

understanding the  
**doctrines of grace**



June 4, 2025



- T total depravity
- U unconditional election
- L limited atonement
- I irresistible grace
- P perseverance of the saved

# Perseverance of the Saints: Definition

Also known as:

- “The Security of the Believer”
- “Once Saved, Always Saved”
- “Preservation of the Saints”

The true child of God can never fall from grace (i.e., cannot lose or walk away from their eternal salvation).

That is, those who become true Christians **cannot** totally fall away and be lost; that while they may fall into sin **temporarily**, they will eventually return.

## Perseverance of the Saints: Definition

Nothing can separate the true believer from the eternal and unchangeable love of God. They have been predestined to eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven.

All those who are spiritually united to Christ through regeneration are eternally secure in Him. If we truly grasp the **nature of the change** which occurs in regeneration, we see that it's a sufficient guarantee that the life imparted shall be permanent (eternal).

# Perseverance of the Saints: Regeneration

Regeneration is a radical and supernatural change of the inner nature, through which the soul is made **spiritually alive**. And this renewed, regenerated life (nature) brings with it:

- A renewed desire, so that one's affections are warm toward God
- A renewed direction in life, so that one's goal in life is to honor the God who saved him
- A renewed power that enables one to overcome the temptation of sin and live to please God

## Perseverance of the Saints: Regeneration

The changing (i.e., renewal) of one's **inner nature** is in a sphere in which man does not have control. No creature is at liberty to change the fundamental principles of its nature, for that is the prerogative of God the Creator.

**Therefore, nothing short of another supernatural act of God could reverse this change and cause the new life to be lost!**

The idea that a Christian may fall away from grace and perish arises from a wrong conception of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.

## Perseverance of the Saints: Key Verses

John 6:35-40 (ESV)

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

## Perseverance of the Saints: Key Verses

John 10:27-30 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.



# Perseverance of the Saints: Key Verses

Romans 8:1 (ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:29-30 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

# Perseverance of the Saints: Key Verses

Romans 8:35-39 (ESV)

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

<sup>36</sup>As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>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.

# Perseverance of the Saints: Apply to all “Christians”?

## IV. Does this doctrine apply to all “Christians”?

The doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints does not maintain that all who confess the Christian faith are certain of heaven. It is saints – those who are set apart by the Spirit – who persevere to the end. It is believers – those who are given true, living faith in Christ – who are secure and safe in Him.

Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall away from grace, for they were never in grace.

True believers do fall into temptation, and they do commit grievous sins, but these sins do not cause them to lose their salvation or separate them from Christ.

## Perseverance of the Saints: Apply to all “Christians”?

We live in a day when multitudes confess the name of “Christian” but who are destitute of Christian knowledge, experience, and character. (Matthew 7:21-23 reflects a sobering truth.)

*We live in a day when, in many quarters, the distinction between the Church and the world has been wiped out.*

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

# Perseverance of the Saints: Battling Sin

V. How do we think biblically about others (and ourselves) who are true believers but seem to always be battling sin?

The doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints does not mean that Christians do not temporarily fall the victims of sin. While even the best men backslide temporarily, they are never completely defeated. For God, by the exercise of His grace on their hearts, prevents even the weakest saint (i.e., true believer) from final apostasy.

Read Romans 7:19-25. Do these words reflect your own experience? What is the answer to the question that Paul poses in v. 24?

# Perseverance of the Saints: Battling Sin

As long as a believer remains in this world, his state is one of warfare.

- Spiritual conflict between the Holy Spirit and the sinful nature. (Galatians 5:16-17)
- The passions of the flesh are described as waging war against the believer's soul. (1 Peter 2:11)
- Encourages believers to persevere in their fight against sin with endurance and determination. (Hebrews 12:1-4)
- A call to actively put to death sinful desires and behaviors. (Colossians 3:5)
- The Christian life is portrayed as a battle, implying effort, resistance, and endurance. (1 Timothy 6:12)

## Perseverance of the Saints: Battling Sin

*The Christian is like a man making his way up hill, who occasionally slips back, yet always has his face set toward the summit. The unregenerate man has his face turned downwards, and he is slipping all the way.*

– A.H. Strong

*The believer, like a man on shipboard, may fall again and again on the deck, but he will never fall overboard.*

– C.H. Spurgeon



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