

# Eternal Security of The Believer

## Part 5 - Why Do Saints Question Their Salvation?

### Introduction

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit Paul was caused to inform us of the wiles of Satan (2 Cor. 2:11). One of the weapons in the arsenal of His satanic majesty is the unsettling of an individual regarding salvation. He will seek to have the saint take their eyes off the Lord by looking inward, and having a fixation on how far short they have fallen. He will seek to confuse them, their not understanding that faith is not a work, grace does not mean unbridled license to sin, and backsliding does not mean the loss of salvation. (The term backsliding was never used in the New Testament, a condition the New Testament knows nothing about.)

It is a fact, though perhaps many would not acknowledge it, many saints do question their salvation and suffer from the returning of nagging questions such as:

- a) What if I sin so heinously, will the Lord still forgive me?
- b) What if I were to die as I am committing a sin, for sins are not always committed in a split second?
- c) What if the Lord were to come today, just when I am sinning, would I still go to heaven?
- d) What about the sins I will commit tomorrow?
- e) What of the damage I have done to others because of my sin?
- f) What of some sin I committed so long ago, which still haunts me?
- g) What about the unpardonable sin, could I commit it?

### Some Reasons Why Saints Have Doubts

- 1) One reason saints have these doubts is because they are surprised at what they are capable of, or have done, and added to this, is the difficulty of finding it harder to forgive themselves than to accept the forgiveness of God. They know intellectually that: "The heart is deceitful . . . and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9), or "In me dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18), but the full truth of it has not been known by them. God does not give license to sin, but lets us sin, and like Peter, we learn the truth in these verses. The result of this experiential learning is a humbling before God. At the moment of salvation God did not take away our fallen, sin addictive nature, neither did He modify it in any way. That is why we have the war in our members (Jam. 4:1), consequently, sin lives as a squatter in our hearts ever seeking to reign. As saints we need to appreciate that any sin is possible by any one of us, and we are exhorted to: "Let not sin therefore reign (be king) in your mortal body" (Rom. 6:12).
- 2) Saints have doubts because there is not the appreciation of the fulness of the Shepherd's heart. In the parable of the lost coin, it is sought for, the lost sheep is sought for, but the lost son never was! (Lk. 15:4-12). Why? The Father had to wait until the son was ready to come home, and then he would be welcomed again. God has to wait for our teaching moment.
  - a) When the sheep was found, and the coin was found, and the son was restored, there was rejoicing (Lk. 15:6-7; 9-10; 23, 32).
  - b) To whom did God plead: "Be ye reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20)? It was not to sinners, but saints!
  - c) To whom did God say: "Come let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18)? It was not to an unredeemed people but those who were called "My People".

How great is that heart of love. He loved me to the extent of sparing not His Son but delivering Him up for us all. Now as I stand judiciously uncondemned, will He not love me now with a love which will never let me go, or leave the security of my salvation on myself?

- 3) Saints doubt because they fail to appreciate the fulness of God's pardoning grace. How glorious are the words:
  - a) "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity" (Mic. 7:18)
  - b) "Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" (Mic. 7:19)
  - c) "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions" (Psa. 103:12)
  - d) "I am He that blotteth out thy transgressions . . . and will not remember thy sins" (Isa. 43:25)
  - e) "Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back" (Isa. 38:17)

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These are the pledges of the God who is true (Jn. 3:33). “God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent” (Num. 23:19), and these promises are all spoken to a redeemed people.

