

## A Bible Study covering Salvation and our eternal security - :

The study will cover:

1. Eternal life
2. The Gift of God.
3. Not dying,
4. Being sealed by the spirit,
5. Being kept secure as a believer.
6. Some verses seeming to teach against our eternal security.
7. Other gospels.

### 1) Eternal Life

Consider the following verses:

- 1 John 5:10-13 These things have I written unto you that **believe** on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye **have eternal life, and that ye may believe** on the name of the Son of God."That whosoever **believes** in him should not perish, but **have eternal life**.
- John 6:47: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **believes** on me **has everlasting life**.
- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believes** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believes on him **is not condemned**: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18
- John 5:24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and **believes** on him that sent me, **has everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but **is passed** from death unto life.
- John 6:40} And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which sees the Son, and **believes** on him, may **have everlasting life**: and I will **raise him** up at the last day.
- John 6:54: Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, **has eternal life**; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- Luke 19:9 And Jesus said unto him, **This day is salvation come** to this house, forso much as he also is a son of Abraham. {19:10} For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

### Questions:

1. Discuss "How do we receive eternal life?" from the above bible verses.
2. Is Eternal Life (or everlasting life) mentioned in the present tense? What does this imply, do you think?
3. Read verses below. In John 10:28 we notice present and future tense in one sentence. "*And I **give** unto them eternal life; and they **shall** never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*" Could the verses below with 'shall' mean that we will be saved at future date, or is it a follow-on statement that is immediately true, but conditional on believing?
4. Can we say we are in Jesus' hand now, if we believe?

5. How hard is it to be saved on the basis of John 10:9 below?

- John 10:9: I am the door: by me if any man enter in, *he shall be saved*, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.
- John 10:28 : And **I give** unto them eternal life; and they *shall never perish*, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. {10:29} My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man **is able** to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
- John 11:25: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, *yet shall he live*: {11:26a} And whosoever lives and believes in me *shall never die*...
- John 6:51: I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he *shall live for ever*:
- John 6:27: Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto **everlasting life**, which the Son of man *shall give* unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
- John 6:57: As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even *he shall live* by me.
- John 6:58b:: he that eats of this bread *shall live for ever*.
- John 20:31: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name

Eternal is ever-lasting: Consider the word eternal. Eternal means never ending. It comes from a root word terminate. The E at the beginning is a negating prefix, and so eternal means not terminated, has no ending. It has a synonym in the bible: everlasting. So if I have life today that never ends, if I have eternal life today, and down the road at some point I were to lose it, was it ever eternal? No, because it ended. So if I have eternal life today; that means it can never end, because by definition, that's what eternal life even is. Otherwise it would make no sense.

## 2) Gift of God.

The reason that Jesus' gift of eternal life is such good news is that it is free. And not complicated, simple enough for a child to understand: "Believe in Jesus Christ, trust He paid the penalty for your sin on the cross, trust that He died in your place as the following verses describe, and you are saved. That's it. Read the verses below:

- Rom 6:23b " ; but the **gift** of God *is eternal life* through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- Ephesians 2:8-10 KJV "For by grace *are ye saved* through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knew the **gift** of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou would have asked of him, and he would have **given** thee living water.
- Acts 2:38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift** of the Holy Ghost.

- Acts 11:17-18 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like **gift** as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? {11:18} When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then has God also to the Gentiles *granted repentance unto life*.
- John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them **gave he** power to *become the sons of God*, even to them that believe on his name:
- John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto *everlasting life*, which the Son of man shall **give** unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
- John 10:28 And I **give** unto them *eternal life*; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.
- Ephesians 1:13-14 KJV “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of **our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

## Questions

1. What do you think is the basis of salvation as per Eph 1:13 and 2:8?
2. What is the gift of God?
3. Do you think this gift has strings attached? Do you think God may take it back?”
4. If it's taken back, was it ever eternal?
5. What do we have to do to keep the gift?
6. What is our contribution to being saved?
7. To a saved person we can say: "You know what, you might get out of church, you might quit on God, but you're still saved, He's not going to quit on you?" Do you agree?
8. If salvation is not by works, would 'enduring to the end' be a work? Something we have to do to contribute?

Key verses: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.“ & but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

## Not dying, Sealed, Being kept, Jesus' intercedes.

### 3a) Never Dying

To "live forever", "have everlasting life" and "have eternal life" is Jesus' promise which we have looked at in the previous verses. Now we come to a new implication. Now Jesus says believers will "never die".

- John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall **never see death**.
- John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: {11:26} And whosoever lives and believes in me **shall never die**.

- Matt 5:8 And fear not them which kill the body, but are **not able to kill the soul**:

Note Jesus uses the word NEVER. Do you get the picture? These are two sides of the same promise; if as a believer you “shall not perish but have everlasting life”, and as a believer if 'you live and you believe', then you will ‘never die’. Starting right at the moment you believed, you will never die!

- Q: If we were to ‘fall’, doubt or ‘stop believing’ for whatever reason, and we died spiritually, would Jesus’ words of ‘never die’ be true?

