

Russell Kelfer Assurance of Salvation (Part 2)

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Series: Assurance of Salvation



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Assurance of Salvation

(Part 2)

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,
neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

(John 10:28)

In this lesson we are going to seek the positive assurance of the Word of God about our relationship with the King of Kings. I John 5:13 says that it is the will of God based on the Word of God that every man know whether or not he is a Christian. It is the will of God based upon the Word of God that every man and every woman know whether or not they are eternally part of the family of God. God is a god that demands that we know. It is because of His love that He insists that we know.

Therefore, He has given us at least seven basic ways to know if we are saved.

- 1- By the authority of the Scripture
- 2- By the witness of the Spirit within us
- 3- By a newfound love for other believers
- 4- By a new desire to obey
- 5- By a new hatred for sin
- 6- By a new ability to ask and have answered prayer
- 7- By the ability to verbally confess Jesus Christ as Lord

The second part of that very basic subject deals with something far more complex and far more wonderful. It is entering into the confidence not of our salvation present tense, but of our security for all eternity. It is a subject in which the Word of God is very clear. I believe that as we share and encourage one another and as we witness, we need to clearly understand why we believe as we believe.

The last lesson began as we remind ourselves that God has a mathematical formula for salvation. It is that the entrance requirement into the College of Eternity is a grade of 100. Anything short of that has fallen short of the glory of God and

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cannot meet the entrance requirements. The entrance test is the law. It is our schoolmaster to prove to us that we don't have what it takes to get in.

The second and more wonderful part is God's scholarship program. All of us have gone to apply for the kingdom of heaven and found that our entrance requirements were insufficient. God, in turn, has offered scholarship provisions, and they are listed on page one of the homework for the last lesson.

Likewise, in the last lesson, I shared the meaning of the word "eternal". The word "eternal", in terms of eternal life which God gave us when we responded and asked Jesus Christ into our hearts, is the same word that is used of the nature of God Himself in Romans 16, of the power of God in I Timothy 6, of the Spirit of God in Hebrews 9, of the glory of God in I Peter 5 and of the redemption of God in Hebrews 9. It literally means without end, that which cannot be interrupted, terminated or brought to a conclusion or reduced in intensity under any set of conditions. It is that which is forever. It is everlasting. It is eternal. It cannot stop. It cannot change. It cannot diminish. That is the quality of life that God gives to us when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.

It is the only kind of life that God offers. God never says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice and open the door, I will give him a choice. He can receive Me on his terms or on My terms. He can receive temporary life or eternal life. He can receive life as long as he obeys, or he can receive life based upon the blood of Jesus Christ which lasts for all eternity."

He didn't give us that option. He gave us a quality. It is a quality of the personality of God. God is eternal. The life which He imparts is eternal. The gift which He offers you and me at the point of salvation is eternal. If you receive His gift, you receive it on His terms, and the very nature of the gift itself is that it is eternal. If you take His gift, you take eternal life. That is, you take life that never ends. It is a continuing fellowship with Jesus Christ for all of eternity by virtue of what He has done on your behalf. That is what you accept.

I am not going to deal much more with this subject in this lesson. In the last lesson I concluded by dealing with 4 basic words that are found in the Word of God relative to the security of the believer. The first word is "seal." It is used in about 4 places in

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Scripture. It is used with 2 basic definitions. The first meaning of the word is to secure or fasten permanently. If you can foods, you seal that which you have canned with a lid that keeps impurities out. The sealed lid keeps the aroma and the flavor and everything in the jar pure, so nothing outside can get in. It is a word that means to secure. It is covered in such a way that it cannot be interrupted.

The second word that is used in relationship to this is also the word “seal.” It means to be branded or to have a seal put upon you. A notary has a seal with which they have to impress a piece of paper to indicate that this piece of paper has been documented by their authority. The Scripture says that when you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, God gives to you the seal of the Holy Spirit wherewith you are therefore sealed unto the day of redemption. Just as the blood was put on the doorpost of the houses of the children of Israel so that the death angel would pass over them, so the seal of the Holy Spirit is impressed upon the heart of the believer. God looks at you and knows for all eternity that you are His.

