

*Our subject is The Doctrine of Perseverance.* It's a truth that has been opposed through all the ages. Actually, it's the most opposed of all of the doctrines. Perhaps because it's been so misrepresented. Our goal is to see what scripture says about this and gain a clear understanding.

**Our scripture is**

**John 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

*In this study We will look at:-*

1. *what the doctrine of perseverance means.*
2. *the Scriptural foundations on which the doctrine is built.*
3. *We will see some of the reasons why many reject the doctrine.*
4. *We will mention some reasons why the doctrine is of great practical importance.*

*what I mean by the doctrine of perseverance*

We need to clearly what is meant by the doctrine of Perseverance. What it is and what it is not. Many question this simply because they have a wrong understanding - as in all discussions of disputed points in theology, **it is impossible to be too accurate in defining terms.** So much of the abuse which has sadly been poured on perseverance, has arisen from a complete misunderstanding of the doctrine in question.

**When We speak of the doctrine of perseverance,** we mean this. I say that the Bible teaches that true believers, real genuine Christians, shall persevere in their religion to the end of their lives. They shall never perish. They shall never be lost. They shall never be cast away. **Once in Christ,** they shall always be in Christ. **Once made children of God** by adoption and grace, they shall never cease to be His children and become children of the devil. **Once endued with the grace of the Spirit,** that grace shall never be taken from them. **Once pardoned and forgiven,** they shall never be deprived of their pardon. **Once joined to Christ by living faith,** their

union shall never be broken off. **Once called by God into the narrow way that leads to life**, they shall never be allowed to fall into hell. In a word, every man, woman, and child on earth that receives saving grace, shall sooner or later receive eternal glory. Every soul that is once justified and washed in Christ's blood, shall at length be found safe at Christ's right hand in the day of judgment.

Such statements as this sound tremendously strong. And are argued much **But I am not going to leave the subject here**: I desire to clear the doctrine I am defending from the cloud of misrepresentation by which many darken it. **I want men to see it clearly and in truth**—not as it is portrayed by the hand of ignorance and prejudice, but as it is set forth in the Scripture of truth.

(a) **Perseverance is a doctrine with which the ungodly and worldly have nothing to do**. It does not belong to that vast multitude who have neither knowledge, nor thought, nor faith, nor fear, **nor anything else of Christianity** except the name. **It is not true of them**, that they will “never perish.” On the contrary, unless they repent, they will come to a miserable end.

**Perseverance is a privilege only for real, true spiritual Christians.**

- It belongs to the sheep of Christ who hear His voice and follow Him. John 10:27
- It belongs to those who are “washed, and justified, and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God.” (1 Cor. 6:11.)
- It belongs to those who **repent, and believe in Christ**, and **live holy lives**. It belongs to those who **have been born again**, and converted, and made **new creatures** by the Holy Ghost.
- It belongs to those **who are of a broken and contrite heart**, and mind the things of the Spirit, and **bring forth the fruit of the Spirit**. It belongs to “**the elect of God**, who cry (from the verb to shout for help) to Him night and day.” (Luke 18:7.)
- It belongs to those **who know the Lord Jesus by experience**, and have faith, and hope, and charity. It belongs to those **who are the fruit-bearing branches of the vine,—the wise virgins,—the light of the world,—the salt of the earth,—the heirs of the kingdom,—the followers of the Lamb.**

- These are the ones the Bible calls “**the saints.**” And it is the saints and the saints alone of whom it is written, that they shall “never perish.”†

Don't think that this doctrine applies only to distinguished saints or spiritual giants- like the apostles of the bible , or the prophets of old, or the martyrs who died for Christ Jesus. If you think that - Know you are very mistaken. **This privilege of perseverance belongs to the whole family of God,**—to the youngest as well as the oldest,—to the weakest as well as the strongest,—to the babes in grace as well as to the oldest and strongest pillars of the Church. The least faith shall as certainly continue indestructible as the greatest. Your faith may be very feeble, your grace may be very weak, **our strength may be very small, you may feel that in spiritual things you are just a little child.**

You may doubt the reality of your own conversion. **Yet fear not, neither be afraid.** It is not dependent on the **quantity of a man's grace,** but on the truth and **genuineness of Gods promise.**

He has Chosen us **as mentioned in the LBC 1689** *It is on no free will of their own that the saints' perseverance depends, but on the immutability (the fact that its fixed) of the decree of election, which in its turn depends upon the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, the effective excellence and intercession of Jesus Christ and the saints' union with Him, the oath of God, the abiding character of the Spirit's indwelling of the saints, the divine nature of which they are partakers and, lastly, the terms of the covenant of grace. All these factors guarantee the certainty and infallibility of the saints' perseverance.* Jer 32:40; Jhn 14:19; Rom 5:9-10; Rom 8:30; Rom 9:11; Rom 9:16; Heb 6:17-18; 1Jn 3:9.