Also a side note, believers go straight from this life to everlasting life, there is no 'in-between' stage, or the catholic 'purgatory', or the Adventist's 'soul sleep'.

- 2 Cor 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord
- Luke 23:43: And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day** shalt thou **be with me** in paradise.

### 3b) Sealed:

- “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby **ye are sealed** unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30 KJV
- “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye **were sealed with** that holy Spirit of promise,” Ephesians 1:13KJV
- Who has also **sealed us**, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:21, 22 KJV)

### Questions

- What does ‘being sealed’ mean to you?
- When is ‘the day of redemption’?
- Did your body transform the moment you believed on Christ? Did your body become perfect or righteous? When will that happen?
- What is the earnest of the spirit?

The bible says when we are saved; God seals us and gives us the earnest of the spirit in our hearts. Earnest means serious. If I say something to you in earnest, it means that I was being serious. So when the bible says here God has given us the earnest of the spirit in our hearts, using earnest as a noun, it is a down payment, a deposit. What God is saying is that he sealed us, and he gave us the earnest of the holy spirit, showing that we're saved, showing that we will have eternal life, showing that we're going to go to heaven and be with him eternally. He gives us that down payment of the spirit.

The reason that the spirit is called the earnest, or the down payment, is because we are not fully redeemed when we get saved, because our body has not been redeemed. Now our soul and spirit have already been saved, but has our body been saved? No, your flesh is the same, but at the resurrection, at what’s called the rapture, the bible

says "*in a moment in a twinkling of an eye we will be changed*". The bible says that we are waiting for that day, tells us to wait the redemption of our body. The bible calls the rapture the 'redemption of our body'. Until then we have the earnest of the spirit in our heart, showing that God is serious, showing that God is going to do what he said. The bible said he begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

### 3c) Kept secure, preserved:

- Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved** in Jesus Christ, and called: (Jude 1:1)
- "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that **he is able to keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day." 2 Timothy 1:12 KJV
- Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 1:24 KJV)
- "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25 KJV
- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3-5 KJV
- 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39"
- Now he which stablishes us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:21, 22)
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12, 13 KJV)

### Questions:

- Do you think assurances like "Him that is able to keep you from falling" and "Who are kept by the power of God" leaves any room to say that "we can still fall away?"
- Do you think it is possible that someone trusting in Jesus work will stop believing?
- Do you think it is possible that someone also trusting in his own works will stop believing?

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of **my Father's hand**. “*

Jesus says you're in Jesus Christ's hand and you're in the Father's hand and nobody is going to pluck you out of that hand. God is stronger than you, so if you would attempt a hypothetical tug-a-war with God, like “let me go, let me go”, He is not going to let go because he said no one can pluck you out of his hand. Because his hand is so strong, you can't get out. And notice, He doesn't say he's holding your hand; no you are **in** His hand. There's no way you're going to crawl out.

### **3d) Jesus makes intercession for us.**

- *Blessed are they whose iniquities **are forgiven**, and whose sins **are covered**. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord **will not** impute sin (Romans 4:7,8).*
- *It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us***

#### **Questions:**

- What do you think the bible says about my sins?
- Do you think can I lose my salvation if God's not even going to 'impute my sins unto me'

It says the past is covered in Rom 4:7: “Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven”, and that's past tense, “whose sins are covered.” That's a past tense verb. Look it's clear, how can I lose my salvation if God's not even going to impute my sins unto me according to Romans 4:8? Look at Romans 8:33 “*Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies.*” Now if God's not going to lay anything to our charge, if men can't lay anything to our charge and our sins are not imputed unto us, so then “*Who is he that condemns?*”

Remember the verse that says we shall not come into condemnation? We have 'passed from death unto life'? “Who is he that condemns? “*It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us**.*” So what Christ did for us is not just past tense, he died, he was buried. But he rose again, he also ever lives to make intercession for us, to make sure we shall not be condemned, to make sure no one can lay anything to our charge, to make sure sin will not be imputed unto us spiritually going forward, it says he makes intercession for us.

### **4a) Verses seemingly speaking against OSAS**

**Read Matthew 7:21-23**

#### **Questions**

- When someone is saved and a member of the family of God, would it be possible that Jesus could say: “I never knew you”. (Also ref John 10:27)
- Is it correct to assume that a person doing ‘wonderful works’ in Jesus’ name is saved?
- What incriminating thing do they say that shows that they are not trusting in Jesus’ work on the cross?
- Did they think their works had something to do with being saved?
- How dangerous is works salvation, to trust in our **and** Jesus’ contribution to salvation?

The number one scripture that people use to show that you can lose your salvation is Matthew 7:21-23 "I never knew you". They assume these people prophesying and casting out devils are saved. This verse actually shows you the opposite; that they were never saved in the first place, where it says 'I NEVER knew you'. Also refer to the PowerPoint.

