

What does it mean to be saved?

"Salvation is from the LORD" ([Jonah 2:9](#)). It is both negative and positive ([Colossians 1:13](#)), for we are saved from a lost condition (our sins are forgiven), and we are brought into a saved condition that provides the believer with several dozen positive blessings the moment we trust Christ.

These blessings are very comprehensive, for our "salvation includes every divine undertaking for the believer from his deliverance out of the lost estate to his final presentation in glory conformed to the image of Christ." [2] Paul declares that God has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ ([Ephesians 1:3](#)).

Some of the principal blessings of salvation include:

Regeneration, which is an instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit in originating a new nature in the believing sinner so as to transform the believer from a state of spiritual death to spiritual life (cf. [John 3:5](#), [10:10,28](#); [1 John 5:11-12](#))

Justification, by which God declares the believer righteous since clothed in the righteousness of Christ ([Romans 3:21-26](#))

Freed from the domain and dominion of sin ([Romans 6:2-14](#))

Given as a gift from the Father to the Son ([John 17:2-24](#))

Placed as a member in the spiritual body of Christ, the church ([1 Corinthians 12:13](#))

and many, many more positive acts of God that would have to be reversed if a saved person could ever again be lost.

Can a saved person ever again be lost?

Can a Christian lose his salvation? Can a person once saved, having received God's free gift of eternal life and having been born into the family of God, again return exactly and completely to the position of being a lost and guilty sinner in the eyes of God? Of course not! The very nature of the spiritual life that has been received - eternal - and the Divine Source and Agent of that life - God - forbid drawing the conclusion that a saved person can ever again be lost.

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

-[John 10:28](#) (NKJV)

This Biblical doctrine that a person who has received Jesus Christ, been born into the family of God, and justified by faith, can never again be lost is sometimes

called **eternal security**. Others speak of it as *the perseverance of the saints*. The latter expression might better be termed *the perseverance of God in behalf of the saints*, because the security of our salvation does not rest on us but on God - it is based on the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

What is the work of the Father in securing eternally our salvation?

The eternal security of believers rests on the Father's purpose in choosing us to salvation in eternity past and predestinating us to sonship in Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:4-5**).

Further, God's power is promised to keep us secure in salvation (**Romans 8:28-30**), for the ones that the Father foreknew, predestined, called (effectually to salvation, cf. **1 Corinthians 1:21-24**), and justified are the very same ones he "glorified". (Paul uses the past tense since in God's sight it is "good as done" that we will one day be conformed to the image of Christ in heaven).

Further, Jesus Christ guaranteed that we are secure in His and the Father's hand, and so He will keep safe each one who has received the gift of eternal life (**John 10:28-29**).

What is the work of the Son in securing eternally our salvation?

Our security further rests on the death and the prayers of Jesus Christ. He has redeemed us (**Ephesians 1:7**) and removed the wrath of God from us (**Romans 3:25**) so that we may be justified (**Romans 5:1**), forgiven (**Colossians 2:13**), and sanctified (**1 Corinthians 1:2**).

Further, "Christ's present ministry in heaven of praying for His own consists of two aspects: a preventive ministry (intercession) and a curative ministry (advocacy). His prayer in [John] **chapter 17** illustrates the preventive aspect. There He prayed that we might be kept from the evil one (v. 15), that we would be sanctified (v. 17), that we would be united (v. 21), that we would be in heaven with Him (v. 24), and that we might behold His glory (v. 24). Because of His unceasing intercession for us He is able to save us completely and eternally (**Hebrews 7:25**)". [3]

-Charles Ryrie

The "curative" aspect of Christ's present ministry is indicated in **1 John 2:1**. When we do sin as believers, He acts as our **Advocate** before the Father, forgiveness and cleansing of all our sins.

What is the work of the Holy Spirit in securing eternally our salvation?

By the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, we have received eternal life (**Titus 3:5**). When we trusted Christ, the Holy Spirit began an eternal indwelling ministry

in us ([John 14:17](#)). Also He was the seal placed on us by the Father to guarantee our future inheritance ([Ephesians 4:30](#)). And He baptized us into union with Christ and into the body of believers ([1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).