek word is *tetelestai*, meaning **“paid in full.”**

Jesus did not say:

- “It is halfway done.”
- “Now you finish the rest.”
- “I’ve made it possible—now it’s up to you.”

He said: **“It is finished.”**

Salvation is not a work in progress. It’s a **completed transaction**, fully accomplished by Christ on the cross and sealed by His resurrection.

Hebrews 10:14 says:

“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

Forever. Not until your next sin. Not until your next failure. **Forever.**

II. You Are Complete in Him (Colossians 2:10)

Paul writes with clarity and authority:

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”

Let’s unpack this beautiful statement.

1. “Ye are complete...”

This is present tense. Not “you will be complete”—you *already* are. You don’t need more religion, more rituals, or more righteousness. You are **complete**—lacking nothing essential for your standing before God.

2. “...in Him”

The completeness is not in you—it’s in **Him**. Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily (v. 9). When you are in Christ, you have everything God requires.

3. “...which is the head...”

Christ has full authority. His finished work cannot be overruled, undone, or reversed. He holds all power—and that power **keeps you**.

III. From Fear to Faith: Living in Assurance

Before assurance, many believers live in fear:

- “Am I really saved?”
- “What if I mess up too much?”
- “How can I know I’m accepted?”

But assurance says:

- “I believe what He said.”
- “I trust the blood is enough.”
- “I know whom I have believed.” (2 Tim. 1:12)

You’re no longer walking on a tightrope—you’re standing on a **rock**.

“These things have I written unto you... that ye may know that ye have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)

IV. The Seal, the Savior, the Security

Let’s briefly revisit the pillars that build this blessed assurance:

1. The Seal of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

You are **sealed unto the day of redemption**. The Spirit is your down payment, your guarantee, your security.

2. The Savior’s Grip (John 10:28–29)

You are in **Christ’s hand**, and the Father’s hand too. No man—including you—can pluck you out.

3. The Unbreakable Covenant (Hebrews 8)

The New Covenant is built on **better promises**. God does not break covenant. His Word is His bond.

4. The Power of Grace (Romans 11:6)

It’s not works that save you or keep you. It’s **grace**—freely given, never earned, never withdrawn.

5. The Intercession of Christ (Hebrews 7:25)

Jesus lives forever to **intercede for you**. He is your advocate, your priest, your defender.

V. From Chastening to Comfort: Understanding God's Discipline

Chastening is not condemnation. It is God's loving correction—not His wrath.

Hebrews 12:6:

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth..."

Revelation 3:19:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten..."

God disciplines **His children**. If you've ever felt the weight of conviction, it's not a sign of rejection—it's a sign of **relationship**.

You are **loved too much** to be left in sin.

VI. When You Fall, Not If

Psalms 37:24:

"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

Failure is not the end. God's mercy endures—even when your strength does not.

Peter denied. David sinned. Paul struggled. But none were forsaken. They were **lifted, restored, and used by God**.

Your salvation isn't suspended every time you stumble. You are not **walking a line—you are held in grace**.

VII. The Danger of Man-Centered Theology

Many false doctrines teach:

- You can lose your salvation.
- You must maintain your salvation.
- You must prove your salvation through fruit or endurance.

These ideas distort the gospel and **place the focus back on man.**

But the Bible says:

“Salvation is of the LORD.” (Jonah 2:9)

It’s His work. His covenant. His keeping. Your job is to **believe** and **rest.**

Romans 4:16:

“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure...”

The only way the promise can be **sure** is if it’s **by grace**—not by works.

VIII. Assurance Produces Holiness, Not Laziness

Critics say, “If you believe you can’t lose salvation, won’t you just live however you want?”

No. Not if you’re truly born again.

Titus 2:11–12 says grace **teaches us** to live godly.

Assurance produces:

- Gratitude
- Worship
- Obedience
- Joy
- Boldness
- Love

Fear might control behavior. But only **grace transforms the heart.**

IX. The Witness of the Spirit

Romans 8:16:

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

Assurance isn’t just doctrinal—it’s **relational.**

When the Spirit dwells in you:

- He testifies that you belong to God.

