



Of the Perseverance of the Saints

Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 16

Growing in Christ, Witnessing to the World

The Saints Will Persevere



Chapter 16 of the Confession explains the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints, which is the idea that those who are the Lord's will be His forever. They will persevere until the end by His grace and in His power. It's teaching comforts and encourages us.

Rooted in Grace



They, whom God hath **accepted** in His beloved, effectually **called** and **sanctified** by His Spirit, **can** *neither totally nor finally fall away* from the state of **grace**; but *shall certainly persevere therein to the end*, and be eternally **saved** (WCF 17.1)

It's Guaranteed



This perseverance of the saints depends, not upon thier own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the fre unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ; the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them...

It's Guaranteed



...and the nature of the covenant of grace; from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof (WCF 17.2).

Guranteed by Grace



- Perseverance depends upon the immutability of the decree of election, which flows from the unchangeable love of God the Father.
- Perseverance depends upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ.

Guaranteed by Grace



- Perseverance depends upon the abiding of the Spirit and the seed of God within them.
- Perseverance relies on the nature of the covenant of grace.
- It's a sure and infallible truth because it's rooted in God's grace and confirmed by His Word.

But...



...they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their perseverance, fall into grievous sins; and for a time continue therein...

Not Always Observed



- Those who are Christ's can fall into sin and, for a time, continue in them.
 - They succumb to the temptations of Satan and the world.
 - They allow the remaining corruption in them to rule.
 - They neglect the means of grace

But...



...whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve His Holy Spirit; come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts; have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves (WCF 17.3).

Real Consequences



- Their sin has substantial but not eternal consequences.
 - Incur God's displeasure
 - Grieve the Holy Spirit
 - Deprive them of some measure of their graces and comforts

Real Consequences



- Their sin has substantial but not eternal consequences.
 - Harden their hearts
 - Wound their consciences
 - Hurt and scandalize others
 - Bring temporary judgments on themselves

But God is Good



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 (Phil 1:6, ESV).

Perseverance Means



- Be encouraged.
- Be Patient.
- Be Prayerful.
- Be Intentional.
- Be Confident