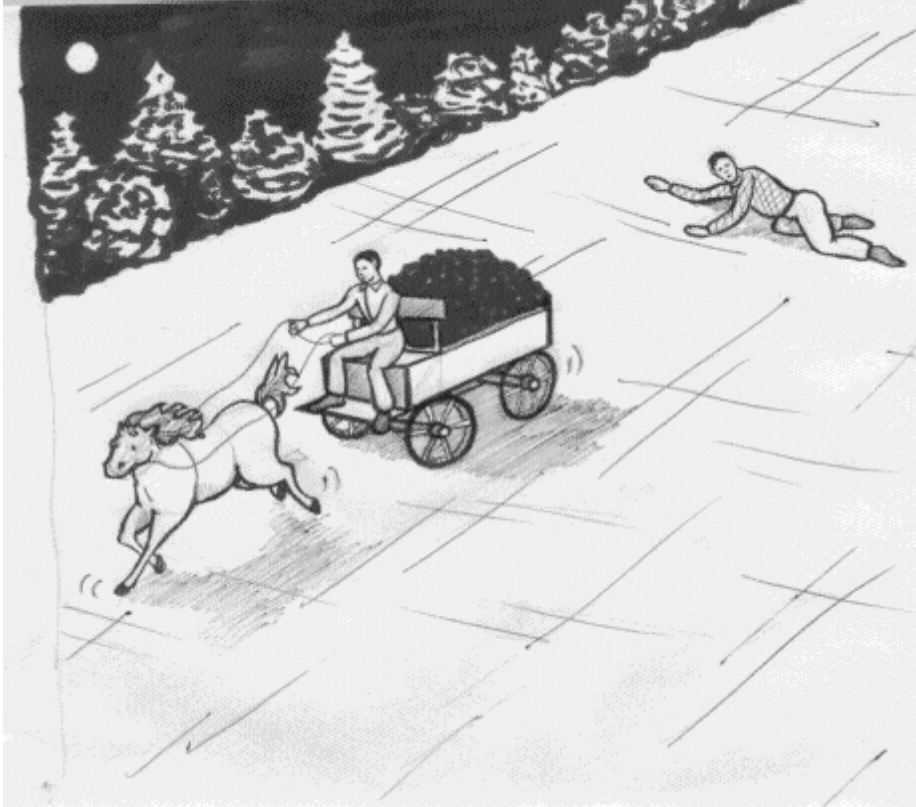


Eternal Security

The True Believer is Safe and Secure in Christ Forever



Personal assurance and the enjoyment of my so-great salvation depends on my knowledge of the absolute certainty of the promises of God.

The story is told of a western traveler in the pioneer days who came one winter night to the banks of a wide river. He had to get across but there was no bridge. The river was coated with a sheet of ice but he did not know how safe it was. After much hesitation he gingerly tested it with one foot and it held. Night was coming on and he must get across. With many fears and with anxious care he crept out on hands and knees, hoping to distribute his weight evenly on the uncertain ice. When he had gone some distance painfully and slowly he suddenly heard the sound of horse hoofs and joyful singing. There in the dusk was a man happily driving a wagon load of coal across the ice, being pulled by a muscular horse. The man was cheerfully singing as he went. He knew the ice was safe and he had no fears.

Both of these men were absolutely safe on that ice. The ice was thick and solid. It could have borne twice that weight easily. One man was in fear and doubt because he did not know how safe he was and did not realize how solid and thick the ice was. The other man enjoyed his ride across the frozen river because he knew without any doubt that the ice would hold and that the foundation under him was solid and safe.

A true believer is safe and secure in Jesus Christ. No foundation could be any more safe or solid (1 Cor.

3:11). The problem is that some believers are not familiar with the statements and promises of God concerning their absolute security in Christ and therefore they are not in the place to fully enjoy their so-great salvation. It is to help such people that these pages are written. May our security in Christ cause our hearts to greatly rejoice: + "Safe am I, Safe am I, in the hollow of His hand!" +

Every believer is safe and secure and protected in Christ, but not every believer *realizes* and *understands* his safety and security as well as he should. The more I realize how safe and secure I am in Christ, the more assurance I will have and the more I will be able to enjoy my relationship with Christ.

Sadly, there is another class of people who have a sense of false security. They *think* that they are safe when they are not safe at all. They think they are on solid ground when they are actually on sinking sand. Their situation would be like the person who thinks the ice is thick and walks out on it, only to have it give way under his feet, plunging him into the icy waters. Some have false security because they think that their good works will earn them entrance into heaven. Others have false security because they are trusting in some religious system for their salvation. Anyone who trusts in anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ and Him alone is *not safe!* Such a person is in great danger. Our refuge and safety must not be in **SELF** but in **CHRIST ALONE**.

In these pages we are going to see from the Bible that the true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever. The one who has come to Christ for salvation will never be cast out (John 6:37). No true believer will ever be lost. No true believer will ever lose his salvation (John 6:37-40). Will the true believer ever perish (John 10:28)? **Never!**

Before considering our eternal safety in Christ and God's amazing keeping ability, let us consider the important, soul-searching question: **Am I a true believer?** To help you answer this question, consider the following questions given on the next page. Think about each one in an honest, personal way. Take time to look up the Bible verses that are given along with each question. Ask yourself: Who am I really trusting for my eternal salvation?

Am I A True Believer?

Do I see myself as a guilty, lost sinner who stands condemned before a holy and righteous God (Romans 3:10-19,23)? Do I recognize that my own heart is deceitful and wicked and incurably sick (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23)? Do I see myself as deserving of death and hell (Romans 6:23)? Do I realize that if God were to give me what I deserve and repay me for the way I have lived, then I would be totally destroyed (Psalm 130:3; compare Psalm 103:10)? Do I recognize that there is absolutely nothing I can do to save myself (Titus 3:5)? Do I understand that trying my best to perform good works will never gain me or earn me an entrance into heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9)? Do I realize that my church or my religious system cannot save my soul (Jeremiah 17:5)? Am I convinced that my own righteousness and my own goodness falls far short of the righteousness that God requires and demands (Romans 3:10-12; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)? Do I, in and of myself, have any personal credentials that are acceptable before God (Isaiah 64:6)?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's only Solution to my sin problem (Acts 4:12)? Do I recognize Him as the only way to God (John 14:6), the only Door to salvation (John 10:9), the only Saviour for sinners (Matthew 1:21) and the only One who can give me eternal life (John 10:28; 17:3)? Do I understand that Jesus Christ is the eternal God (John 1:1-3) who came into this world and became a man to save me (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 1:15; John 3:17)? Am I convinced that He loved me even when I was a great sinner (Romans 5:8; John 3:16) and that He died and rose again to save my soul (Romans 4:25)? Am I persuaded that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for my sins and that He died in my place as my perfect Substitute, dying in my stead and paying completely the full penalty for my sins (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21)? Am I trusting in Him and in Him alone to save me (Acts 16:31)? Have I come to Him in simple, child-like faith (John 6:35,37; Matthew 11:28)? Have I, by faith, personally received the

Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour (John 1:12)? Am I resting my entire self on who He is (John 8:24), on what He has done (1 Cor. 15:3-4) and on what He has said (John 6:47)?

