

**Theology 2**  
**Continuation & Completion of Salvation**  
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*After the miraculous work of salvation, God continues the process of **transforming** the believer into the image of Christ. The means through which He continues and completes our salvation are **sanctification, perseverance, and glorification**.*

**Sanctification**

- Sanctification is the continuing work of God in the life of the believer, **making him or her actually holy** – bearing an actual likeness to Christ.
- Sanctification is understood as **two sides** of the same coin:
  - First, it means being separated and dedicated to a particular purpose.
  - Second, it means moral goodness or spiritual worth – conformed to Christ.
- Characteristics of Sanctification: a supernatural work (1 Thess. 5:23), a progressive matter (Phil. 1:6, 1 Cor. 1:18), a work of the Holy Spirit (see Romans 8), and something that requires the constant attention of the believer (Phil. 2:12-13).
- While complete freedom from and victory over sin are the standard to be aimed at and are theoretically possible, it is **doubtful** whether any believer will attain the goal within this life (Rom. 7:18-19).

**Perseverance**

- Perseverance teaches that those who have come to faith in Christ will **never fall away** but will **persevere** towards God until He rewards them with glory.
- Two Positions of Perseverance
  - Calvinist – if election is certain, then so is perseverance
  - Arminian – if man can enter into a relationship with God by virtue of his choice, so he can discontinue the relationship through the same means as well
- Passages Arminians often point to: Heb. 6:4-6, 10:26-27
- Passages that support traditional perseverance: John 10:27-30, Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30, 2 Cor. 5:5, 1 John 2:19
- By virtue of the biblical evidence, we can safely affirm **the eternal security of the believer** (1 John 5:13).

**Glorification**

- Glorification is **the final act** of our salvation. Truly it is the hope of every believer.
- What it involves:
  - A full and final **vindication** of the believer (Rom. 8:33-34)
  - A moral and spiritual **perfecting** of the individual (Col. 1:22)
  - A **fullness** of knowledge at the resurrection (1 Cor. 13:12)
  - A glorification of **the body** (1 Cor. 15:50-54)
  - A renewal of **the creation** (Rev. 21:1-2)