In the last lesson I shared a story about branding from the Reader’s Digest. A family could not decide what brand to use for their animals. They couldn’t decide what to name their ranch. They had six names. They decided to combine all of the names, and they called the ranch by all six names. The owner was asked, “Do you have many cattle?” The owner replied, “No, none of them ever lived through the branding.” The principle is that the Spirit of God has branded you. He has put His brand upon you. He has put His seal upon you. You are eternally His.

The third word was the word “earnest.” The Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit was given as the earnest of our inheritance. He was given as the down payment of the future promised reward. It literally means that if you and I go out and decide to buy a piece of property and we find a piece that we like, we put earnest money down. We make a down payment. That earnest money is a pledge that we plan to deliver the finished goods. It is our pledge to the seller that we plan to follow through and buy the property. It is a seal that our word is good. It is a brand upon the property. It is the earnest. It is the down payment. It means we are in earnest, and to prove that, we make a payment.

The Scripture says that God, in order to prove to you that His salvation is eternal and that you cannot fall or be lost once

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you are saved, gives to you His eternal seal. He puts down the earnest of His inheritance. He gives you the down payment. Because Scripturally, by the nature of God, He cannot back out on His Word. He must be true to His Word. He says, "I will prove My word by giving you a promised down payment. Here is the earnest money, the Holy Spirit." He opens your heart and places in your heart the Holy Spirit at the point of conversion and seals it up. That Holy Spirit is there for all eternity. From that moment on, you then have the earnest money paid by God that says one day you will be totally His in eternity because He has given you the down payment of the Holy Spirit.

The last word was "keep." In I Peter 1:5 it says that we, as Christians, have an incorruptible inheritance. It cannot fade away or decay and is reserved in heaven. There is a sign in heaven for each of you who have received Jesus Christ. It is a sign that cannot decay. The paint cannot wash off. It cannot diminish. The wood can't crack. It is down in the ground. It is secure. It is in a castle in glory that is reserved for you. The word literally says, "reserved for you" because you are being kept by the power of God. It isn't you that is keeping yourself. You are being kept by the power of God unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last day. The word "kept" comes from the Greek word that literally means to guard securely so that no enemy can enter in and destroy. It is the same word that is used for the keep of a castle. It is the inner part of the castle. An enemy might come and pass into the grounds of the castle, but they can almost never get to the keep. People were secure if they put them in the keep. They were there without fear of being harmed because the enemy could not get in there to get them.

These are the four words we dealt with in the last lesson. We also dealt in passing with the difference between relationship and fellowship. Basically, you and I have a relationship with our parents. If you are a parent, you have a relationship with your children. That relationship is the same regardless of whether or not you are in fellowship with them. If you are a parent and your little children have been born from you and your blood flows through their veins, they are yours. Let's suppose that your child doesn't want to obey you anymore. He stomps his feet and says, "I don't want to do that!" He will stomp his feet, kick and walk out of the room and slam the door. He may say, "I don't want you to be my mommy anymore!" The fellowship is broken, but

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you are still his mommy. He is still your child. Why? Because there is a difference between fellowship and a relationship. You are in fellowship when there is no barrier between you, but a relationship is that which indicates ownership. It cannot change.

In this lesson, we are, first of all, going to deal with the principle that our security is not related to our ability to remain saved. You and I can't do it. You and I did not have the ability to gain salvation. We do not have the ability to maintain salvation.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: (John 10:27)

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear His voice: and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (John 10:3)

And I give unto them eternal life; ... (John 10:28a)

That gift is labeled eternal, unending, unchanging life. It continues,

...and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. (John 10:28b)

Jesus says the reason is that His Father, who is the one who gave them to Him in the first place as a gift, is greater than everybody. Therefore, no one is able to pluck them out of His Father's hands.

