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WHY ONE WHO HAS BEEN BORN AGAIN CANNOT BE LOST

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The doctrine of eternal security is generally disbelieved today by most people but we trust that you who read this message will consider the word of God.

John 10:27, 28, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand."* God has some sheep and He gives to these sheep eternal life. We can see from this passage that it is not depraved or sinful man who worked and earned salvation and eternal life, but it is God who gives it. I John 4:9, 10, *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* God loves His sheep and proved His love by sending His Son to be a substitute for them. Paul tells us in Romans 8:38, 39 nothing can or will separate us from God's love toward us. *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,*

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As we have already said, God gives eternal life to His people; but how He does this is a question which needs to be answered.

We would say first, God purposed to give eternal life to His people; and, because He is sovereign or does always what He pleases, He brings to pass that which He purposed. John 6:39, 40, *"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."*

Two other scriptures which teach the same truth; II Timothy 1:9, *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."* Acts 13:48, *"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord:*

and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Our first point then is that God purposed to give eternal life to His sheep and because He is God He will bring it to pass.

Our second thought is the fact that God promised exactly the same thing that he purposed, which is eternal life. I John 2:1, 25, *"My little children, these things write I unto*

you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." God speaks to those who have been born again

and to them He promises eternal life. John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Titus 1:1, 2, *"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."*

The Bible in many places tells us that eternal life is a gift of God; and no place in the scriptures does He say that eternal life can be earned.

Our third thought is, God gives and brings to pass that which He purposed and promised, which is eternal life. The Bible in many places tells us that eternal life is a gift of God; and no place in the scriptures does He say that eternal life can be earned.

Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

John 10:27, 28, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall*

never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." I

John 5:10, 11, *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his*

Son." We have said thus far that God purposed and promised eternal life and He gives and brings to pass what He purposed and promised in His Son, who is eternal life.

Our next thought is also generally disbelieved, but the Bible teaches that eternal life is a present possession and not something to be attained after we die. John 5:24, *"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."* The word 'hath' is present tense. I John 5:13, *"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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."* If you and I profess to be a believer in Christ we need also to believe what God said He has given us which is eternal life and if we could lose it, it would not have been eternal life.

To further help you in this study,

we see in God's Word that those who truly come to Christ will never perish. John 10:28, *"I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish..."*

John 5:24, (quoted earlier). His sheep will never come into judgment.

John 6:37, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* The Lord will not cast out one who comes to him for salvation. The natural reasoning of man would bring him to the thought that this kind of

doctrine would license a man to live and do as he pleases. But the very reverse is true, when the Holy Spirit convicts a man of sin, draws him to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that same Holy Spirit puts in that man's heart a love for Christ and a desire to live for Him; and, we might add, a ha-

tred for sin. So we need to see also that one who says I am a believer in Christ and yet there has been no change in his life is deceived and has not been born again. Christ does make a difference.

As we go now to another thought as to why we cannot be lost once we are born again, the Bible says we are not under the moral law as to eternal life. Romans 4:7, 8, *"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."* II Corinthians 5:19, *"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."* I Peter 2:24, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* Isaiah 53:5, 6, *"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chas-*

tisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." God punished His own Son for the sins of the sheep and will not therefore charge them with sin. This being so, we ought to accept that salvation is wholly and completely of grace and we need to rejoice in this great truth and to live for Him each moment of our lives.

Another thought men bring forth is the idea that man may not hold out. We are made again to go to the Scripture and to rejoice in that God is not like man, He holds out for us. I Peter 1:3-6, *"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. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations."* We are kept by the power of God through faith. II Timothy 1:12, *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* Once a man puts the keeping of his eternal soul into the hands of Christ, one is secure for evermore. Romans 8:35-39, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

When the Holy Spirit convicts a man of sin, draws him to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that same Holy Spirit puts in that man's heart a love for Christ and a desire to live for Him; and, we might add, a hatred for sin.

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing in this life or the next could or would separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Lest one should misunderstand, we are not saying a born again person does not sin, or at times the saved man does not lose fellowship; but on the contrary, the Bible teaches that we do sin daily in the flesh but sin in the life of a saved man causes him to lose fellowship but not his sonship. Hebrews 12:5-8 tells us about sonship *"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."* I John 2:1, 2, *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*

We have also heard it said that a man might quit having faith in the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:8, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."* The faith God begins, He finishes. Philippians 1:6, 2:13, *"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...For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

One of the greatest proofs in all the Bible concerning our faith not failing is the fact that Jesus prayed that it would not fail and I am sure all would agree that every prayer of Christ has been and will be answered.

John 11:41, 42, *"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."* John 17:9, 11, 20, *"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine... And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are...Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."* Luke 22:31, 32, *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."*

Let me say what Jesus did, is doing, and is going to do for me. The Bible teaches that all sin must be punished. Hebrews 2:2, *"For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation."* Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Jesus kept the law perfectly, not only did He do this but He went to the cross and there, because He was and is God in the flesh, He suffered what I would have suffered in hell as punishment for breaking God's law. He not only suffered and was buried, but He arose after three days and three nights in the grave, showing that God was satisfied, my sin debt was paid when I came to Christ in repentance and faith. This is not all, today Christ sits at the right hand of God to make intercession for me. 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." He is coming back for me one day. John 14:3, *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

I trust that this message, by the help of the Spirit of God, will show you that once a man has the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart, he has eternal life because Christ is eternal life. I John 3:1, 2, *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."* Right now, in this life, we are the sons of God, and one day we shall be like him. Philippians 3:20-21, *"For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."*

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