Do I believe that He is able to completely save all those who come unto God through Him, including me (Hebrews 7:25)? Do I believe the statement of Christ found in John 5:24? Is John 3:16 true of me? Have I ever shared with others that Jesus Christ is my Saviour (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32)? Am I able to say from my heart: *"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' Name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand—all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand!"* [Edward Mote]

Another helpful question that I can ask myself is this: **If I were to die today and stand before God and He should ask me, "Why should I allow you to enter My holy heaven?" what would my answer be?** If my answer in any way points to MYSELF (my own credentials, my own works, my own religious deeds, etc.) then I am not standing on solid ground. Here are some examples of people putting their trust in SELF:

"God should let me into His holy heaven because in my lifetime I have done more good than bad." "God should let me into His holy heaven because I try to keep the ten commandments." "God should let me into His holy heaven because I'm a member of a certain church" etc. All such answers point to ME, but salvation is not of ME; salvation is of the LORD!

There is only one reason why I can enter God's holy heaven. The appropriate response is this: "I will enter God's holy heaven for one reason and one reason only. It is only because of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Apart from His work on the cross I could never be saved. Apart from His life which He has given to me as a free gift, I could never enter His holy heaven. He is my only hope. He is the only righteousness I have and He is all the righteousness I need. Thank You Lord for saving my soul and making me whole." Notice how this answer points away from SELF and clearly points to the Saviour and to Him alone!

In the following sections of this document, we are going to establish the fact that the true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever. This is the doctrine of **eternal security**. In answering the questions, please look up all of the verses that are given, even if you think you know the answer without looking up the verses. It is important to see exactly what God says and to let His Word sink deeply into your heart (Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16).

Is The True Believer Safe and Secure in Christ Forever?

The answer to this question is an emphatic "YES" for the following reasons:

1. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because it is impossible for God to break His salvation promises.

Is God a man that He should lie (see Numbers 23:19)? _____ Therefore, God **cannot** break His promises! In this course of study we have already studied 15 salvation promises. One of them was John 3:16. In this passage God promises the true believer that he will never _____. In John 3:18 God promises that the true believer will never be _____.

According to John 5:24, what are 3 things that are true of every believer?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In John 6:37 Christ promises to never _____ the person who comes to Him. In John 11:26 Christ promises that the true believer will never _____ [This "death" does not refer to physical death which both saved people and unsaved people experience, but it refers to "the second death" which is eternal separation from God (see Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8) which only the unsaved experience].

Answer **True or False**:

- _____ If a believer sins, then Christ will cast him out (John 6:37).
- _____ A person who truly is trusting in Christ as Saviour will never perish (John 3:16).
- _____ John 5:24 teaches the same truth as Romans 8:1. No condemnation!
- _____ It is possible for a true believer to lose his salvation and perish.
- _____ If a true believer in Christ could perish, then this would make God a liar (see John 3:16).
- _____ God is not a liar, and therefore John 3:16 is true. The believer in Christ will not perish. God has given us His Word! God said it and that settles it!

2. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because it is impossible for a true believer to become "UN-**SAVED**."

According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, when the Corinthian people became saved, three things happened to them:

1. They were _____.
2. They were _____.
3. They were _____.

Do you think it is possible for a believer to become **unwashed**? _____ Can a person become **unsanctified**? _____ Do you think that a born-again person can become **unjustified** (condemned)? _____ Can a believer become **unredeemed**? _____ For a person to lose his salvation he would have to become UNWASHED, UNSANCTIFIED, UNJUSTIFIED and UNREDEEMED! Is this possible? _____ Does God "undo" the good work that He begins in a person or does He bring that good work to its ultimate completion (Phil. 1:6)? _____

3. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because no one can pluck him out of God's hand (John 10:28-30).

In John chapter 10 Christ describes Himself as the Good S _____ (verse 11) and He describes those who are true believers as His _____ (verse 27). What does Christ give to His sheep (verse 28)? _____ In verse 28 the Lord Jesus said that His sheep will never _____ (verse 28). **Note**: In the Greek this is a very strong statement. It could be translated, "They shall **never** perish, **no not ever!!!**" Or literally, "**Forever they will never perish!**" This is **eternal** security!

In John 10:28 we learn that the believer is safe and secure in whose hand? _____ Is

anyone able to pluck the believer out of His hand? _____ In John 10:29 we learn that the believer is safe and secure in whose hand? _____ Is anyone able to pluck the believer out of His hand? _____ In verse 30 we learn that God the Son and God the Father are _____. In order for the believer to be lost, there would have to be a person stronger and more powerful than God the Son and God the Father who could pluck him out from the safety of God's hand! Is there such a person? _____ Is the God who lives in us (God the Holy Spirit) greater than Satan (see 1 John 4:4)? _____

4. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because it is God's will that the believer should not be lost but should have eternal life (John 6:37-40).

True or False: _____ According to John 6:35, the person who comes to the Lord Jesus is the person who believes in Him. What will Christ never do to the person who comes to Him and believes on Him (John 6:37)? _____ **Note:** In the Greek, John 6:37 is also a very strong statement. It uses a double negative: "I will **never ever** throw him out." Read John 6:38-39 and answer **True or False:**

_____ Christ came to this world to do His own will.
 _____ Christ came to this world to do His Father's will.
 _____ The Father's will was that Christ should lose only a few believers.

According to John 6:40 and 6:47, God's will is that everyone who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ should have _____. According to John 6:39,40,44,54, what future promise does the Lord give to those who are true believers?

_____ Thus, John 6 teaches us that the true believer has eternal life, he will never be cast out by Christ and he will be raised up at the last day! Is the believer in Christ eternally secure? _____

Note: "I will raise him (the true believer) up at the last day" (see John 6:39,40,44,54). This is a reference to the first resurrection which is for believers only. It is a bodily resurrection that is unto LIFE (John 5:29). Only those who are "blessed and holy" can take part in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6). The second resurrection is for the unsaved only. The unsaved dead will be raised up bodily to stand before Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment described in Revelation 20:11-15. Such persons will end up in the lake of fire which is the second death (Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8). Those who believe in Christ will never be a part of the second resurrection which is called the "resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

5. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because Christ has promised never to leave him and never to forsake him (Hebrews 13:5).