Your ability to remain in a position of salvation before God has nothing whatsoever to do with either your worth or your works. It has only to do with the power of God. He says very plainly, "I give unto them a life whose quality is eternal. They shall, because of the nature of being eternal, under no situation or set of circumstances ever be able to perish. There is no way they will perish. Neither can any person take them out of My hand. The reason is that My Father is greater than every other conceivable force in the world. Therefore, nobody can take them out of My Father's hand." He goes on to say,

I and my Father are One. (John 10:30)

We are not going to deal with all of the other passages now, but we will just read them and press on.

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. (II Timothy 1:12)

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Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: (Philippians 1:6)

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty and dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

(Jude 24,25)

He is the one who is able to keep you from falling. You can't. I can't. But we are not going to deal any longer with those verses. We are going to go to Romans 8:28,

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

This verse simply says that God is not in the business of either committing accidents or allowing mistakes in your life and mine to interfere with His basic purpose. That means very simply that it is not only not because of us, but in spite of us, He brings glory to His name through everything we do. I don't know if you've found a better deal than that on earth, but I haven't. He not only provides everything we need, He even takes our mistakes and uses them for our good. You can't beat a deal like that. Verse 29 continues according to this purpose:

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

He desired that those whom He did foreknow, He would predestinate them to be born again. This is not a statement of evolution that you grow into; it is a state of birth that you are born into. They shall be born again or shall be brought by nature of a new birth, into the image or likeness, spiritually of their new Father. Jesus said, "You were of your father the devil. Now you are going to be of your new Father, the Holy Spirit and the Father God by means of the Spirit. He is going to take you and remake you. You are going to look like your new Father, Jesus Christ, so that He can be the first-born of many brethren. You are going to look like Jesus who looks like God."

We are not talking about physical appearance. We do not know whether Jesus wore glasses or whether His hair was curled

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or what color of shoes He wore. We are talking about a spiritual likeness of character that God said He would make you into. The only way for Him to do that is for you to be born again or be conformed into the image, that is reborn and made into a new person so that you can be like your new Father, your heavenly Father. It goes on to say that this is not enough,

Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called:
and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He
justified, them He also glorified. (Romans 8:29)

To be justified means to be just as if you had never sinned. When God looks at you, He no longer sees your sins, He sees the blood of Jesus Christ, and He sees you cleansed and made whole. When the verse says: *He also glorified*, it means that He imparted a portion of His personality or His glory into that life so that when people would look at you, they would see Him. First of all, because you have been made into His image, you have been given a right standing with Him. By virtue of that fact, through fellowship He imparted into you a measure of His glory so that when men look at you they see the glory of God, and they will stand in wonder and want to know that same Savior that you know. Verse 31 continues by asking, "What do we say to these things?"

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us,
who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

If God is the one who foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified, who in the world is going to knock on His door and demand your key? It says very basically, what shall we say to these things? If God did all of these things, who in the world can put an end to it? Nobody. The first part of this verse is aimed at the fact that God the Father did all of these things for you, and therefore because of that, you are eternally secure. You are totally secure. He goes on to prove the point in verse 32.

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us
all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
(Romans 8:32)

In other words, do you think that God, who took the most precious thing in the whole world and sacrificed Him for worthless sinners such as you and me who were lost in sin, would snatch it back and change His mind? No way. It says that He who spared not His only Son but delivered Him up for us all, won't He at the

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same time freely give us everything? Is He going to snatch any of it away? No, it is all ours. The inheritance is all ours. Now it gets down to the crux of the matter in verse 33:

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is
God that justifieth. (Romans 8:33)

This being true, if God is the one who predestined, foreknew, called, justified and glorified and if God is the one who freely gave you everything, who is there in the world anywhere at any time who has a right to lay anything to your charge? Who has the right to come and accuse you in terms of your salvation? The Scripture says that is a joke. You don't have the right. The devil doesn't have the right. Nobody has the right because you did not save yourself. God foreknew, He predestined, He called, He justified and He glorified. God did it, you didn't. God will continue to do it, and no man has the right to come into the presence of God and declare salvation lost that has once been found. But it gets stronger than that in verse 34.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Romans 8:34)

This verse says, who is it that is going to walk into the counsels of God with authority and say, "I demand the soul of this certain person?" Jesus Christ would look down and say, "Wait a minute, he or she is Mine."

