

Will You Persevere Through the End?

1 Peter 1:3-9

"A professing believer who lives a sinful, unrepentant life but has no fear of hell because he thinks he's eternally secure is a person who is deeply delusional." (J. MacArthur, *The Doctrines of Grace*, 209)

The doctrine of perseverance of the faith:

- At the moment of salvation (justification), God gives you a supernatural faith to believe the gospel. It is a gift from God, a gift of grace (Eph 2:8-9) → **we are delivered from the punishment of sin.**
- Our salvation continues with our sanctification → **we are being delivered from the power of sin.**
- Our salvation will be complete in the future with glorification → **we will be delivered from the presence of sin.**

"²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and **I know them**, and they follow me. ²⁸ **I give them eternal life**, and they will never perish, and **no one will snatch them out** of my hand." (Jn 10:27-28)

"³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Pet. 1:3-9)

If you are saved by God, you can be sure that you will endure/persevere through the end, and there are reasons for that.

I. True Salvation Is Initiated by God

"³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **he has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..." (1 Pet. 1:3-4)

A. We are born again only because of God's great mercy

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again..." (1 Pet. 1:3)

B. We are born again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Pet. 1:3)

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." (Ro 3:23-26)

C. We are born again to a living hope and an inheritance: imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven.

"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..." (1 Pet. 1:3-4)

¹³ In him (*in Christ*) you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it..." (Eph 1:13-14)

"[The Holy Spirit] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." (Rom. 8:16)

II. True Salvation Is Guarded by God

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Pe 1:3-5)

A. We are being guarded through faith

"by God's power are **being guarded through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Pet. 1:5)

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory..." (1 Pet. 1:8)

B. We are being guarded to the very end

"by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be **revealed in the last time**." (1 Pet. 1:5)

"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that **will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ**." (1 Pe 1:13)

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**." (Php 1:6)

"I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,
³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord**." (Ro 8:38–39)

*"I could never keep my hold—Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold—He must hold me fast."*

III. True Salvation Is Proved by Our Response to Trials

"In this you rejoice (*or rejoice in your salvation*), though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ **so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Pe 1:6–9)

"Again, we see the unbreakable connection between faith and faithfulness. Those who truly believe will persist in their faith, continuing to trust in God when difficulties occur." (T. Schreiner)

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.
¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, **mindful of God**, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly." (1 Pe 2:18–19)

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when **they see your respectful and pure conduct.**" (1 Pe 3:1–2)

"Honor Christ the Lord as holy, . . . , ¹⁶ . . . , so that, when you are slandered, those who **revile your good behavior in Christ** may be put to shame." (1 Pe 3:15–16)

"If you are **insulted for the name of Christ**, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." 1 Pe 4:14

"let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed..." (1 Pe 4:15–16)

"I have not seen Him [Jesus], but I love him. And even though I don't see Him now, I believe in Him, and I rejoice with joy that is inexpressible." (1 Pe 1:8)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Mt 5:14–16)

"So instead of asking God to remove you from trials, you should ask Him to put you through all the trials necessary to give you the confidence that your faith is real." (J. MacArthur)

«Все, что дает Мне Отец, ко Мне придет; и приходящего ко Мне не изгоню вон, ³⁸ ибо Я сошел с небес не для того, чтобы творить волю Мою, но волю пославшего Меня Отца. ³⁹ Воля же пославшего Меня Отца есть та, чтобы из того, что Он Мне дал, ничего не погубить, но все то воскресить в последний день. ⁴⁰ Воля Пославшего Меня есть та, чтобы всякий, видящий Сына и верующий в Него, имел жизнь вечную; и Я воскрешу его в последний день.» (Ин. 6:37-40)