We learn from Hebrews 13:5 that our conversation (manner of life, conduct, the way we live) is to be without _____. This means we are to be free from the love of money. We are not to love money or be possessed by our possessions (see 1 Timothy 6:9-11). There is a danger that we can get so wrapped up in materialistic things that we forget the Lord.

Instead of loving money, we are to be C_____ (Hebrews 13:5) with the things that we have. Therefore we are to be content and satisfied with what we have ("What I have is ENOUGH!"). As believers what do we have? What do we possess? We have the most precious possession that anyone could ever have because HE (Christ) has said (and He continues to say), I will never _____ thee, nor _____ thee (Hebrews 13:5). In the Greek this is a very strong statement. Five negatives are used and it could be translated in this way: "I will (1) **never** (2) **ever** leave thee, (3) **no**, I will (4) **never** (5) **ever** forsake thee." It is a negative way of saying, "I will positively be with you forever!" Christ will never abandon, desert, forsake or leave those that belong to Him!!

Note: The word "leave" in Hebrews 13:5 is the same word as the word "loosed" in Acts 16:26 (Paul's chains "left" him). The chain that binds the believer to Christ will never be loosed. We are chained to Him forever. He will never leave us! Nothing shall separate us (Rom. 8:38-39).

Christ was forsaken by God (Matthew 27:46) so that the believer will never be forsaken by God (Heb. 13:5). Because of this we may boldly say, "The _____ is my _____ and I will not F _____" (Hebrews 13:6). "The _____ is my _____ I shall not _____" (Psalm 23:1, "want" means to lack or be in need). We have Christ! Do we need anything or anyone else? _____ Will He always be with us (Matthew 28:20)? _____ Do we need to fear (Heb. 13:6)? _____ Was this same promise given to Old Testament believers (see Deuteronomy 31:6,8)? _____ If it were possible for a believer to be lost, then Christ would have to leave him and forsake him. Is this possible? _____ God will not abandon His own! No not ever!

6. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because he is a child of God forever.

John 1:12 declares that the moment you received the Lord Jesus Christ and believed on His Name you became a _____ of God (**Note:** the word "sons" in John 1:12 means "children"). "Behold, what manner of love the _____ hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the _____ (children) of _____" (see 1 John 3:1). "Beloved, _____ are we the _____ (children) of _____" (1 John 3:2). According to 1 John 3:10, what are the two groups of people in the world today?

1) _____ 2) _____ If a person is truly saved, then to what group does he belong? _____ Thus, in order for a saved person to become "UN-**SAVED**" God would have to say to him: "I now **DISOWN** you as My child. You are no longer My child and you are no longer a part of My family." Do you think that our Heavenly Father would ever say this to His child? _____

Let's think about an earthly, human father. Suppose Mr. Smith has a 9 year old son named Joey. One day Joey disobeys his father by messing around with his father's expensive computer and breaking it. He had been told to not even touch it without permission. How do you think Mr. Smith would respond to Joey's act of disobedience (circle the sentences below that that best describe how you think this father might handle this situation)?

How would Mr. Smith respond to Joey's act of disobedience? (Circle the correct answers)

- a. He would be very displeased.
- b. He would stop loving his son.
- c. He would be grieved and saddened that his son would do such a thing (compare Ephesians 4:30).
- d. He would disown his son.
- e. He would tell Joey to go and find another father.
- f. He would expect Joey to come to him and admit that what he had done was wrong (compare 1 John 1:9).
- g. He would throw Joey out of the house, telling him to never come back (compare John 6:37).
- h. He would chasten, discipline, correct and/or spank his disobedient son (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15).

Read Matthew 7:9-11 carefully. Can we expect our Heavenly Father to be "much more" fair and loving towards His children than an "evil" earthly father? _____ Would an earthly father give his son a rattlesnake for lunch? _____ Would he feed his son rocks? _____ Would a human father disown his son? _____ Would God disown His child? _____

As God's children (sons) we are not to despise the _____ (discipline, training, correction, "spanking") of the Lord (Hebrews 12:5). Whom does the Lord chasten (Hebrews 12:6)?

_____ **True or False:** _____ Every son is chastened by his father and the person who is not chastened is not really his son (Heb. 12:7-8). Thus, the fact that Mr. Smith chastens Joey proves that Joey is his _____. Would Mr. Smith dare spank or discipline his neighbor's child? _____ The fact that he does not discipline his neighbor's child proves that his neighbor's child is not his _____. Is it enjoyable to be chastened by the Lord (Hebrews 12:11)? _____ And yet we can **endure** (Hebrews 12:7) the chastening of the Lord because it produces the peaceable _____ of _____ in our lives (Hebrews 12:11).

In 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 we find two important words (both beginning with the letter "C"): 1) **Chastened** 2) **Condemned**. Which of these words describes God's way of dealing with His children?

_____ Which of these words describes God's way of dealing with the world?

_____ Answer the following **True or False**:

- _____ God's children are chastened by the Lord.
- _____ God's children will be condemned by the Lord.
- _____ The unsaved world is chastened by the Lord.
- _____ The unsaved world shall be condemned by the Lord.
- _____ The believer is not under condemnation (Romans 8:1).
- _____ God is the Father of all men (John 8:44).

Please answer True or False:

- _____ God corrects and chastens His children but will never disown them.
- _____ I thank the Lord that I am a member of God's family (John 1:12; Eph. 2:19) and I know that He will never cast me out (John 6:37).
- _____ Because God will never disown me, I can live as a disobedient child (1 Peter 1:14).
- _____ Because I am God's child, I never want to displease or dishonor (Malachi 1:6) or grieve my Heavenly Father.
- _____ The parent who spanks and firmly disciplines his child is showing his hatred for that child (Proverbs 13:24).
- _____ God chastens those whom He hates (Revelation 3:19).

7. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because he is sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30).