Verse 34 asks who is going to do the condemning, Christ? No, He is the one who died. In fact, He is the one who not only died, but has risen again and even right now is at the right hand of God interceding for you. Do you think He is going to turn around and condemn you? Every time a condemnation comes your way, Jesus Christ turns to the Father and says, "Forgive him." The Father says, "Forgiven."

We are forgiven not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to His mercy. Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Father and, as our Intercessor, handles every sin we commit and asks God immediately on the basis of His blood to forgive that sin. Do you think that same Jesus would take off His cloak as an intercessor and stand up there and condemn us? No way. It is Christ who died. It is Christ who rose again. It is Christ who makes intercession. I think the word that begins verse 35 would better be translated "what," because in the next

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four verses we are asked two basic questions. Is there anything that can separate us from eternal security with God? Is there any person who can separate us from that same eternal security? If there is, let's get it out of the way. If there is not, we are dealing with what Paul considers to be mission impossible.

To prove mission impossible, he lists every conceivable thing that the human mind can think of and then throws in a catchall in case he forgot anything. He said, "Let's go through a list of anything in the world that might separate you from the love of God and cause you to lose your relationship with Him. He said, "What could there be? Tribulation? Distress? Persecution? Lack of food? Lack of clothes? Danger? Warfare?"

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Romans 8:35)

"No," he says in verse 36:

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (Romans 8:36)

God has a different idea. All of these things that man says can separate us from God, we've already seen work together for our good. Through all of these things we are more than conquerors.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (Romans 8:37)

The things that the devil would use to separate us become bonding elements. They are epoxy to glue us together with God.

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)

Paul said, "I am persuaded. Not only can no thing, but nobody can separate us: nothing dead, no one dead, no one alive, no angels, no devil or all of his demons, no present problems, no future distresses, nothing and no one in heaven, nothing and no one in hell."

He then puts an exclamation point at the very end as he says, "Nor any other," in case he has forgotten anything, "shall be able or have the ability to separate us from the love of God which is

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in Christ Jesus. Nothing. Neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor height, nor depth nor any other creature can ever under any set of circumstances devised by man or beast, heaven or hell, angels or demons, ever separate you from the love of God which has secured you in Christ Jesus.”

I don't know about you, but that is good news to me. Let's look at the four illustrations for the purpose of helping to understand, visually, the principles involved.

1) When you are born into the family of God, you are born by virtue of birth. You pass from one realm into another. You pass from the realm of eternal death into the realm of eternal life. You have eternal life because, first of all, the Scripture says that God knows, God knocks and God offers as we see in Revelation 3:20. It is all initiated by God. When you pass through that door, there are obviously varying degrees of glory, varying degrees of relationship and fellowship with the Father God through His Son Jesus Christ. We learn this in II Corinthians 3:18. We, seeing in a glass dimly the glory of God, progress from one degree of glory to another. We can become more Christ-like as we become more with Christ day by day.

Because of that fact there will certainly some day be eternal rewards proportionate to the spiritual treasures we have laid up in heaven, those things that have been done in the spirit by the Spirit as we see in I Corinthians 3:10-15. This verse also goes on to say that if you never did anything in the spirit after you were saved and there was nothing whatsoever for you to offer at the feet of Jesus Christ as jewels to worship Him with, you would still be there. It says that you will be saved as though by fire, but you will still be saved.

Remember that the rewards that you are laying up in heaven are not the things you do for God, they are things that the Spirit of God is allowed to do through you. What the Spirit does through your life is being laid up as a treasure in heaven. It is not going to be a judgment seat, but the Bema Seat of Christ is the rewards platform where the children of God gather before the glory of His presence. Bathed in the glory of His presence, they come into His presence and that which has been done in the flesh immediately is consumed because it is sin, and sin cannot rest in the presence of a Holy God. When you come into the presence of the Almighty God and His glory, the sin in your life or those works that you

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bring in that have been done in the flesh are instantly consumed and done away with never to be remembered anymore.

