

GOD'S GRACE KEEPS

Romans 5:2; 1 Peter 5:12

Introduction: The only basis for our hope is continued grace, it must keep on saving. We cannot maintain a right standing with God anymore than we can attain a right standing in the first place.

"Salvation" grace comes before "keeping" grace, they are not two separate operations of grace. God offers nothing temporary. God's grace meets the sinner's every need forever. Many accept God's saving grace but ignore or reject God's keeping grace. For them God saves for a moment but the continuance of salvation is by the works of man.

Thankfully, man is saved in spite of some of his thought up doctrines.

I. GOD'S KEEPING POWER IS INCLUDED IN HIS GRACE FOR SALVATION

1. If God has found a way whereby He can save a sinner for a moment, then by continuing that process then God can therefore keep that sinner saved forever.
2. A greater test of faith is seen by the believer continuing to trust God for daily salvation than the initial act of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
3. The principles of Grace:
 - The cross disposes of the sins (condemnation) of all mankind.
 - Are the sins of the believer after belief in Jesus Christ also disposed of by the cross?
- *1 John 1:7; 2:11*)
 - Is not sin, sin? Whether committed by the unsaved or saved? Doesn't Christ's blood cover ALL sin?
 - Are the believer's sins excluded from Christ's cross?
 - Does God not deal with a believer's sins until after committed or has Christ taken care of every sin at the cross?
 - Christ has already borne the condemnation of sin, both of the unsaved and the saved.
 - Condemnation, therefore, comes to those NOT believing in Jesus Christ. (*John 3:18*)
 - The believer stands before God uncondemned.
 - Christ's cross is the foundation of eternal security.
 - God safeguards the believers by chastening them.
 - So does sin unsave a Christian? If yes, then a believer is at any moment sinless and perfect OR he/she is lost.
 - God's Word states that Christians do sin. God's Word also states that Christians are not condemned. Human experience shows that Christians sin, yet remain saved.
 - Christians are now standing uncondemned before God, but not by their own goodness.
 - Christians are kept by the power of God.
 - Sin doesn't overcome Christ's blood, it is Christ's blood that overcomes sin.
 - Grace is given to believers for eternity because God is free to do so.
 - Human obligation is disposed of.
 - Do believers pay for salvation and thus force God to keep them saved?
 - Who has placed an attainable price upon grace?
 - "Keeping" grace is not on an exchange program.

- Human merit is disposed of.
 - God has declared all mankind under sin, no exceptions.
 - Salvation is based on God's goodness, NEVER on the worthiness of man.
 - All that God's love moves Him to do, He is free to do because of the Cross.

II. GOD'S KEEPING POWER IS IMPLIED IN EVERY REVELATION

1. The Cross has freed God to act.
2. God's supreme purpose for man is to save, transform and glorify HIM (God), from Creation.
3. God's promises are not limited to the moment one becomes a believer, but from that first step of belief to the last moment of the believer's life.
4. Grace encompasses time and all human conditions of them believing.

III. GRACE CANNOT FAIL BECAUSE GOD HAS ANTICIPATED AND PROVIDED FOR EVERY POSSIBLE CONDITION

1. God is all powerful, able, omnipotent.
2. Love is God's motive. God loves the unsaved, so how much more for the believer? Believers were once enemies to God, now they have become justified and reconciled, His Children.
3. Jesus Christ prays for the saved. *John 17:9-12; 15, 20; Hebrews 7:25*
 - How secure can a believer be when he/she is the object of Christ's ceaseless intercession?
4. The substitutional death of Jesus Christ.
 - Christ's death removed sin's condemnation. *"...Who is he that condemneth...?"*
 - God's eternal purpose for man is assured by way of the cross.
5. The resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - God gives new life and states that believers will never perish. *John 3:36; 10:10, 28*
 - God anticipated every failure and sin. God doesn't blindly offer grace.
 - Every believer partakes in the resurrected life of Jesus Christ.
6. The present advocacy of the Son of God.
 - Jesus Christ is appearing as the believer's advocate, not making excuses for our sins, nor asking for mercy, but is presenting HIS own blood.
 - Satan accuses the believer daily. Christ is there to remind of His blood.
7. The intercession of Jesus Christ.
 - Christ guards the believer from Satan.
 - Lack of knowledge by the believer doesn't restrict or limit Christ's protection. *Luke 22:31-32*
 - Christ continuously acts on the believer's behalf as shepherd, intercessor and High Priest. *Hebrews 7:23-25*

8. The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.
 - By the work of the Holy Spirit the believer is made a legitimate heir of God through the re-birth into God's nature.
 - The new nature is never said to be removed for any cause.

9. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit comes to the believer upon Christ's request.
 - The Holy Spirit can be grieved, quenched, but not removed or driven away.

10. The baptism with the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:13**
 - It unites the believer with Christ (head/body; vine/branch)
 - Believers become a part of all that Christ is, has done and will do.
 - God declares, imputes, the believer to have Christ's righteousness.
 - The Cross removes sin, Christ's blood covers man's imperfections and God sees the believer as a part of His family and accepts him/her.
 - God sees the believer a part of Jesus Christ.

11. The sealing with the Holy Spirit. **2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30**
 - God seals the believer's condition for His divine purpose (has begun a good work).

12. The new covenant.
 - There are two kinds of covenants in God's Word: Conditional and unconditional.
 - The laws of Moses are conditional - You do...and I will do...
 - God's declarations are unconditional as the Abrahamic covenant.
 - Abraham's faith started it but God's faithfulness carried out the covenant.
 - Belief in Jesus Christ starts the covenant between the believer and God but God's faithfulness carries out the covenant.
 - God's promises are not made upon nor depend upon man's faithfulness.

CONCLUSION:

1. Salvation by Grace is God rescuing sinners from their lowest standing and transforming, preserving and presenting those sinners in the highest eternal glory.
2. Divine grace is God's ALL. The last degree of God's love.
3. People are saved and kept by Grace through simple faith in Jesus Christ, alone.
4. Should God fail by the slightest degree, should there even be a single soul saved then lost, ALL IS LOST.