- What is doing the ‘will of the father’ (v21) according to John 6:38-40

### **Hebrews six:**

*“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, **to renew them again unto repentance**; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame”*

### **Questions:**

- Is tasting the same as eating?
- Is being enlightened (i.e. understanding) the same as believing and trusting?
- Does this passage say these people were saved?
- Does this passage say they had everlasting life?

This passage doesn’t say these people got saved, this passage doesn’t say they had everlasting life, it just says they tasted it and they partook of the Holy Ghost. Remember the Holy Ghost spoke through Caiaphas the high priest, who wasn’t even saved. The Holy Ghost came upon Caiaphas in the book of John and he spoke as he was moved by the Holy Ghost, and he was not even saved, denying belief on Christ. The fact the Holy Ghost is working in someone does not mean that they are saved, just because they tasted it, they’re that close, and then they fall away from it.

This verse does not say ‘saved’; it does not say ‘eternal life’. This is not talking about a person who gets saved, this is talking about a person who hears the gospel, the holy spirit is working in their hearts, they finally understand it. What does it mean to be enlightened? The light bulb comes on: "I get it now, I understand it, I comprehend it", and it fully hits home with them and they have been enlightened. They’ve tasted it, they’re right there. They understand it, the Holy Ghost is working, they’ve tasted it. But then they just say no, and it’s their final rejection.

### **Hebrews 3:12**

*{3:10} Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. {3:11} So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) {3:12} Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*

So what is this passage saying? That we may find that there are amongst us some that are unbelievers. Does this match with what Jesus said? Yes, he warned that there would be tares amongst the wheat. That the tares would be visually indistinguishable from the wheat! That we why we should also examine ourselves, should there be found " in any of you an evil heart of unbelief". Is this talking of saved people losing their salvation? Not at all! It is self-evident from this passage that it describes unbelievers. It is possible some may understand, someone can stand at the door, understanding what Jesus offers, be on the point of entering in, but then still turn away and depart.

We have to examine the context. Taking one half of a verse "departing from the living God" on its own is distorting the meaning. But when taking it in context, then it means: "if any of you are in unbelief, when you have an evil heart of unbelief, then you will say, do and teach things which depart from the living God, things which are twisted. If someone is not saved, not abiding in Christ, will they speak God's words? No, they are likely to be departing from God's ways.

### **Matthew 24:13, 22**

- *“ But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”*
- *“ And except those days should be shortened, there should no **flesh** be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”(v22)*

### **Questions:**

- In verse 22, are we talking about people going to heaven when we say 'saved'?
- Is there a difference between the flesh being saved and the soul being saved?
- When Peter was drowning he cried out to Jesus: “Lord save me” Is that when he got saved?

You may say: "See right there- to be saved you have to endure until the end to be saved". But first look at verse 22 “ And except those days should be shortened, there should no “ what? ” **flesh** be saved:” Now let's ask: in verse 22 are we talking about people going to heaven when we say saved? No, we're talking about the flesh being saved. Is there a difference between the flesh being saved and the soul being saved? Absolutely, because in first Corinthians five it says *“To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”*

So the flesh and the spirit are two different things. To use this passage to teach works-salvation, 'you got to endure to the end to be saved', when it is talking about your flesh being saved, understand that it's not talking about your soul being saved. For example when Peter was drowning, what did he cry out to the Lord? “Lord save



me” Is that when he got saved? Do you see how there is a distinction being made between the body being saved and the soul being saved? The body being killed, the soul being killed?

*“fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

## **2 Pet 2:14-22**

As described before, someone can stand at the door, understanding what Jesus offers, be on the point of entering in, but then still turn away and depart. This is what Peter also describes, the understanding is there, they know the way, the knowledge is there, they even live a clean life for a while, but they never believe. They still can't let go of their sin, they are servants of corruption.

This is a very clear picture of a false teacher, 'clouds without water'. Having the appearance of having something to offer, but having no content.

2 Pet 2 "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: {2:15} Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; {2:16} But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. {2:17} These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. {2:18} For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. {2:19} While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. {2:20} **For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. {2:21} For it had been better for them not to **have known the way** of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. {2:22} But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (2 Pet 2:14-22)

- Romans 4:5 “But to him **that works not**, but believeth on him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”
- The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.(Psalm 12:6-7)

## **5a) Other gospels.**

Works Salvation: To distinguish between works salvation, and Salvation as a gift of God upon faith and trust in the work of Jesus Christ, refer to power point slides...[190513 OSAS ppoint](#))

The Catholics, Islamists, Judaists and Jehovah's witnesses, Mormons have one thing in common: They all believe that we can earn our salvation by being a good person. That mankind has to work and earn their way into heaven. They believe if our good deeds exceed our bad, we will be OK. If they work hard in building up their faith, have more faith, they'll be surer to make it to heaven. If they regularly confess their sins, pray a lot, etc, etc. they'll have a better chance of making it.

Unfortunately this kind of works salvations also creeps into Christian churches, but it is not the gospel of the bible, this 'gospel' cannot save anyone.

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\*google 'faithfulword Baptist Church' for more details and other Steve Andersen sermons.