Only that which is left will be those things that the Spirit of God has done in you. They are gold, silver and precious jewels. Those things will be given to you in heaven, not to revel in that which God has even done through you, but these will be the jewels for the crown that you will use to worship the King of Kings. The more that you have allowed the Spirit of God to do in your life, the more with which you will have to worship Him when you reach His throne in heaven. It has nothing to do with whether or not you will get there. It has nothing to do with whether or not you will be happy when you get there. As you enter through that door, it closes behind you.

2) This second illustration is very elementary. It shows two sides of the same wall. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come into him."

So many times we mis-picture that. We don't enter into the kingdom of God because we knocked and God heard, and we come crawling in and say, "Here I am, Lord." He knocked. We heard. We opened. He came in. While you are in the kingdom of God, He is inside of you. He said, "I will never leave you, and I will never forsake you no matter what you do. I'm there for all of eternity."

When you enter into the kingdom by faith, turn around and look behind you and the door is gone for it says, "Whosoever will may come and by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourself it is a gift of God, it is not of works lest any man should boast." The door was a means by which you could enter into the kingdom of God, but when you entered into the door, just as Jesus in His glorified body passed through the wall and entered into the disciples' presence, you can pass through the wall of eternity and enter into the presence of God. But when you turn to look behind you, the door is gone. There is no escape. There is no desire to escape, but there is no escape. You look behind you, and there is nothing but a wall that says, "Eternally secure." There is no doorknob.

3) This illustration describes basically what John 10:29 told us. No man is able to pluck us from the Father's hands. Romans 8:28-31 goes on to tell us the things that can't and the

people that can't. The reason is that you have been made eternally secure in the keep of God. The enemy can strike at you with sword or peril or famine or nakedness or distress or tribulation, death, life, angels and whatever else may be. Nothing is able to penetrate the keep. The reason is that you are in the hand of God, and the hand of God is stronger than all. It is basic.

4) This illustration simply describes the three-fold work of the Trinity in keeping you saved. The Father foreknew. He called. He predestined. He justified. He glorified. Therefore, He will never let you escape. He will never let you be snatched from His presence. The Son died for you as we see in Romans 8:34. He rose again for you in Romans 8:34. He asked the Father in John 17:11 to never let you be lost. In Romans 8:34, He then went into the presence of the Father, and He stays there eternally to handle any complaint or case that ever may be waged against you by the enemy.

Lastly, the Spirit envelops you, brands you and guarantees your delivery for all of eternity. I don't know about you, but it seems to me that the Word of God is very conclusive that salvation is not only real, but it is eternal.

I want to answer one of the many questions that are raised. It is this. Does that mean that we can just live as we want because nothing can ever happen to us? I'm saved by the blood so I can go out, eat, drink and be merry. That is the question that so many people often raise, "If you believe in the security of the believer, how can you then believe in the righteousness and the holiness of the Christian life because you have no motivation to be pure?"

I would answer with a very reverential, "Phooey!"

I think there are two basic motivations in life to obey. You can obey because of fear. You can obey because of love. The motivation to obey because of fear is best seen in situations with children. They obey because of the consequences. They know that when they do a certain thing they will be punished, so they don't do it anymore. Maybe they do it more, but they know they will be punished. But we trust that there will be times in their lives when they develop such a love for their parents that they don't do it because they know it would displease or break the heart of Mommy and Daddy.

I believe there are two motivations for obedience, fear and love. The two can never co-exist. The Scripture says that perfect love casts out fear. There is no element of fear in love. My assumption

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to you is very basically this: it is true that if you are fearful of losing your salvation that there might be a motivation to outward behavior that might favorably affect some of the things you do, but it has not the power or the keeping power of love.

The story might be told of a husband and wife who were happily married. The husband had a fault. His fault was that he had grown up with a heavy foot. He would get in this little car and he just couldn't resist racing everything in sight, from cocker spaniels to Corvettes. Occasionally his wife would casually rebuke him and say, "But dear, you are going to get a ticket."

