

Our Doctrine (TULIP)

Part 5: Perseverance of the
Saints



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T.U.L.I.P. – Doctrines of Grace



- **T**otal Depravity (*Human nature is totally corrupted by sin*)
- **U**nconditional Election (*The Father sovereignly elects some for salvation*)
- **L**imited Atonement (*The Son atones for the sins of His people*)
- **I**rresistible Grace (*The Holy Spirit gives life and faith to His people*)
- **P**erseverance of the Saints (*God eternally secures His people*)

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Perseverance of the Saints

A point of clarification.....

1. Do you have a sure hope that you belong to God, forever?
2. Do you have a sure hope that you belong to God, now?

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 17: Perseverance of the Saints – **the certainty of our salvation**

Chapter 18: Assurance of Grace and Salvation – **what we ourselves can know about our own salvation**

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Perseverance of the Saints

Also known as.....

- 1) Eternal security
- 2) Security of the believer
- 3) Persevering grace
- 4) Preservation of the saints
- 5) No lost causes
- 6) Traditional Reformed View -
Perseverance of the Saints

Sometimes misused & misunderstood

- Once saved, always saved
- Eternal salvation

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Perseverance of the Saints

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 17



1. As Saints, our eternal security is preserved by God's grace.
2. As Saints, we persevere in faith to the end because He has immutably decreed that we are His.
3. We know that His Saints may fall (sometimes for a season), even seriously and radically, suffering the consequences of their sins, but will never fall totally and finally.

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Perseverance of the Saints

Two Categories of Verses



1. Verses that indicate God preserves the Saints for eternal glorification.
2. Verses that indicate His Saints will persevere in their faith till the end.

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Saints are Preserved by God



Psalm 37:28 For the Lord loves justice; He will not forsake his saints.

They are preserved forever,...

Phil 1:6 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.

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Saints are Preserved by God



Eph 1:13-14 In him 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

1 Peter 1:5 ... by God's power [we] are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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Saints will Persevere in their faith, strive for holiness



Matt 24:12-13 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Col 1:23 ... he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard.

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Saints will Persevere in their faith, strive for holiness



2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Rev 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints [those] who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (NASB)

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Perseverance of the Saints Bringing it together



Those whom God has 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 in it to the end and be eternally saved.

← God Preserves the Saints

← Saints, (by God's power), will Persevere in their faith, strive for holiness

WCF 17.1

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Perseverance of the Saints A Word Picture....



Two Sides of the Same Coin **Perseverance of the Saints**

Preservation
God Preserves the Saints – Security of the Believer



Perseverance
His Saints will Persevere in faith, striving for holiness

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How Do Saints Persevere?



Means of Grace

- **Corporate Worship & Preaching of God's Word** (Isa 55:1-11; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:2; Heb 10:25; Eph 5:19)
- **Prayer** (Eph 6:18 1 Tim 2:1,8)
- **Participation in the Sacraments** (Matt 28:19-20; Matt 26: 26-28; 1 Cor 10:16 ; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
- **Meditation on Scripture** (Psa 1:2; Col 3:16)
- **Joining a local church** (Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 12:12, 5:2)
- **Exhortation and encouragement of other believers** (Heb 3:12-13)

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Perseverance of the Saints



Romans 8:35-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

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Perseverance of the Saints



John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

“Once a sheep, always a sheep” - Sam Storms

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What about those who turn their back on the faith?



1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Mark 7:6 This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

Matt 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

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Who is Missing in the Church Pew Next to You?



1. Those that may have characteristics of a true Christian but aren't.
2. Those that are truly born-again Saints who fall away from the faith they professed at one time to have.

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Who is Missing in the Church Pew Next to You?



1. **Those that may have characteristics of a true Christian but aren't.**
 - "Know" they saved because they repeat a certain prayer, walk the church aisle, joined a church, be baptized, etc.
 - Many believe (*falsely*) that they can live anyway they want and still expect to get into heaven.

Reason:

- They fail to see that eternal security involves more than just being preserved by God, it must include a persevering faith – striving for Holiness.

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Who is Missing in the Church Pew Next to You?



2. What about those truly born-again Saints that fall away from the faith they professed at one time to have?

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When Saints fall.....



David

- Described in the Bible as “A Man After God’s Own Heart “; had the Spirit of God in him; he had a profound and passionate love for the things of God.
- He fell. He was involved in adultery, conspiracy to commit murder.
- He embraced his sin more fully, more deliberately.
- But the consequences of David’s sin were immense (2 Sam 12-18).
- David **fell for a period of time**. He repented and was restored.

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When Saints fall.....



Judas

- Called by Jesus to be a disciple
- Walked with and listened to Jesus for 3 years
- Watched Jesus perform miracles
- Jesus predicted Judas would betray Christ

Peter

- Called by Jesus to be a disciple
- Walked with and listened to Jesus for 3 years
- Watched Jesus perform miracles
- Jesus predicted Peter would betray Christ

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When Saints fall.....



Judas

- Jesus did not pray for his restoration.
- **John 13:27** Then after he [Judas] had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."
- Betrayed Christ then committed suicide.
- Judas did not lose the Holy Spirit; he never had the Holy Spirit.

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When Saints fall.....



Peter

- Jesus prayed for his restoration before his fall.
- **Luke 22:31-32** Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.
- Betrayed/Denied Christ, **fell for a time**, repented, and was restored.

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Summary



- As Saints, our eternal security and our ability to persevere rests 100% in the arms of God.
- The means that God has appointed for our spiritual nourishment and growth to persevere are the Means of Grace (The Word – Preaching & Mediation, Prayer, Sacraments, Corporate Worship, part of the local church).
- When Saints fall, it is for a season, and they will experience the consequence of sin, but their fall is never total and final.
- The road back starts with repentance.

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What is Our Hope in the Perseverance of the Saints?



1. What about the believer?

1 Peter 1:3-7 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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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.

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What is Our Hope in the Perseverance of the Saints?



2. What about those struggling with sin?

Rom 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Rom 8: 38-39 “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.”

Jerem 31:33-34 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

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What is Our Hope in the Perseverance of the Saints?



3. What about the parents of prodigals?

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

If they are truly saints, God is working in their lives (working, watching, guiding, interceding, and praying) and He will never lose them.

Sometimes it is not in our time, Sometimes it is a lifetime.

Continue in fervent prayer – pray for repentance, pray they will repent of sins while they are still thoughts, before becoming actions. Pray they will grasp the Means of Grace in their path back to restoration.

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What is Our Hope in the Perseverance of the Saints?



4. What about those loved ones that suffer under debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's?

Phil 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Isa 46:4 even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

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What is Our Hope in the Perseverance of the Saints?



5. What about the saints that are at deaths doorstep?

Phil 1:6 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.

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?..... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

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He Will Hold Me Fast



Those He saves are His delight
 Christ will hold me fast
 Precious in His holy sight
 He will hold me fast
 He'll not let my soul be lost
 His promises shall last
 Bought by Him at such a cost
 He will hold me fast

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