**There are some things to be said about perseverance, to which we must give special attention.** The mention of them may clear up some of the difficulties about the subject, and throw light on some points of Christian experience, which God's children find hard to understand.

- (a) Remember, then, that when I say believers shall persevere to the end, It ***do not for a moment say that they shall never fall into sin.*** They may fall sadly, and shamefully, and cause great scandal of true Christianity, to the injury of their families, to their own deep and bitter sorrow.

**Peter denied his Lord** three times with an oath. **The apostles all forsook Christ in the garden.** Paul and Barnabas had such a “sharp contention” that they parted

company. They are all sad proofs that Christians can fall. **But believers shall never fall *totally, finally, and completely*.** They shall always **rise again from their falls by repentance and renew their walk** with God. Though greatly humbled and cast down, they never entirely lose their grace. The *comfort* of it they may lose, but not the *being*. Like the trees in winter, they may show neither leaves nor fruit for a time; but the life is still in their roots. They may be overtaken by a fault, and carried away by temptation. But they never perish.

B Remember, for another thing, that when I say believers shall persevere to the end, **I do not mean that they shall have no doubts and fears about their own safety.** This is so far from being the case, the holiest men of God are sometimes deeply troubled by anxieties about their own spiritual condition. **They see so much weakness in their own hearts**, and find their behavior comes so short of their desires, that they are strongly tempted to doubt the truth of their own salvation, and to think that they are but hypocrites, and shall never reach heaven at all. **To be safe is one thing:** we are safe for one reason- because of all the Lord has promised. **He would cleanse us and forgive us and wash our sins away. He promises - He will not discard a bruised reed.** It is not dependent upon how you feel. Its dependent upon His faithfulness, His promises, what He has done for us.

The full assurance of hope is not necessary to salvation. The absence of hope is no argument against a man's perseverance to the end.

C. **Remember, in the last place, that the certain perseverance of believers *does not free them from the necessity-* of watching, praying, - *From Bible reading, from fellowship with other believers.***

**It is only the believer, only the one truly born again that will persevere to the end.**

We may **question if someone is truly born again** if there is no love for Prayer, no desire to read and feed upon Gods Holy Word. No desire to fellowship with other believers. Refuses to heed correction by Gods Word.

They that persevere to the end are not dependent on all these doings, but still, they are not independent of them. Their final salvation does not hang on their obedience to practical doings, yet all these ( reading watching praying fellowship are a source of great encouragement, they will always give strength

to continue to the end. It is the diligent, the watchful, the prayerful, and the humble, to whom belongs the promise,—“They shall never perish.”

## *II. I now proceed to show the Scriptural foundations on which the doctrine of perseverance is built*

**I need hardly say that the Bible is the only test and settles everything**

**John 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. “**I give unto them eternal life;**” he will certainly give it to them, as if they had it already; the words do imply that they have it already, *namely, the beginnings of it, even in this life:* and if so, then the words yet more strongly emphasize the doctrine of perseverance; **for how can that life be called eternal, which may be ended?**

**How shall they shall never perish,** if they may one day perish. **neither shall any pluck them out of my hand.** A promise reinforced in other scripture. - I am with you always; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **The good work I’ve begun in you I will bring it to completion.**

**2Th 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brothers beloved of the Lord, **because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

**We shall never fall away** – because we are chosen from the foundation of the world. the Holy Spirit not only opened our eyes to accept Christ but also gives grace to persevere to the end.

We shall never fall away because **Christ has paid the price in Full** and everliveth to make intercession for the saints. **The bible speaks of living water given to drink that we shall never thirst.** The water is likened to grace freely given in our hearts. Nothing else but the grace of eternal life can satisfy and cause man never to thirst again.

We could spend hours on showing how scriptural this is -There are 39 clear bible verses that clearly speak on the doctrine of perseverance. (John 10:28, 29.) (Rom. 8:35–39.) (1 John 2:19.) (John 5:24.) (John 6:51.) (John 14:19.) (John 11:26.) (Heb. 10:14.) (1 John 2:17.) (Rom. 6:14.) (1 Cor. 1:8.) (1 Peter 1:5.) (Jude 1.) (2 Tim. 4:18.) (1 Thess. 5:23, 24.) (2 Thess. 3:3.) (1 Cor. 10:13.) (Heb. 6:17, 18.) (John 6:39.) (2 Tim. 2:19.) (Rom. 8:30.) (1 Thess. 5:9.) (2 Thess. 2:13.) (Rom. 9:23.) (Rom. 11:29.) (Matt. 24:24.) (Heb. 7:25.) (Jude 24.) (2 Tim. 1:12.) (Luke 22:32.) (John 17:11.) (John 17:15.) (John 17:24.) (Rom. 5:10.) (John 14:17.) (Phil. 1:6.) (1 John 2:27.) (1 Peter 1:23.) (Heb. 13:5.)

