

Chapter Twenty-Eight

The Eternal Security of the Believer

I have decided to add a chapter outlining my reasons for believing in the eternal security of the believer. My reason to include this chapter is based upon the importance to the believer to have a full assurance of the promises of God for their lives. The good news is that the "good news" is better than we thought!

I do so with full knowledge that there are many others in the body of Messiah who disagree with this teaching. Many of the arguments I have heard from other well-meaning Bible teachers are based on either human logic or the anecdotal approach such as, "I know this guy who ..." and then fill in the blank with some story. This is not how to responsibly build a doctrinal understanding of what the Bible actually teaches.

This important teaching has become corrupted by many who seek to create a "works-righteousness" approach to God whereby a believer is "saved by grace but kept by works". The very idea of a relationship with God based on "performance-based accep-

tance" is severely flawed and flies in the face of literally dozens of Scriptures that teach the exact opposite. The real question is whether the seeker of truth will submit to what the Word of God actually states and be encouraged by it, or will a person accept the "traditions of men" and go down a lesser path riddled with legalism, insecurity and despair.

The Bible is inspired by God (God-Breathed). It is inerrant (without error). It is internally consistent. It manifests an internal harmony. It is a symphony with different movements and melodies but has One Conductor with the recurring theme of the redemption of mankind. The Bible is its own best commentary. Let us read what that Word of God actually says to us as we submit our understanding to His Word as the final authority for our faith.

I would suggest that the reader carefully read each Scripture reference as you answer the questions. May the Holy Spirit guide you and teach you His truth.

- John 6:37-40
 - Is there anyone who comes to Yeshua that will be turned away?
 - Whose will does Yeshua say He came to do?
 - What is the will of the One Who sent Him?

- Does the will of God allow for Yeshua to lose "any" of "all" those given to Him?
- Does the will of the Father include "all" who trust in the Son or only "some" of them?
- What is to happen at the last day?
- John 10:27-30
 - Do Yeshua's "sheep" listen to His voice?
 - Does He recognize them?
 - Do these "sheep" follow Him?
 - What does Yeshua give them?
 - Does Yeshua give them life for 10 or 20 or 30 years or "eternal" life?
 - Does Yeshua teach that these "sheep" can ever be destroyed?
 - Does Yeshua teach that anyone can snatch them from His hands?
 - Does Yeshua teach that anyone can snatch them from the Father's hands?

- 1 John 2:19
 - As an example of true faith manifesting perseverance, what does this text say about people who may have been "attached" to the disciples in some way but did not remain with them?
- Hebrews 7:27
 - How many sacrifices did Messiah offer up to atone for mankind?
 - Was this to be repeated or was it "once for all"?
- Hebrews 9:12
 - Was Messiah's offering into the Holiest Place to be repeated or was it "once for all"?
 - Was the effect of this offering to set people free for a limited time period or was it forever?
- Hebrews 9:15
 - Do those who have been called receive a partial blessing or a time limited reprieve or do they receive the "promised eternal inheritance"?

- Hebrews 9:24-28
 - Did Messiah enter Heaven to offer Himself "over and over again" or was it "once" to do away with sin through the sacrifice of Himself?
 - When He returns will He have to deal with man's sin again?
- Hebrews 10:10-12
 - Who have we been separated for?
 - Have we been made holy?
 - For how long have we been made holy?
 - Did Yeshua have to offer Himself again and again or was it a single sacrifice for sins for all time?
- Hebrews 10:14
 - How many offerings are referenced here?
 - Has this offering brought us to the goal for a limited time frame or for all time?
- Hebrews 10:17-22

- Does God remember our sins and wickednesses?
- If we are forgiven, is an offering for sins still needed?
- Are we to approach the Holiest Place with fear and guilt or with "full assurance" that comes from trusting?
- John 5:24
 - Does the person who hears what Messiah is saying and trusts in God have to worry about their status or can they know that they have eternal life?
 - Should they fear coming up for judgment?
 - Have they already "crossed over from death to life"?
- Acts 16:31
 - If we trust in the Lord Yeshua, can we believe the promise that we "will be saved"?
- 1 Peter 3:18
 - Did the Messiah's death provide only a partial payment on our "sin account" or was His sacrifice "once and for all"?

- 1 John 5:11-13
 - What kind of "life" has God given to us?
 - How long is it?
 - According to these verses, is it truly possible to "know" that we "have" eternal life or is that the "sin of presumption"?
- 1 John 3:14
 - Can we "know" that we "have passed from death to life"?
- Ephesians 1:1-13
 - How many "spiritual blessings" have we been blessed with in Messiah?
 - Were we chosen by Messiah before the creation of the universe?
 - What did Messiah determine in advance regarding our position in Him?
 - What do we have through the shedding of His blood?

- Are our sins forgiven?
- Were we given an inheritance?
- Were we "picked in advance"?
- Were we sealed by Him with the promised Holy Spirit?
- Does this sealing "guarantee our inheritance"?
- John 8:31-36
 - If the Son has freed us, will we really be free?
- Romans 6:3-7
 - Were we buried with Him?
 - Will we be resurrected like Him?
 - Will we have a new life?
 - Have we been cleared from sin?
- Romans 8:1
 - For those in union with Messiah Yeshua, is there any condemnation awaiting us?

- Romans 8:2
 - Have we been free from the law of sin and death?
- 2 Cor 5:17-21
 - Are we a new creation?
 - Are we fresh and new?
 - If Messiah's sin offering was on our behalf, can we fully share in God's righteousness?
- Galatians 2:20
 - Do we share in Messiah's execution and now live by the same trusting faithfulness?
- Colossians 3:3,4
 - Where is our life hidden?
 - When Messiah appears, where will we be?
- 1 Cor 15:21,22
 - What will our connection with Messiah guarantee?
- Hebrews 7:24,25

- Is Messiah totally able to deliver us?
- If He is alive forever, does his intercession for us ever stop?
- Hebrews 13:5
 - Will God ever fail you or abandon you?
- Romans 8:28-39
 - Does God cause everything to work together for our good?
 - Did He know us in advance?
 - What did God determine in advance regarding us?
 - Did God call us?
 - Did God cause us to become righteous?
 - Will He glorify us?
 - If God is for us, who can be against us?
 - Who will bring a charge against His people?
 - Will God bring a charge against His people?

- Will Messiah bring a charge against His people?
- Is there anything that can separate us from the love of Messiah?
- Trouble?
- Hardship?
- Persecution?
- Hunger?
- Poverty?
- Danger?
- War?
- Death?
- Life?
- Angels?
- Other Heavenly rulers?
- That which exists?
- That which is coming?

- Powers above?
- Powers below?
- Any other created thing?

What have we learned from the Word of God regarding the security of the believer?

- It is the will of God
- Believers shall never perish
- True faith manifests itself in perseverance
- The sacrifice of Messiah is sufficient and efficacious
- We may know that we have eternal life
- We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit
- We have passed from death to life and shall never face judgment again
- The believer is free
- The old man of the flesh is put to death
- There is no condemnation

- We have been set free from the law of sin and death
- There is new life in Messiah
- We have become identified with Messiah
- He is able to save believers forever
- Yeshua will never leave us
- Nothing can separate us from Messiah

Now that you have researched for yourself what the Word of God says regarding the security of the believer, take time to reflect and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for His matchless grace and provisions for you. The "Good News" really is better than we thought!