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and answer these questions: Paul describes the believer's body as _____ Did Paul expect the Corinthian believers to know this truth? _____ **Where** is the Holy Spirit (verse 19)? _____ Now that we are saved, are we our own? _____ Who do we now belong to? _____ Are we free to live for ourselves (2 Cor. 5:15)? _____ Why are we not our own (1 Cor. 6:20)? _____ Who paid this awful price (1 Peter 1:18-19)? _____ Salvation is **free**, but it is certainly not **cheap**! Circle the one sentence that is **false**:

- a. God the Holy Spirit dwells and lives within every believer.
- b. Every believer has been bought with a price and belongs totally and completely to the Lord.
- c. Every person who has the Holy Spirit belongs totally and completely to the Lord.
- d. There are some believers who belong totally and completely to the Lord, but they have not yet received the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9 teaches us that if any man does not have the _____ of Christ he is _____ . This means that if a person does not have the Holy _____ then he does not belong to _____. Therefore, everyone who truly belongs to Christ has the _____ dwelling within.

True or False:

_____ Every person who belongs to Christ has the Holy Spirit.

_____ Every true believer has the Holy Spirit.

_____ It is possible that a true Christian may not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within.

_____ If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then He is not a true Christian.

In Ephesians 1:13 we learn three things that have happened to every person who is truly saved: "In whom ye also trusted, **(1)** after ye heard the _____ of _____, the _____ of your salvation; in whom also **(2)** after ye _____, **(3)** ye were _____ with that _____ of promise." We shall now study these three ingredients of salvation:

1. In order for a person to be saved, he must first hear the W _____ of T _____ which is the G _____ (Good News) of his S _____ (Ephesians 1:13). Without faith, can a person be saved (Ephesians 2:8)? _____ Faith is properly and correctly **responding** to the Word of God. Is it possible to respond properly to God's Word if you have never heard it? _____ Can a person believe on the Lord Jesus Christ if he has never heard of Him (Romans 10:14)? _____ "Faith comes by _____ and _____ by the _____" (Romans 10:17). Therefore, for a person to be saved, he must first H _____ God's W _____.
2. Many people hear God's Word, but, sadly, they are never saved. Not only must a person H _____ God's Word, but he must respond properly to God's Word by B _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:13; Acts 16:31). Men and women, boys and girls are saved in only one way – they are saved through F _____ (Ephesians 2:8) and not by _____ (Ephesians 2:9).
3. When a person hears the gospel and responds by trusting Christ and Him alone as his personal Saviour, then God does something very wonderful to him! He is S _____ with the _____ of promise (Ephesians 1:13). According to 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, who is the One who has sealed us? _____ According to Ephesians 1:13 what (or WHO) are we sealed with? _____ Therefore God the Father is the Sealer (the One who seals) and God the Holy Spirit is the Seal! Where is the seal (2 Cor. 1:22)? _____ God has sealed us with His Holy Spirit and this seal is a **mark of ownership!**

Suppose Cowboy Sam were to brand his cattle with this mark:



Suppose Cowboy Hank were to brand his cattle with this mark:



If you were riding on your horse and you came across a stray steer with



branded on its hide, then you would know that the steer belongs to whom?

A little further down the trail you come across another steer and as you examine this animal you discover that it is branded with **S**, and therefore it must belong to Cowboy Hank. Every steer that is branded with

H must belong to _____. If you were a steer with **H** branded on your hide, then you could proudly say, "I know that I belong to Cowboy Hank. He has branded me with his own personal mark of ownership!"

The believer in Christ has been "branded" or sealed with what (or WHO)–(Ephesians 1:13)?

_____ Who has sealed the believer (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)?

_____ Therefore the believer can say, "I know that I belong to _____ because He has

S _____ me with His Holy _____." In 2 Timothy 2:19 we read: "Nevertheless,

the foundation of God standeth sure (solid), having this _____, the _____ knows them that are _____."

He knows those who truly belong to Him! Does the Lord know who His true believers are? _____

Does the Lord know which people He has sealed with the Holy Spirit and which people He has not sealed? _____

As you watch and observe other people, is it possible for you to **actually see** the Holy Spirit in them? _____

Is the Holy Spirit visible or invisible? _____

Therefore, is God's seal visible or invisible? _____ The first time you looked in the

mirror after you were saved, did you see any great difference in your appearance? _____ Did you see

the Holy Spirit living in you? _____ Did you find God's name written on your forehead as the people

described in Revelation 14:1? _____

Answer TRUE or FALSE:

_____ The believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit, but no one can see this seal except the Lord.

_____ When a sinner is saved his physical appearance changes drastically.

_____ The Lord knows which people have the Holy Spirit in their hearts (compare 1 Samuel 16:7 with 2 Corinthians 1:22).

Certainly God knows that we belong to Him, but how can other people know that we belong to the Lord?

The answer to this question is found in the last part of 2 Timothy 2:19: "Let every one who names the name of Christ depart from _____ (unrighteousness)." According to this verse,

explain how other people can know that we are truly Christians:

Although people **cannot** see the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, are they able to see the **fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9)? _____ How can the world know that we belong to Christ (John 13:35)? _____

Answer TRUE or FALSE:

_____ The world can actually see the Holy Spirit in the believer.

_____ The world can see the way we live and conduct ourselves and they can see the evidence of the Spirit at work in our lives.

_____ The person who truly has the Holy Spirit will want to depart from iniquity and unrighteousness.

His desire is to please and obey the Lord.

_____ If a person is consistently living in sin and unrighteousness then he is giving evidence that he does not belong to the Lord (compare 1 John 2:29; 3:10).

_____ If a person **claims** to be a Christian then he must be a true believer. If you say you are saved then this means that you really are saved.

Ephesians 1:14 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the "_____ (down payment, pledge) of our inheritance until the _____ of the purchased possession." This verse is talking about the believer's **final** redemption when the believer will be with the Lord forever and will never again sin. Christ has promised us that someday He will return for His believers (see John 14:2-3; Romans 8:23). As a guarantee that Christ's promise is true, God the Father has given us His Holy Spirit as an earnest or pledge that someday our salvation will be completed (compare Phil. 1:6). "God has also _____ us, and given the _____ (pledge) of the _____ in our hearts" (2 Cor. 1:22). "God also has _____ unto us the _____ (pledge) of the _____" (2 Cor. 5:5). To understand the word "earnest" just think of an engagement ring. When a young man gives his sweetheart an engagement ring, the ring serves as a pledge or a guarantee that someday he will come to marry the girl who has the ring. He will receive his bride and enter into a wonderful relationship with her. Therefore, the fact that we have the H _____ S _____ is a guarantee that someday Christ will come to receive His bride (John 14:1-3) and we will be with Him face to face (1 Thess. 4:16-18) in a far greater and closer relationship than we enjoy even now (Phil. 1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:8; 1 John 3:1-3).