Basically, because of fear, there were times that he didn't speed if he thought he would get caught. He would look around for radar traps. When he didn't think he was going to be caught and he was home-free he would speed up and off he would go. Fear. He didn't want to get caught, so he obeyed when he thought he might be caught.

One day they were driving along when he just couldn't resist taking a corner on one wheel. When they turned the corner, there was a diesel truck. The story takes more of a sad turn here because they were in a serious accident. His wife was crippled for life. As she lay in her bed sobbing and he stood at her beside, she said, "Dear, promise me you will never speed again." He knew that she may actually lose her life because of what he did.

What is the greater motivation not to speed? I guarantee you that from that day forward when he got in his car and his foot began to accelerate on that pedal, he saw a vision of his wife who maybe would give her life because of his sin. Out of love for her, he was motivated under no circumstances ever to speed. That is motivation.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
(Romans 6:1,2)

Paul said, "Here is the reason we don't continue to sin because the love of Christ constrains us."

Jesus Christ died for you. He rose for you. He lives for you. He intercedes for you. He will keep you and He will keep me regardless of our worth or works for all eternity. When you look into the face of a Savior like that, are you motivated to break His

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heart? That is the motivation of the security of the believer. That is why you and I are called to holiness, not because of what we can do to keep ourselves righteous, but because of what He did to keep us forever.

If you have been born into the family of God and Jesus Christ is resident in your heart in the form of His Holy Spirit, in order for you to be lost or separated from God eternally, one of two things must happen. The first thing would be from the heart of God, your Creator and Savior, He created you, He saved you. All of four things would have to take place.

1) He would have to change His mind because He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you and no man can pluck them out of My hand." If God the Creator, from His end, changes His mind, you could be lost. However, we have a God who does not change.

2) You could be lost if God would nullify His Word. If God would say, "Well, I know I've said it, but I didn't mean it."

3) God would have to disregard His Son. Not only did His Son pay the price so that you and I could never enter into the presence of Satan for all of eternity, His Son sits at His right hand and daily intercedes for you and for me. For God to allow us to be snatched from His presence would mean that He would have to turn a deaf ear to the Lord of glory. He would have to say, "I can't hear you."

4) God would have to take back His gift. The gift He gave you and me was eternal life. He said, "You shall never, ever, ever perish." He would have to say, "Well, I changed My mind. I'm sorry. Give me back My gift."

So in order for the heart of God to initiate the loss of your eternal security, God would have to change His mind, nullify His Word, turn a deaf ear to His Son and take back His the gift that He gave you.

If God won't do any of those things, and from the heart of God it is impossible for Him to allow us to be lost, there is only one other thing that could happen. From the realm of God's creation, there must be someone or something stronger than He. If God said, "I won't let go," the only way for us to be lost is for something stronger or someone stronger than God to grab Him by the wrist, wrestle open His fingers and snatch us from His presence. Someone or something would have to be powerful enough to wrestle us from

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the hand of a God whose Word is immutable, changeless, who by nature is omnipotent, all-powerful, omniscient, all-knowing, omnipresent, in every place at all times and sovereign, in perfect control of all the circumstances of His universe and who by an act of His will has determined that no one or no thing will ever pluck us out of His hand. For you or I to be lost once the blood of Christ has saved us, God must either change His mind, nullify His Word, disregard His Son and snatch back His gift; or someone or something in this universe would have to be stronger than He is. The Scripture says,

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us,
who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Being confident of this very thing that He who hath begun a
good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.
(Philippians 1:6)

For I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that
He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him
against that day. (II Timothy 1:12)

My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no
man can pluck them out of My Father's hand. (John 10:29)

Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy. The God that cares that much for you and for me, that He would pay every price not only to save us but to withstand the onslaughts of the gates of hell itself on our behalf, deserves more than just token allegiance from us. He deserves everything.

Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly “hear” his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It's been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that's a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you “hear” as you read.

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