



CHRISTIANITY Q&A

"What Do We Mean by Eternal Security?" John 10:27-30; Hebrews 6:4-6

No. 5076

Stuart Briscoe

"Eternal security" is not a biblical term, neither is "once saved always saved," but both are used quite commonly among Christians. They relate to the question as to whether Christians will always remain true to the Lord as long as they live or whether some may fall away.

I. The Assurance Factor.

- A. Some biblical statements.
 1. **Our inheritance is guarded by God's power.** 1 Peter 3-5
 2. **Nothing can shake us free from God's love.** Romans 8:31-39
 3. God will complete what He started. Philippians 1:6
 4. Christ continues to intercede for His people. Hebrews 7:25
 5. God faithfully provides grace for all eventualities. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 6. **Christ's promises cannot fail.** John 10:27-30
- B. Some theological inferences: **Calvinism's TULIP.**
 1. Total depravity.
 2. Unconditional predestination.
 3. Limited atonement.
 4. Irresistible grace.
 5. Perseverance.
- C. Some logical conclusions.
 1. Positive conclusions.
 - a. **God's sovereignty presides over all.**
 - b. **God's grace** is sufficient.
 - c. **God's people are secure** in Him.
 2. Negative conclusions.
 - a. What about human choice and responsibility?
 - b. The possibility of lax behavior.
 - c. The possibility of laziness in service.

II. The Warning Factor.

- A. Some biblical statements.
 1. Christ warned about being led astray. Matthew 24:3-14
 2. Christians are to continue in the faith. Colossians 1:21-23
 3. Those who stand may fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12
 4. The danger of drifting away from the truth. Hebrews 2:1; 3:12-14
 5. The possibility of committing apostasy. Hebrews 6:4-6
 6. Some examples: Saul, Judas, Demas, Ananias and Sapphira, Hymenaeus, and Alexander.
- B. Some theological inferences: **Arminianism's position.**
 1. God is not willing that any should perish.
 2. The appeal to believe presupposes human ability.
 3. If humans can believe, they can stop believing.
- C. Some logical conclusions.
 1. Positive conclusions.
 - a. Emphasizes human responsibility.
 - b. Stimulates to diligent living.
 - c. Encourages active service.
 2. Negative conclusions.
 - a. Produces uncertainty.
 - b. Limits sovereignty.

III. The Practical Factors.

- A. The balance factor.
 1. Divine sovereignty.
 2. Human responsibility.
- B. The burden factor.
 1. Those who respond and disappear.
 2. **Those who believe but don't behave.**
- C. The behavior factor.
 1. The careless and the indifferent.
 2. The paranoid and the afraid.