Please answer TRUE or FALSE:

_____ The fact that we have the Holy Spirit **now** proves that someday our salvation will be complete and we will be with the Lord. All who are sealed will be saved forever!

_____ We are sealed with the Holy Spirit until we sin (Eph. 4:30).

_____ It is possible for the believer to grieve and sadden the **Holy** Spirit because of sin in his life (Eph. 4:30).

_____ When the believer sins, it is then that the Holy Spirit leaves him and abandons him (Eph. 4:30; John 14:16-17).

_____ God the Father has given us the Holy Spirit so that He might abide and live with us forever (John 14:16).

_____ If a saved person were to become lost, he would have to become UN-SEALED!

_____ For a saved person to become unsaved, the Holy Spirit would have to leave Him.

_____ It is possible for a true believer to become un-sealed.

_____ If a person claims to be a Christian, then he should show that he is really saved and really sealed by the way he lives (2 Timothy 2:19).

8. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because he is a member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).

In Ephesians 1:22-23 the true church is said to be His (Christ's) B _____. Paul said to the Corinthian believers: "Now ye are the _____" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Those of us who are truly born-again (John 3:3-7, 14-16) can say, "We are _____ of His

(Christ's) _____, of His _____, and of His _____"
(Ephesians 5:30).

Who is the Head of this body (see Colossians 1:18 and compare Col. 1:13-14; see also Ephesians 1:22-23)? _____ Think of your own body. Does your head tell your hands what to do or do your hands tell your head what to do?

_____ Who then should be the One that gives orders to the church? _____ Where do we find these orders (2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

_____ Who should have the pre-eminence (first place) in all things in the church (Colossians 1:18)? _____

How many bodies does Christ have (Ephesians 4:4)? _____ [Note: We know that Christ is in heaven today in a literal, physical, resurrection body – Philippians 3:21; compare John 20:26-27; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7. And yet, it is also true that Christ has a body of believers on the earth whose purpose is to manifest the resurrected life of the Lord Jesus who is now in heaven – Romans 6:4-10; Galatians 2:20. This is the "one body" spoken of in Ephesians 4:4].

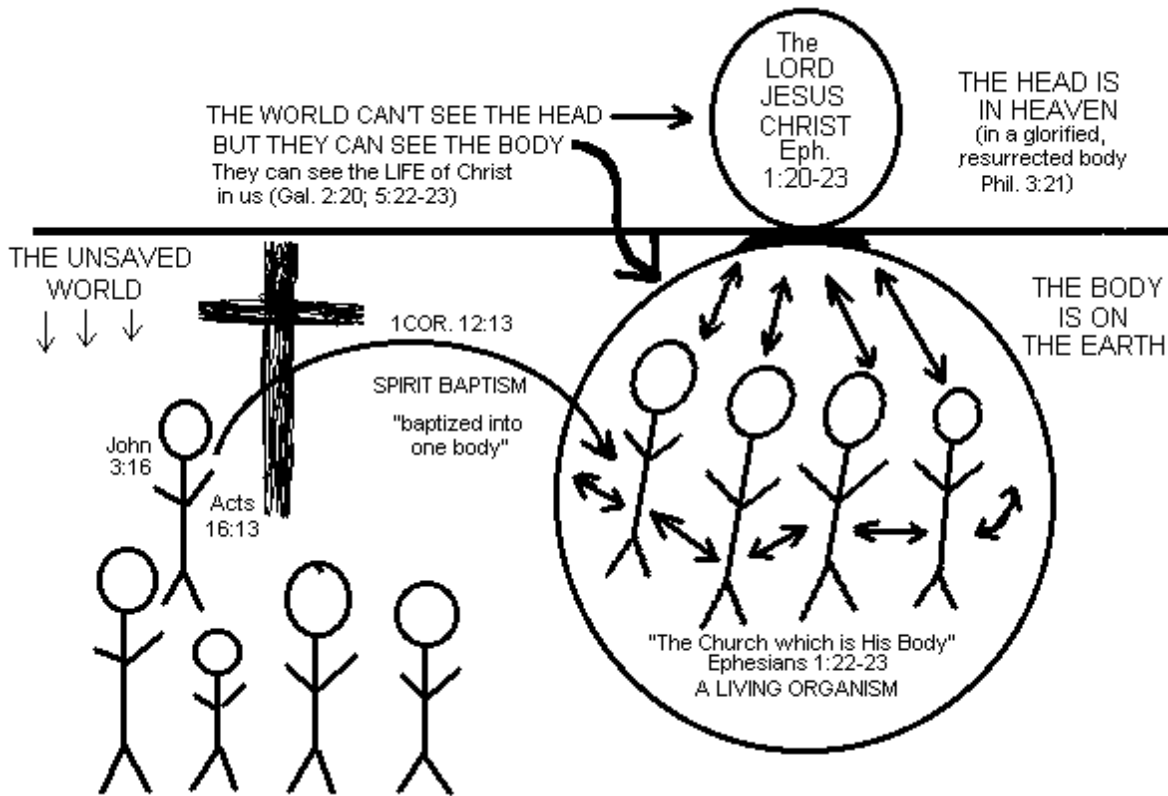
How many LORDS do we have over the church (Eph. 4:5)? _____ What is His Name (Eph. 3:11)? _____ Therefore, the church has how many Heads? _____ In Matthew 16:18 Christ said, "I will build _____ church." In Ephesians 1:23 we learn that the church is _____ body. Is the Pastor speaking the truth if he says: "This is *my* church!" ? _____ Should the elders or deacons say this? _____ Those who really understand God's Word will say, "This is _____ church!"

How does a person become a part of the true church? How does a person become a member of the body of Christ? The answer to these questions is found in the two words "one baptism" in Ephesians 4:5. This is **not** talking about water baptism. Ephesians 4:3-6 is speaking about things that are true of all believers. Thus the "one baptism" must be a baptism that is common to all believers. Have **all** believers been baptized **in water**? _____ Was there a time in your life when you were a believer in Christ but you were not yet baptized in water? _____ Were you baptized in water the moment you were saved or some time later? _____ Suppose that you received Christ as your personal Saviour and then before you had a chance to be baptized (immersed) in water, you had a heart attack and died. Would you still go to heaven (see 1 John 5:11-12; John 3:16; Acts 16:31)? _____ Does water baptism save a person or does Christ save a person (Acts 4:12; John 14:6; and see also page 21)? _____ Therefore, the baptism spoken of in Ephesians 4:5 cannot be water baptism, but it must be a baptism that has happened to **every** believer.

