

# Doctrine of Eternal Security

by  
**Dr. Robert L. Dean**

---

1. Definition: the work of God which guarantees that God's free gift of salvation is eternal and cannot be lost, terminated, abrogated, nullified, or reversed by an thought, act, or change of belief in the person saved.

Since man does nothing to earn or deserve the free gift of salvation, he can do nothing to lose the free gift of salvation. God does not give with strings attached; he does not take back what He once gives. Eternal security is defined as an unbreakable relationship with the integrity of God, the perfect righteousness, absolute justice, and immeasurable love of God. It is an unbreakable relationship because God will not break the relationship regardless of what we do or fail to do.

2. God the Father's purposes in salvation cannot be overridden. The same group He foreknew, He predestines, called, justifies and redeems., A careful examination of these verses shows that of those who are eventually glorified none are lost from those foreknown. Omniscience of God knows all the knowable, every contingency, possibility and permutation out to infinity. He perceives simultaneously, instantly, eternally, all the knowable. Foreknowledge is a subcategory of divine omniscience. In foreknowledge God distinguishes between the actual and possible and knows who of his creatures is positive at God consciousness and would respond to whatever impetus to be saved, and those who would not. God desires that all men be saved and so those who are foreknown are elect. In the divine plan set forth in the Divine Decrees God determined that in human history His sovereignty would co-exist with human volition so that His will would not override or abrogate human responsibility.

**Rom. 8:29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

**Rom. 8:30** and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

3. God the Father's omnipotence is more powerful than human attempts to negate salvation. He is able to keep the believer secure. It is God who saves, faith is merely the means, but the work is God's so the preserving of the work is God's.

**Jude 1:24** ¶ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

**John 10:28** and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

**John 10:29** "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Here we have the image, actually an anthropomorphism [a figure of speech which attributes to God human form which He does not actually possess in order to communicate His character, policy, or plan] which is probably a

Hebraism, used to illustrate power. The significance of this image of one of absolute security and safety. No one is more powerful than omnipotent God.

#### 4. Argument from the character of God

God is **omniscient**, He knows all the knowable; He knows all the knowable simultaneously; and He has always known all the knowable. This means that billions of eons ago God knew you would exist. God knew every thought you would ever have, He knew every word you would ever say, and He knew every thing you would ever do. He knew your motives, desires, wishes. Nothing you can ever do will surprise God.

God is **omnipotent**. God has the ability to do whatever is necessary to bring His plan to completion. When you combine God's omniscience with His omnipotence we see that God knew all the facts, so God was able to devise a plan so great and vast and detailed that it included the solution to not only every sin you would ever commit, but every sin anyone would ever commit. No sin surprises God, no sin was left undealt with, no sin is too great for the plan of God.

To say or think that you can say or do something that jeopardizes your salvation is the height of human arrogance and blasphemy toward the character of God.

5. No one, angelic or human, can bring a charge or condemn those who are saved. Since Christ's death covers all their sin and they have the righteousness of Christ imputed on the basis of faith alone, nothing can be charged against them. If any sin can undo a believer's salvation, then either a. Christ's death did not pay for that sin; or b. Christ's payment was not enough so our persistence in obedience would also be necessary. (A) impugns the sufficiency of Christ and charges God's plan with inadequacy and thus is blasphemy of the highest order, (b) places man's salvation ultimately upon His own work and merit.

**Rom. 8:33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

**Rom. 8:34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

6. To think you can help God is arrogance and reverses the plan of salvation. God saves us we do not save ourselves. Human failure cannot cancel the power, provision, or promise of God.

7. When you understand the dynamics and complexities of what God must do to save even one unbeliever you realize how complex it is.

**Imputation:** At the moment of faith alone in Christ alone God imputes to the believer the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. You are not saved because of any human righteousness but because of His righteousness. Therefore, you cannot lose salvation for a reason based on human righteousness.

**Justification:** God declares you to be justified because of your possession of

perfect righteousness. Since that perfect righteousness is never taken from you; you can never lose justification. The imputation of divine righteousness is the only means of justification. Justification is an eternal relationship with God based on His integrity, not ours. It is based upon our possessing His righteousness.

Spiritual birth. At the instant of faith alone in Christ alone, God the Holy Spirit creates and simultaneously imparts to the believer a new human spirit. To lose salvation would mean that God would have to destroy that new human spirit.

Eternal life: At the instant of regeneration God imputes to that human spirit His very own eternal life. This is a free gift based on a promise. God does not steal back his gifts nor place conditions upon them. A gift is a gift. God would have to destroy your eternal life in order to take away your salvation. God cannot cancel eternal life once He has given it.

8. Jesus Christ prays continuously for us to be kept in salvation, since His prayers fulfill all the conditions for answered prayer, God always answers His prayers.

**John 17:11** "And I am no more in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, the name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are.

**John 17:12** "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**John 17:13** "But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

**John 17:14** "I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

**John 17:15** "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

**John 17:16** "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

9. Christ as the head of the body cannot sever a member once joined to the body; 1 Cor. 12:13, 21

10. The character of God means that God keeps His promises. Since God is immutable, eternal, infinite, and perfect righteousness He cannot cancel the gift once it is given no matter how bad the believer is. Remember, Christ paid the penalty for every sin, so once that is applied, nothing the believer can do is "unpaid for."

**2 Tim 2:11-13.** "Faithful is the Word. If we died with Him [and we have, doctrine of positional truth], we shall live [the certainty of eternal salvation] with Him. If we endure [in suffering for blessing], we shall rule with Him [as mature believers in the Millennial kingdom]. If we deny Him [failure in the spiritual life], He will deny us [rewards, blessings in eternity]. If we are unfaithful [disbelieving, faithless], He remains faithful [and still saves

us], for He cannot deny Himself [because of Who He is]."

11. The Holy Spirit seals us at the moment of redemption which is our guarantee for protection and salvation, 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; 2 Tim. 2:19

12. The syntax of Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been [eimi plus a perfect periphrastic participle] saved in the past with the result that you stand saved forever through faith, and this [salvation] is not from yourselves; it is a gift from God, not by works, lest any man should boast."

The Greek perfect periphrastic in Eph 2:8 takes the sense of the tense of the participle, indicating the present results of an action completed in the past. This is one of the most emphatic expressions in Greek which indicates there is no possible loss of salvation.

13. Our position in Christ protects us. Rom. 8:38, 39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any other created thing is able to separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

14. Identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection means that at the moment of salvation through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit [known as the baptism of the Holy Spirit], we are inseparably identified with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Such identification once made is irreversible and provides eternal salvation.

**Rom. 6:2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

**Rom. 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

**Rom. 6:4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

**Rom. 6:5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,

**Rom. 6:6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

**Rom. 6:7** for he who has died is freed from sin.