- He convicts you of sin, but not condemnation.
- He cries within you, “*Abba, Father.*” (Romans 8:15)

You know you’re His—not just because the Bible says it (though that’s enough), but because the Spirit **confirms it daily**.

X. Living Out Blessed Assurance

To live in assurance means to live:

- **At peace**, not in panic.
- **In joy**, not in fear.
- **With purpose**, not performance.
- **With boldness**, not bondage.

You wake up every day knowing:

- You are **forgiven**.
- You are **secure**.
- You are **loved**.
- You are **heaven-bound**.

Not because you had a good day. Not because you feel spiritual.

But because you are **complete in Him**.

Conclusion: It Is Finished. You Can Rest.

The Christian life doesn’t begin with striving—it begins with **rest**.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Rest in:

- The blood that cleanses.
- The Spirit who seals.
- The Savior who intercedes.

- The Father who adopted you.

You are not holding on for dear life—you are **being held** by a faithful God.

This is the good news:

- Jesus did it all.
- The tomb is empty.
- The throne is occupied.
- Your salvation is secure.

You are **complete in Him**.

This is **blessed assurance**.

Final Conclusion to the Series: Anchored Forever – The Eternal Certainty of God’s Salvation

As we draw this series to a close, we don’t come to an end—we come to a beginning. The beginning of rest. The beginning of boldness. The beginning of a life **no longer haunted by fear, but held by truth**.

For too long, too many believers have walked on eggshells, trembling under the weight of insecurity. They’ve been told their salvation hangs by a thread—their works, their consistency, their fruit. They’ve lived with more doubt than joy, more guilt than peace, more striving than assurance.

But Scripture has spoken. Not through one isolated verse, but through a tapestry of truth:

- You are **born again by the incorruptible Word of God**—and that new birth cannot be reversed (1 Peter 1:23).
- You are **sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption**—not until your next failure (Ephesians 1:13–14).
- You are **saved by grace through faith, not of works**—lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8–9).
- You are **held in the Father’s hand and the Son’s hand**—and no man, not even you, can pluck you out (John 10:28–29).
- You are **chastened as a child, not cast out as a stranger** (Hebrews 12:6).

- You are **never condemned**, even when you stumble (Romans 8:1).
- You are **complete in Him** (Colossians 2:10).
- You are **kept by the power of God** (1 Peter 1:5).
- You are **not justified by how you feel, but by what He did** (Romans 5:1).

This is not theoretical. This is the backbone of the Christian life. Without this assurance, there is no peace. Without this peace, there is no boldness. And without boldness, the Church becomes silent, unsure, and afraid.

But the believer who **knows they are secure** becomes unstoppable. You no longer serve to earn salvation—you serve from salvation. You no longer obey to avoid judgment—you obey to walk in joy. You no longer fear rejection—you rejoice in acceptance.

You walk with freedom. You fight with confidence. You fall, and you rise again—because grace never lets go.

This series has not called you to emotion—but to doctrine. Not to speculation—but to Scripture. And not to a life of doubt—but to a **life anchored in the promises of God**.

Let the voices of shame be silenced. Let the religious performance be put to rest. Let the tired saint breathe again.

Jesus Christ did not die to give you temporary relief.

He died to give you **eternal life**.

He did not seal you with His Spirit so He could unseal you in disappointment.

He did not declare, *“It is finished,”* so that you would live like it's still pending.

Your assurance is not a bonus feature of Christianity—it is the very **birthright of the redeemed**.

And if you ever doubt again—and you will—return to these truths. Return to these verses. Return to these essays. Most of all, return to **Christ**, who is your righteousness, your rock, your rest, and your reason.

This is the doctrine that fueled Paul's preaching, David's worship, Peter's restoration, and the early church's courage. And it is the doctrine that will carry you through storms, silence the accuser, and **bring you all the way home**.

So plant your feet.

Lift your head.

And sing again, from the depths of a soul that is finally free:

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!”

Forever.