As we study the Scriptures we discover that the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5 must refer to "Spirit baptism." Spirit baptism is most clearly described and defined in 1 Corinthians 12:13 – "For by one _____ were we all _____ into one _____." According to this verse, how many believers have been baptized into the body of Christ? _____ Therefore, this baptism must have taken place when (circle the correct answer)?

- When I joined my local church.
- When I was baptized (immersed) in water in obedience to Christ's command.
- When I trusted Christ and Christ alone as my personal Saviour and Lord.

The following diagram might be of help in understanding the truth of 1 Corinthians 12:13:



Please answer these TRUE-FALSE questions, looking up the verses that are given:

- _____ The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23).
- _____ Every believer is a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27).
- _____ Every believer is a member of Christ's Church.
- _____ Water baptism is the same as Spirit baptism (see the previous two pages).
- _____ 1 Corinthians 12:13 describes water baptism.
- _____ Acts 8:38 describes Spirit Baptism.
- _____ Ephesians 4:5 is talking about Spirit Baptism.
- _____ Every believer has been baptized in water.
- _____ Every believer should be baptized in water (Acts 10:48; Matthew 28:19-20).
- _____ All believers have been Spirit-baptized (1 Cor. 12:13).
- _____ Spirit baptism is that experience that results in a person speaking in tongues.
- _____ Spirit baptism is that work of God whereby a person is immersed and placed into the body of Christ the moment he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
- _____ Water baptism saves us from our sins (Matthew 1:21).
- _____ For a saved person to be lost it would be necessary for him to stop being a member of Christ's church.

_____ For a believer to lose his salvation, God would have to cast him out of the body of Christ.

_____ We know that God has placed the true believer into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13) and we can be sure that Christ will never remove him from this body (compare John 6:37).

_____ Sometimes Christ must say to His disobedient believers, "You are no longer members of My body! I hereby excommunicate you from My church!"

_____ It is impossible for a person who has been baptized **into** the body of Christ to be baptized **out of** that body!!

_____ The true believer is eternally safe in Christ because he is a member of the body of Christ!!

9. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because nothing can separate him from God's everlasting love (Romans 8:35-39).

What shall separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35)? _____ Shall tribulation? _____ Shall distress? _____ Shall persecution? _____ Shall famine? _____ Shall nakedness? _____ Shall peril? _____ Shall sword? _____

According to Romans 8:36, does God tell us that we would expect an easy life? _____ Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Did Paul experience the very things mentioned in Romans 8:35? _____

Can a believer live a victorious life even in the midst of trouble and trial and suffering (Romans 8:37)? _____

_____ Did Paul have ASSURANCE that nothing could separate him from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39)? _____ What one word in verse 38 is a word of ASSURANCE? _____

Can an unbeliever claim the wonderful promise of Romans 8:38-39 (compare 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)? _____

_____ For a saved person to be lost he would have to be separated from the love of God. Is this possible? _____

10. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because God is for him, not against him (Romans 8:31-34).

What is the answer to this Biblical question: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)? _____ Verses 32-34 of Romans 8 prove that God is for us and not against us. Match the following statements with the correct verse in which they are found:

- | | | |
|---------|--|----------------|
| 1 _____ | Christ died for us. | A. Romans 8:32 |
| 2 _____ | God the Father delivered up His own Son for all of us. | |
| 3 _____ | Christ makes intercession for us. | B. Romans 8:33 |
| 4 _____ | God declares us to be righteous. | |
| 5 _____ | Christ rose again for us. | C. Romans 8:34 |

If the LORD is our light and our salvation, do we need to fear (Psalm 27:1)? _____ If the LORD is the strength of our life then we do **not** need to be _____ (Psalm 27:1). The Lord is our refuge and strength and a very present help in trouble and therefore we will not _____ (Psalm 46:1-2). Because the Lord is on our _____, we will not _____ (Psalm 118:6). Who is our HELPER (Isaiah 50:7-9)? _____ If God is our Helper, do we need to fear men (Hebrews 13:6)? _____ If the Lord is IN US, do we need to fear Satan (1 John 4:4)? _____

For a believer to lose his salvation, it would be necessary for God to be against him. Is this possible?

11. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because he is kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5).

In 1 Peter 1:5 we are told that believers are _____ by the _____ of God through _____ unto S _____. The word "kept" comes from a verb which means "to keep, to guard, to protect" and it is in the present tense which means that we are constantly and continually being K_____ by the P_____ of God. The verb is also in the passive voice which means that we are not the ones doing the keeping, but it is _____ who does the keeping! Does 1 Peter 1:5 say that we are kept by our own faithful living and good works? _____ We are constantly being _____ in God's power. How powerful is God (compare Genesis 17:1 and Revelation 19:6)? _____ Is God **able** to save sinful men (read Matthew 19:23-26)? _____ If God is able to save us, is He also able to keep us saved (1 Peter 1:5)? _____ Whose responsibility is it to keep and guard and protect believers (1 Peter 1:5)? _____ Is the Shepherd supposed to guard and keep the sheep or are the sheep supposed to guard and keep themselves? _____ Is the Lord Jesus able to keep and protect His sheep (John 10:27-28)? _____ Now that we are saved, the Lord Jesus is the _____ and _____ of our _____ (1 Peter 2:25). The word "Bishop" means "overseer," one who watches over us and protects us and keeps us from eternal harm. Christ is the Guardian of our souls!

According to Hebrews 7:25, the Lord Jesus is _____ to _____ them to the _____ that come unto _____ through _____. He is able to keep on saving them to the uttermost. The word "uttermost" means "completely, perfectly, fully, wholly." Therefore, because of the work of Christ on our behalf, we have a perfect, complete and full salvation! And this complete salvation is forever because "He _____ to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25)."

Jude tells us (in Jude 24) that God is _____ to _____ us from _____, and to present us _____ before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy! Who was another great man of God who had assurance of God's keeping power (read 2 Timothy 1:12)? _____ As Paul wrote the book of 2 Timothy, did he believe that his death was close at hand (2 Timothy 4:6-8)? _____ In light of this fact, it is amazing to read 2 Timothy 4:18 and to discover that Paul had full ASSURANCE of the keeping power of God: "And the _____ shall deliver me from _____ evil work, and He will _____ me unto His _____." The verb "preserve" means "to save" and thus Paul knew that the Lord would save him unto His heavenly kingdom! Because of God's keeping ability, our full and complete salvation is guaranteed!

Answer True or False:

_____ It is the responsibility of sheep to keep themselves safe.

_____ We are the Guardians of our own souls.

_____ If it were possible for a saved person to be lost, then this would mean that God is not able to keep and protect His saved ones.

