

“GOD CAN!” (Part 3)

“... Secure the Saved”

INTRO: David writes in Psa. 62:11, “. . . power belongs to God.” That means He Can! What happens when the God who can meets those (all) who cannot? Does His unlimited power intersect at points of human need? YES! God can save the lost (2 Pet. 3:9; Lk. 19:10; Eph. 2:8-9). Totally the work of God’s grace. But once received, how secure is our salvation? Larry McGuill writes, “It is the rightful heritage of every believer, even the newest in the family of faith, to be absolutely certain that eternal life is his present possession.”

TODAY – God Can Secure the Saved. It is one thing that He can save us. But is that secure? Is our salvation once received secure? Two verses: Jude 24; 2 Tim. 1:12. Many believers lack assurance of their salvation (60-65%). This is a common conversation for me. Can God secure us? Let’s look at it.

I. THE STRUGGLE FOR SECURITY

EE Question: “Have you come to the place in your spiritual life that if you died today you know you’d go to heaven?” God wants us to know (1 Jn. 5:11-13) – Our birthright.

- A. Doubt is one of Satan’s best weapons (Eph. 6:17 – helmet of salvation). When we struggle for security of our salvation, we lose so much: confidence, strength, freedom, joy, assurance in prayer, desire to serve, hope in death, etc.
- B. We struggle to enjoy security of salvation for many reasons.
 - 1. Self-deceived about their salvation (Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Cor. 13:5).
 - 2. Persistent disobedience (2 Pet. 1:9-11; 1 Jn. 3:6, 9).
 - 3. Unsound doctrine - Can’t have assurance (Matt. 24:5).
 - 4. Satan’s attack (Eph. 6:17).
 - 5. Self-condemnation (1 Jn. 3:19-24).

II. THE SOURCES OF SECURITY

- A. Definition of “eternal life.” How long is eternal? Jn. 3:16; 17:3; Rom. 6:23.
- B. Understanding of salvation – Past (justification – have been saved), present (sanctification – am being saved), and future (glorification – will be saved) tenses (Rom. 5:1-2). No part-time salvation in the Bible. Saved and kept by His grace (Rom. 5:1-2; Phil. 1:6).

- C. Character and Nature of God – He said He was able to secure us. He cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). He is faithful (Phil. 1:6). He is able (2 Tim. 1:12; Jude 24). Our security doesn’t rest on our ability to hold on, but on God’s willingness to keep His promise.
- D. Finished work of Christ (Heb. 7:25; 10:12-14). Jesus didn’t say, “It’s *almost* finished.”
- E. Sealing work of The Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14-16; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30). He is a Person. We have all of Him or none of Him. Indwelling Spirit is God’s guarantee and down payment.
- F. General teaching of Scripture, esp. Jesus’ very words (Jn. 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:37-40, 47; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:33, 38-39; 1 Thess. 5:8-10; Peter (1 Pet. 1:3-5); 1 Jn. 5:11-13; Jude 1, 24).
- G. Greater to Lesser Argument (Rom. 5:6-10).
 - 1. Is it harder for God to save us while we were powerless, ungodly, sinners and enemies or to keep us saved once we become His children?
 - 2. If a dying Savior can save us, can not a living Savior keep us? Which is harder?
 - 3. If we didn’t do anything to earn or deserve our salvation, then what could we do to lose it once we have it?

CONC: Remember assurance conversation? I ask, “How feel when you sin?” bothered? Work of God’s Spirit. The next best thing to having salvation is being secure it is forever. John MacArthur writes, “Without question, the most comforting, most assuring, most confidence-building and most joy-producing of all Christian truths is that our salvation is forever.” God can secure the saved! Repeat Eph. 3:20. . . “God CAN” (3x).