- 4) Saints doubt because they fail to appreciate the fulness of the knowledge of God. God knows the secrets of my heart, He knows my movements, my words, my thoughts (Psa. 139:1-4). Due to this, He knew every sin I would ever commit, and yet loving me, He put the full punishment for all my sins on Christ: “The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6). Not only did the Lord bear the iniquity of us all but all my sins were placed upon Him (Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 3:18; Col. 1:21-22). Furthermore, He knows the sins I will commit tomorrow, next week, and throughout my lifetime. I need not be anxious over the sins of the future, for when the Lord suffered all my sins were in the future.
- 5) Saints doubt because they fail to appreciate the all-encompassing work of Christ. It is a complete finished work, and is never for its reception or maintenance dependent on my works. “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30); it is “Not of works”; either before or after salvation. (Eph. 2:9; Titus 3:5)
- 6) Another reason is one I have heard from children of believers. On this I want to be very careful, for I also am a parent of two daughters and a son. Every saved parent wants all their children saved, and it would be devastating to any parent to know that their child will languish in Hell for all eternity. However, at times this concern can get in the way of the Holy Spirit, or even cause a child to make a profession to please the parents, “blindly” believing but not knowing why or the seriousness of the activity. Later the child may show no evidence of salvation and possibly get into sin, then die. At that point I have heard parents say, “He professed when he was a child”. I have deepest sympathy with them, and this is why I believe in the “teaching moment”. There is, by the grace of God, multiple teaching moments when children ask questions about salvation, etc. We must be careful to answer their question, but not simplify the matter to such an extent that the child believes in ignorance. Some children do get saved at a very young age. My concern is that when they do accept the Lord, it is with a definite understanding of the verities at stake.
- 7) Finally, saints doubt because they misunderstand grace. Grace is not a free ticket to do as they want without consequences. It is this very error of thought that Romans 6 deals with. With the assurances of God we can rest in a full and eternal salvation. The mercy and grace of God gives us a standing before God, that is fixed and unchangeable because it all depends on Christ. Due to still having the Adamic nature, our spiritual state fluctuates. At times we are spiritual, at other times carnal. Saints get these two confused, and when at a distance from God they assess whither they are eternally secure or in danger of losing their salvation. The following table is a list of the contrasts between our standing before God and our state which changes daily.

Our Standing - God's Part	References	Our State - Our responsibility	References
“He hath made us accepted in the beloved”	Eph. 1:6	“We labour that . . . we may be accepted of Him”	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:9
“God hath . . . blessed us with all spiritual blessings”	Eph. 1:3	“Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth . . . Shall be blessed in his deed”	Jam. 1:25
“Behold, what manner of love . . . that we should be called the sons of God”	1 <sup>st</sup> Jn. 3:1	“Come out from among them . . . and ye shall be my sons and daughters”	2 Cor. 6:17-18
“Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God”	1 <sup>st</sup> Thess. 1:4	“Give diligence to make your calling and election sure”	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pet. 1:10

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<b>Our Standing - God's Part</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>Our State - Our responsibility</b>	<b>References</b>
"In whom we have redemption . . . the forgiveness of sins"	Eph. 1:7	"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another"	Eph. 4:32
"For by grace are ye saved"	Eph. 2:5	"Grow in grace"	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pet. 3:18
"Ye also . . . an holy priesthood"	1 <sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:5	"So be ye holy in all manner of conversation"	1 <sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:15
"A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law"	Rom. 3:28	"By works a man is justified"	Jam. 2:24
"Preserved in Jesus Christ"	Jude 1:1	"Little children, keep yourself from idols"	1 <sup>st</sup> Jn. 5:21
"I give unto them eternal life"	Jn. 10:28	"Lay hold on eternal life"	1 <sup>st</sup> Tim. 6:12
"Made meet to be partakers . . . Of the saints in light"	Col. 1:12	"If a man purge himself . . . he shall be made meet for the master's use"	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tim. 2:21
"Made nigh by the blood of Christ"	Eph. 2:13	"Let us draw near"	Heb. 10:22
"As many as were ordained to eternal life believed"	Acts 13:48	"We are His workmanship . . . unto good works". We are ordained for such.	Eph. 2:10
"We have peace with God"	Rom. 5:1	"Be careful for nothing . . . And the peace with God . . . Shall keep your hearts and minds"	Phil. 4:6-7
"Thou hast redeemed us to God"	Rev. 5:9	"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil"	Eph. 5:16
"Hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son"	Col. 1:13	"Be ye transformed"	Rom. 12:2
"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift"	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cor. 9:15	"Ye rejoice with joy unspeakable"	1 <sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:8
"Through death he destroyed him that had the power of death" - Victory secured	Heb. 2: 14	"Whoever is born of God overcometh the world" - Victory experienced	1 <sup>st</sup> Jn. 5:4
"Jesus Christ who . . . Washed us from our sins in His own blood"	Rev. 1:5	"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit"	2 Cor. 7:1

**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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