_____ The Almighty God is fully able to keep His own and to preserve them unto His heavenly kingdom.

_____ God must save us, but it is our responsibility to keep ourselves saved by living a faithful life and by doing good works that please the Lord.

_____ I know that I am constantly being kept in and by God's power and therefore I am thankful to the Lord and I desire to live a faithful life and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. I thank God for my full and complete salvation.

_____ God has saved me by His grace and He is now keeping me by His grace and someday I'll be in heaven by the grace of God!

_____ God has saved me by His grace but I'm keeping myself saved by my good works and by my righteous deeds.

_____ Because God has saved me and is keeping me, I can live anyway I want and I can do whatever I please. Since I'm **SAFE**, it no longer matters if I **SIN**.

_____ God's sheep are safe in the hand of God forever (John 10:28-29).

_____ God's sheep follow the Shepherd (John 10:27).

12. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because of the work Christ is doing for him right now in heaven.

Christ as our Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25)

Where is the Lord Jesus Christ today (Rom. 8:34)? _____ What is He doing there (Romans 8:34)? _____ Who is He doing this for? _____ Read Hebrews 7:25. Not only does Christ save completely all those who come to God through Him, but He also is always living in order to make _____ for them! In both Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25 the verb "intercede" is in the present tense, indicating that Christ **keeps on** making _____ for us. "To intercede" means "to pray for someone, to plead on someone's behalf." Did Christ intercede on behalf of Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32)? _____ Peter certainly had a lapse of faith when he denied his Lord, but Jesus prayed that his F _____ would not F _____. Do you think this prayer was answered? _____

In John 17:1-26 we find a wonderful example of an intercessory prayer. Who prayed this prayer (John 17:1)? _____ Therefore, who is our Intercessor? _____ To Whom did Christ pray (John 17:1,5,11,21,24,25)? _____ In this prayer, did Christ intercede for believers or for unbelievers (John 17:9)? _____ In what verse does Christ ask the Father to **keep** (guard, protect) those believers that belong to Him? _____ In what verse does Christ ask the Father to **keep** them from the evil? _____ [Literally, "...keep them from the evil one (Satan)"] In what verse does Christ pray for His believers that they might be with Him and that they might be where He is? _____ Will this prayer be answered (John 14:3)? _____

If we could lose our salvation, then Christ would have to stop interceding for us! But the Bible tells us that He keeps on making _____ for _____ (Romans 8:34). Therefore, is it possible for the believer to lose His salvation? _____

Christ as our Advocate (1 John 1:8-2:2)

What can you say about the believer who says, "I have no sin" (1 John 1:8)? _____

_____ What can you say about the believer who says, "I have not sinned" (1 John 1:10)? _____

_____ Is it true, according to 1 John 1:9, that when we sin we need to ask Christ to save us all over again? _____ When the child of God sins, what must he do (1 John 1:9)? _____ The word

"confess" means "to say the same thing, to agree, to acknowledge." Therefore we must say the same thing about sin that God says. We must see our sin as God sees it. We must agree with God and with God's Word that what we have done is sinful: "Yes Lord, I have sinned and done this wickedness in Your sight" (compare David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51:3-4). When we confess our sins, what two things does God promise to do (1 John 1:9)? 1) _____ 2) _____

Did John write these things to us so that we would sin and live a defeated life (1 John 2:1)? _____ **True or False:** _____ "If any man sin, then he has lost his salvation" (1 John 2:1). But if we do sin, then we know that we have an _____ (1 John 2:1). The verb "we have" is in the present tense and means, "We keep on having an Advocate." That is, He never stops being our Advocate. The word "advocate" means "one who is called to our side to help us, a helper in court, a defense attorney." Who is our Advocate and Helper and Defense Attorney (1 John 2:1)? _____

When we sin, who is it that accuses us before the Father (Revelation 12:9-10)? _____

_____ Satan comes before God and says, "_____ (write your own name) has sinned and done this evil deed, and because You are a holy God You ought to punish this believer and send him/her into the lake of fire to be under Your wrath forever." But we have an A _____ (Helper) with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One (1 John 2:1) and He pleads with the Father on our behalf: "O righteous Father, I know that _____ (your own name) has sinned and disobeyed the Word of God, but I died for that sin and Your wrath has already been poured out upon Me when I died on Calvary's cross as his/her Substitute and My blood cleanses from all sin (1 John 1:7). My Father, You do not need to punish this believer because I was punished in his/her place!" Blessed Saviour! Perfect Substitute! Wonderful Advocate!

If we could lose our salvation, then Christ would have to stop being our Advocate. But the Bible says that "if any man _____, we keep on having an _____ with the _____" (1 John 2:1). Will Christ stop being our Advocate and Helper? _____ Is it possible then for us to lose our salvation? _____

Read carefully 2 Samuel chapter 11 where we are given the account of David's great sin. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14 also. What two wicked deeds did David do (2 Samuel 12:9)?

- 1). _____
- 2). _____

In 2 Samuel 12:1-14 find the verse where David confesses his sin: Verse _____. In Psalm 51 we have David's prayer of confession following his great sin. Find the two verses in which David confesses his sin: Verses _____. Did David pray, "Restore unto me Thy salvation" (verse 12)? _____ Did David lose his salvation because of this great sin? _____ What did David lose (verse 12)? _____

Note: Are you experiencing the JOY of your salvation? If not, then perhaps there is sin in your life that needs to be confessed. Read Psalm 139 and pray the same prayer that David prayed in verses 23 and 24. Psalm 51 and Psalm 32 would also be good to read. Another helpful passage is 1 John chapter 1 and the first two verses in chapter 2. Notice especially 1 John 1:4—that your JOY may be full!

13. The true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever because God will complete the great work of salvation which He began in him (Phil. 1:6).

