

Eternal Security: Twenty-One Proofs of the Biblical Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints

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Here are 21 Bible texts (NKJV) which teach beyond a shadow of a doubt that the true believer in Christ cannot lose his or her salvation, justification, or positional standing before God. The doctrine of eternal security, also known as the perseverance of the saints, and once-saved always-saved, is found throughout the New Testament, and gives the believer great hope. Those who deny this doctrine and teach otherwise (falsely) confuse Scriptures dealing with salvation and justification with Scriptures dealing with daily communion, professing unbelievers, and various other topics. Some of their supposed evidences supporting their false doctrine are found at the end of this manuscript, with my response.

1. *“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).*
2. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*
3. *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).*
4. *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).*
5. *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24).*
6. *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:37-40).*
7. *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch*

them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one" (John 10:27-30).

8. *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2).*
9. *"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (Romans 5:9-11).*
10. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-2).*
11. *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Romans 8:29-30).*
12. *"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 Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved 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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35-39).*
13. *"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he*

will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

14. *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee" (2 Corinthians 1:20-22).*
15. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:3-6).*
16. *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14).*
17. *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).*
18. *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).*
19. *"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).*
20. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).*
21. *"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name*

of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11-13).

Now, we turn our attention to those Scriptures which those who deny the biblical doctrine of eternal security misinterpret, and in doing so lead many of God’s true children to doubt, uncertainty, and even despair. Good biblical expositors follow the rule of hermeneutics which states that unclear passages are interpreted in light of the clear passages of Scripture, and within their own context.

“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:31-32). In context, Jesus is addressing the national sin of that generation of Israel which rejected Him as Messiah. The sin spoken of here is not an individual sin, but a national sin. Otherwise, one would have to say that there are sins that Jesus did not die for, which is a denial of the clear statement of Christ’s finished and complete work in Hebrews 10:12.

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:27). Paul is not referring to his eternal salvation, but his earthly ministry here, and in the context of the chapter. The point is that if he does not exercise self control, he will not be an effective minister of the gospel.

“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4). The context of Galatians 5 sheds light of the passage. Eternal security is not in view here. Rather, the verse is a warning to rely upon the Holy Spirit and not the legalistic keeping of the Law in one’s Christian life.

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister” (Colossians 1:21-23). The phrase in question is “if indeed you continue in the faith.” The point is that one’s fruit and continuance in the faith is evidence as to whether or not one’s profession of Christ was genuine in the first place.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1). Those who depart from the faith mentioned here are professing believers who were never genuinely saved. Their departure is evidence of that fact. See also 1 John 2:18-19.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6). Context is king here. The writer of Hebrews is addressing Jewish believers who were tempted to also try to keep the Law in addition to accepting Jesus as Messiah. The writer uses hyperbole to demonstrate the fact that such a thing is “impossible.” In fact, the writer points out that it is just as “impossible” for someone to believe and then fall away as it is “impossible” for Jesus to be re-crucified. This verse actually proves that it is “impossible” for a Christian believer to lose position and salvation before God. Clearly the writer was not contradicting his later and clearer statements on the subject in Hebrews 7:25 and 10:14 (See above in the 21 proofs).

Christian friend, will you stand rejoicing with me that your salvation is secure in the hands of the eternal God? Will you reject the claims of those who wish to steal the God-given joy that arises from the truth of the doctrine of eternal security? Will you join me in thanking the Almighty God for giving us such blessed assurance?

May the Lord use this paper to bring many to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and a fuller understanding of His grace.