

Discipleship Lesson 2 - Eternal Security

Frequently in the new Christian's life, one of Satan's first attacks is to cause doubts concerning your salvation or standing with God. Satan tries to accomplish one of two conclusions:

- To get a person thinking that he has never really **EXPERIENCED** salvation or
- That he can **LOSE** his salvation.

Men doubt their salvation:

- Because of their **ONGOING** involvement in sinful habits (How can a true believer live like this?)
- Because of a **LAXNESS** in Bible reading, church attendance, prayer, etc.
- Because they don't experience a certain "**FEELING**" to assure them of salvation

Scripture teaches that all men are **TOTALLY DEPRAVED** – they are incapable of coming to God on their own, and are hopelessly lost. But God, in His sovereign grace and apart from any consideration of foreseen human responsibility, chose (**ELECTED** or predestined) some before the world was even created to be the recipients of His grace in Christ.

Election or **PREDESTINED** means *chosen before an event or activity occurs*. Ephesians 1:3-6 This passage simply means that God chose or selected those who would be saved before they were even created. The doctrine of election teaches that as the gospel is preached to all the nations, these elect or chosen ones are caused to hear it. Their hearts are opened by the Holy Spirit so that they eventually receive Christ as their Savior freely and gladly. Every one of these is eternally saved--kept in faith by the power of Almighty God and preserved to the end.

What Does God's Word Say about Eternal Security?

The Bible has many references to the fact that we can have eternal security – to know for certain that we cannot lose our salvation.

- I have **EVERLASTING** life (John 3:16)
- I will not come into **JUDGMENT** (John 5:24)
- Christ will not cast me **OUT** of His family (John 6:37)
- No one can **TAKE** me from God's hand (John 10:27-30)
- There is no **CONDEMNATION** for those in Christ (Romans 8:1)
- **NOTHING** can separate me from God (Romans 8:35-39)
- The Holy Spirit **SEALS** my salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Removing Doubts about My Salvation

When you start to doubt your salvation, work through these three steps:

1. **EXAMINE** your "salvation decision"

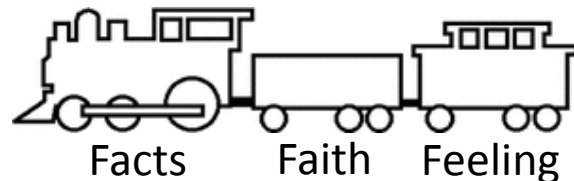
Was it a mere "profession" of faith or was your decision "**GENUINE**"? 2 Corinthians 13:5a
Matthew 7:21-23

2. **CONFESS** all known sin. Sin will often produce guilt and **DOUBT** in your life. You may ask

yourself “How can I continue to do this sin if I am a Christian?” Satan loves to make us feel “**UNWORTHY**” of God’s salvation.

3. **DISTINGUISH** between Facts, Faith & Feelings

One common illustration that is used to help understand the relationship of facts, faith and feelings is a train.



We all know that a train without an engine will go nowhere.

The Facts of salvation are like the engine of the train. They are found in God’s Word – we need to be rescued from our sins and we cannot do it ourselves. These facts represent the driving force behind our salvation – what Christ did for us on the cross.

Faith is like the coal tender car. We placed our faith in the facts when we accepted Christ as our Rescuer.

Feelings are like the caboose. Our feelings are just along for the ride – they cannot drive the train because they have no real power of their own.

Understanding the Difference between “Fellowship” and “Relationship” with God.

- God will always be my “Father” (relationship/born again into His family) but there will be times when my sin breaks “fellowship” with Him.
 - Sin **HINDERS** fellowship with God (Ps 66:18)
 - Believers can and do commit grievous sins.
 - A continued pattern of habitual sin is considered “**BACKSLIDING**” or living a life that is out of fellowship with God.
 - **CONFESSION** of sin restores my “fellowship” with my Father.

In Luke 15:11-32 we read the parable of The Prodigal Son who sinned, recognized this and then repented of that sin and returned to his father for renewed “fellowship”. Even though he was out of fellowship (backslidden) he never ceased being the son. Sin will always break our fellowship with God, but relationship with God is still secure.

Let’s Review:

- At salvation, I was born into God’s family - John 1:11-13
- I was “**ADOPTED**” into God’s family and gained all the rights and privileges as a child of God - Ephesians 1:3-6, Romans 8:16-17.
- When we sincerely **CONFESS** our sins, God will always forgive us – remember 1 John 1:9!
- I can “**LOSE**” my fellowship, but never lose my relationship with God!
- I need to have my **faith** placed in the **facts** of God’s salvation rather than in my **feelings**.