In Philippians 1:6 what word is a word of assurance? _____ Paul was fully persuaded that the One who had _____ a good work in these Philippian believers would also _____ it (finish it, complete it) until the _____ of _____. Who was the One who began this good work in the lives of these believers? _____

_____ Who is the One who keeps on working in them (Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20-21)?
 _____ Will He finish this work (Philippians 1:6)? _____ Is God able to finish what He begins
 (Jude 24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Hebrews 7:25)? _____

What great event are believers **waiting** for (1 Corinthians 1:7)? _____
 _____ What great event are believers **looking** for (Titus 2:13)? _____
 _____ How do we know that this great
 event will take place (John 14:1-3)? _____

Were the believers in Corinth mature and healthy and growing (1 Corinthians 3:1-2)? _____ Was
 the Corinthian church a united church or a divided church (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:3-4)? _____
 _____ Did all of the members of the Corinthian church live holy and
 pure lives (1 Cor. 5:1,13; 11:29-30)? _____ And yet, in spite of all their failures and sins and problems,
 we are amazed to discover that in 1 Corinthians 1:8 Paul tells these believers that the Lord Jesus shall
 _____ them unto the _____ so that they would be _____ in the
 _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ! Is God able to finish the good work that He has begun even in
 Corinthian believers? _____ Even in you? _____

Philippians 1:6 and 1 Corinthians 1:8 both mention a certain day. What is this day called?
 _____ We learn in 1 Corinthians 1:7 that this "day" will come to pass
 when what great event takes place? _____

Please MATCH the following:

1. _____	God begins His work in me.	A.	Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:21.
2. _____	God is working in me right now.	B.	1 Corinthians 1:7-8; Phil. 3:20-21.
3. _____	God will finish and will complete this great work.	C.	Acts 16:31; John 6:29; Ephesians 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 6:11
4. _____	God delivered me, He is delivering me right now, and He will deliver me! (This speaks of our great salvation – past, present and future!)	D.	2 Corinthians 1:10

God's eternal purpose is to conform us to what (Rom. 8:28-29)? _____
 _____ When will God's purpose for us be fulfilled (1 John
 3:2)? _____ According to 1 John 3:2, **why** will we
 be like Christ on that day? _____ Does God want us
 to see and behold the Lord Jesus even now (2 Cor. 3:18)? _____ How can we see Christ today
 (Luke 24:27,44-45; John 5:39)? _____

If it were possible for a true believer to lose his salvation, then God's eternal purpose to conform him to
 the image of Christ would have failed! Is this possible? _____ When God purposes to do something, will
 that purpose be fulfilled (Isaiah 14:27; 46:10-11)? _____

* * * * *

We have now studied 13 reasons why the true believer is eternally safe and secure in
 Christ forever! Does the Bible teach that a true believer can lose his salvation and be
 lost (John 6:37-40)? _____ If you are a true believer in Christ, are you really safe
 and secure in Christ forever (John 10:28)? _____

Are you thankful for your so-great salvation? Are you thankful that you are eternally

safe in Christ and kept by His power? Are you thankful that no man can pluck you out of His hand and that no one can separate you from His love? May our THANKSGIVING result in THANKSLIVING (living a life pleasing to the Lord in great gratitude for all that He has done for us through Christ).

Having completed these worksheets, you may send them back to us for correction. Please mail them to:

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Also if you have any questions about what you have studied, be free to send these questions along also.

More food for thought:

HELD BY OMNIPOTENCE!

Monkeys carry their young by having the little ones hold onto the mother's tail. If the baby monkey is healthy and well, there is little danger, but if the little one, through sickness or weakness loses his hold when his mother makes a sudden leap from one branch to another, then it's "good-bye" as far as the tiny unfortunate creature is concerned. With a mother cat, the story is entirely different. She takes hold of her baby kitten with her teeth. The baby's safety depends upon the hold of the mother cat, not upon the ability of the weak kitten. This is much better. So, too, it is not our hold upon Christ that makes us safe, but His hold upon us!

Certain Things That God Will Never Do!

The following are examples of the Greek use of the double negative (**ou me**), which is a strong way of conveying the idea of "NEVER!" Take your Bible and look up the following verses:

God will NEVER allow His Word to be broken or to pass away unfulfilled (Matthew 24:35).

God will NEVER cast out the person who comes to Christ (John 6:37).

God will NEVER allow an "overcomer" (a true believer) to experience the second death, which is the lake of fire (Rev. 2:11) and he will NEVER allow such a person's name to be blotted out of His Book (Rev. 3:5).

God will NEVER ever allow one of His sheep to perish or be plucked out of His protective hand (John 10:28).

God will NEVER allow a true believer to experience spiritual death which is separation from God (John 11:26; John 8:51).

God will NEVER remember the sins and iniquities of the person whom He has pardoned (Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17) and he will never impute sin unto the person who

has been justified and a recipient of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ (Romans 4:8).

God will NEVER allow any defiling thing into His holy heaven (Revelation 21:27).

The Greater Loss!

There was once a young minister who visited an aged Christian woman whose state of health made it evident that she was soon to pass from this earthly scene. The minister, who had some doubts about the total reliability of the Scriptures, said to her, "Just suppose that after all your praying and despite your faith your soul should be lost! What then?" To this tactless remark the old lady replied, "Dear man, should such be the case, God's would be the greater loss. I could only lose my soul. God would lose His honor. If God would be untrue to His Word He would cease to be God. The Lord Jesus promised that 'him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.' I rest my soul in His Word, which never fails."

—E.S.English

She Was Incredulous

An old Welsh lady when she lay dying was visited by her Pastor. He said to her, "Sister, are you sinking?" She answered him not a word, but looked at him with an incredulous eye. He repeated the question, "Sister, are you sinking?" She looked at him again as if she couldn't believe he would ask such a question. At last, rising a little in her bed, she said, "Sinking! Sinking! Did you ever know a sinner to sink through a rock? If I had been standing on the sand, I might sink; but, thank God, I am on the Rock of Ages and there is no sinking there."

—C.H. Spurgeon

Secure on the Rock!

"A Wise man...built his house upon a rock...and it fell not" (Matt. 7:24-25)

There's an old saying of Samuel Rutherford: "Believe in God's love and power more than you believe in your own feelings and experiences. Your Rock is Christ, and it is not the Rock that ebbs and flows, but your sea of feelings." If we build our faith upon the certain Word and finished work of Christ, rather than upon our fickle feelings, we shall have the blessed assurance and sense of security we need. Then let the rains of sorrow, the floods of adversity, and the winds of doubt and difficulty come; they shall not be able to destroy the house of our salvation. Our spiritual life is eternally secure, founded upon the Rock of Christ's promises (John 10:28-29) and the firm foundation of His immutable Word (Eph. 1:3-11).

"I believe hundreds of Christians have not got the assurance of salvation just because they are not willing to take God at His Word" —D.L.Moody.

The Bible is my "Strong Box" filled with my valuable documents: **First Document:** My Great Gift (John 3:16). **Second Document:** My Present Possession (John 5:24). **Third Document:** My Life Insurance (John 11:25-26). **Fourth Document:** My Accident Policy (Romans 8:28). **Fifth Document:** My Fire Insurance (2 Peter 3:10-13). **Sixth Document:** My Identification Papers (1 John 3:1-2). Riches of inestimable worth!

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