

Eternal Security of The Believer

Part 3 - Clarification Of The Terms

Introduction

When folks speak of eternal security, what exactly is meant? It may be that some would object to this statement, saying that it all depends on words such as, “if” and “endureth”.

- a) “Whose house are we, if we hold fast” (Heb. 3:6)
- b) “We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence” (Heb. 3:14)
- c) “It is impossible for those who were once enlightened . . . if they shall fall away” (Heb. 6:4-6)
- d) “He that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matt. 10:22; 24:13)

Clarification of The Words

Believer: Not one who did believe, but one who is now believing (Jn. 3:16)

Believing: This means throughout life believing the record (witness) of God, that eternal life, that is full restoration to God, can only be found in the Son (1 Jn. 5:11-12) through His work on the Cross, His death, and resurrection (Col. 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:3-4)

Eternal: The duration of the Life of God.

Life: The richness of the life and fellowship that there is between Divine Persons.

Security: The assurance that I, having accepted Christ, will never be lost.

Hope: In hope of eternal life. (Titus 1:2; 3:7) When God speaks of “hope” it is not something with an anticipation, but recognition of the fact that it might not happen. It is always a confident expectation, a joyous expectation.

What Does Eternal Life Mean?

The expression “eternal life” means a lot more than living forever. The unsaved will live forever, for it was after man sinned God said that if he ate of the tree he will live forever (Gen. 3:22). Those who die in their sins will not just exist forever, they will live forever, but they will never have everlasting or eternal life. A careful reading of the scriptures will show that there is no difference between eternal and everlasting life, but there is a difference between living forever and having eternal life.

Eternal Life Is The Same As Everlasting Life

The English translation “eternal” and “everlasting” when referring to life are translations of the same Greek word. Strong’s No. 166.

- a) Both are used in the same contexts.
 - i) Jn. 3:15-16 everlasting life and Jn. 3:15 eternal life.
 - ii) Acts 13:46 everlasting life and Acts 13:48 eternal life.
 - iii) Lk. 18:30 everlasting life and Matt. 19:16 eternal life.

Consequently, an individual who has eternal life has everlasting life and vice versa.

Eternal life is not just durational, it is that plus:

- a) Eternal life is knowing God and Christ (Jn. 17:3-4), not knowing about God and Christ, but know them by experience. Therefore, it is the life that is a partaker of the life character of God, His desires, purposes, and goals.

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- b) It is a quality of life. “That which was with the Father” (1 Jn. 1:1), thus indicating the fellowship which existed between Divine Persons, the quality of fellowship that Divine Persons enjoyed, a quality of fellowship no angel ever knew, and a life with unique characteristics that only divine persons knew.
- c) The assurance that they will never be among the damned, wailing in Hell for all eternity. What beautiful expressions God gives us to describe this new life: “eternal life” (Jn. 3:16); “full assurance” (Col. 2:2, Heb. 6:11; Heb. 10:22); “hope . . . sure and steadfast” (Heb. 6:19); “strong consolation” (Heb. 6:18).

When Paul wrote: “Lay hold on eternal life” (1 Tim.6:12, 19), his message to the saints was, enter into the fulness of that life which God has now given you.

In Genesis one God emphasizes that to each its own kind. This means that there is no transference between the kinds. At the moment of salvation the individual is given a new kind of life by an operation of God, and no one can change that life for a non-eternal life any more than they could change themselves for animal or vegetable life.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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