*III. The third thing I propose to do, is to point out the reasons why many reject the doctrine of perseverance*

that this doctrine of perseverance has any *tendency to encourage careless and ungodly living*. If a person deliberately lives an unholy and sinful life but boasts they are a good Christian and says they shall never perish. I tell you clearly and plainly they have never been truly born again. As long as his life is unchanged He is still on the road to hell.

People say, oh that is just Calvin's doctrine narrow minded doctrine. But don't you think we should know and see what the bible says on this matter. If the doctrine is thrown out simply because of the name of Calvinism, beware you are not throwing out bible truth. What is The essence of Calvinism after all. Is it not simply Salvation is of the Lord? Is it not Jesus Christ is my only Rock on which I build my life.

There are so many who call themselves genuine Christians these days who never seem able to bear anything strong. Their appetite wants nothing strong and their spiritual digestion so weak, that they must always be "**fed with milk and not with meat.**" Talk **strongly about holiness**, and you are **called a legalist!**—Speak **strongly of election**, and you **are considered a narrow-minded Calvinist!**—Speak strongly about the believers responsibility and free agency, and you are regarded as an Arminian!—In short, *they can bear nothing strong of any kind or in any direction!* Of course they cannot receive the doctrine of perseverance.

**Why don't they approve this doctrine.** Because it draws distinctions between people. They say that's not love... **they think it's wrong to say one man is converted one is not.** Or to say one man **is a Child of God another is a child of the world.** One a sinner and one a saint. They have the thinking no one can be sure we ought to hope the best for all. They oppose the thought that one man can be chosen and disapprove this kind of teaching. Its unacceptable to them that one can be predestined and another not. Let me just quote one scripture - **John 15:16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit,.....

These that cant agree with the doctrine say, They see people who are saved yet they have a wrong view of saving faith. They call anyone saved When they are interested in the Gospel or when they show some pleasure at hearing it. You see they say they are saved. **Then when the persons feelings disappear how do they explain it?** Where is the faith he seemed to have? **How can those who called Him a believer exfrrrrplain it?** All they can say is he fell away from His faith. Then they say, you see there is no such thing as the perseverance of the saints.

We must understand that saving faith is much deeper than feelings. **Saving faith shows itself as deliberate willing humble dependance upon God.** Those who make faith a matter of feelings cannot believe in Perseverance.

The need of our day is for Christians to be sound in Faith and to be armed with clear scriptural knowledge of the Gospel. The error of the day is looking at and accepting any Ernst minded and zealous men as right, irrespective of their doctrine that they believe. It is a sure indication we are giving way to the times when we hold a vague, and a mystical view, a view that contains little hope, no positive motive, no comfort. It's a belief that will fail us in the end.

### *IV. I now proceed, in the last place, to mention some reasons why the doctrine of final perseverance is of great importance*

**What comfort does this doctrine give?** Oh, so rich it's so comforting to know I am A child of God That I cannot be snatched away. That I will be presented faultless and will accepted by the Father.

The Gospel wouldn't be so grand if it could fail. The Gospel is Glad tidings – Good news. If this year someone could be a Child of God and the next year a child of the devil.

**There are 2 ways a hopeless and lost sinner may be addressed.**

1. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Once believing you shall never perish. Your faith shall never be allowed entirely to fail. You shall be sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption."
2. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. But after you have believed take care your faith may fail. You might fall away. Take care you don't repel the Spirit from your life. Take Care that in the end that you dont perish everlastingly."

Which of these two doctrines contains the most Good news? Which is glad tidings? There is Such a vast difference between the two “believing you are saved, but being careful lest your fall away”. Or “In believing you are saved forever.”

It's the difference between twilight and mid-day. Between winter and summer. This is good news -The Holy Spirit who leads me to Christ, and gives me repentance and faith in Him, will never leave me nor forsake me, does this not cause us to have solid comfort. Our feet are on a rock. our soul is in safe hands. A knowing that I shall get safe home.

**Or on the other hand**, that after being led to Christ I am left to my own vigilance, and that it depends on my watching, and praying, and care, whether the Spirit leaves me or not, With such a faith our hearts melts within us. We stand on a quicksand, and not on the rock. We lean on a broken reed. I shall never get to heaven.

How many are afraid to begin lest they should fail. Which of the 2 doctrines will give courage to the weak. Which is most likely to cheer. I answer without hesitation. The doctrine of PERSEVERENCE. The knowing that God who begun a good work in you will bring it to completion. That He will love us to the end. This is strong comfort to realise our safety in Christ. Yes Trials will come in life and may be many our cross may be heavy to bear. But whatever storms come they only blow us closer and nearer to heaven. Come what may we shall never perish. Our Lord Jesus never gets tired of caring for our soul. Once in Christ we shall never be forsaken. Gods loving kindness shall never depart. Is this not one of the most comforting Doctrines. Is there anything that offers so much comfort and certainty.