

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS Studies in the Revelation

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.
Revelation 14:12

WHAT IS THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS?

Defined as: Those whom God has elected, called, and justified will never lose their faith (regardless of the situation), but will persevere in it until death.

It was promised by God:

Old Testament:

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, and He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, (why) because the LORD is the One who holds his hand. I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread. All day long he is gracious and lends, and his descendants are a blessing. Depart from evil and do good, (why) so you will abide (how long) forever. For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; they are preserved (how long) forever, but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it (how long) forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. The wicked spies upon the righteous and seeks to kill him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand or let him be condemned when he is judged. Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psalm 37:23-34

See also: Isaiah 43:1-7; 45:17; 49:14-16; 51:6

New Testament:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him (what) shall not perish, but have eternal life."

"He who believes in the Son has (what) eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has (what) eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."
John 3:16, 36; 5:24

It was always God's purpose to bring the elect into salvation:

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, (what) that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have (what) eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:37-40

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to (what) His purpose. (Defined as...) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until (when) the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Our perseverance is secured by the power of God:

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give (what) eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. (Why) 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."

John 10:27-29

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.

Jude 24

Our salvation and security are gifts of grace:

For by (what) grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Note: If salvation is a gift given by grace and we did nothing to earn it, then we cannot do anything to lose it.

Believers persevered by faith, fear, love, obedience and by turning away from sin:

Faith – 1 Peter, 1:5; 1 John 5:4-5

Fear – Jeremiah 32:40

Love – Ephesians 6:24

Obedience – John 8:31

Turning away from sin – 2 Corinthians 7:1; Romans 6:12-14

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO ABANDON THE FAITH?

They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they (what) would have remained with us; but they went out, (why) so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

1 John 2:19

"The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away."

Matthew 13:20-21

Conclusion:

If someone claims to be a believer and later recants or turns from the faith, the Bible teaches that they were never saved in the first place.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION?

Here is the (1) perseverance of the saints who (2) keep the commandments of God and (3) their faith in Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may (4) rest from their labors, for (5) their deeds follow with them."

Revelation 14:12-13

These are **blessed** (*makarios* – spiritual joy, bliss, fulfillment, contentment, satisfaction) because:

- 1) They persevere – (14:12)
- 2) They keep the commands of the Lord – (14:12)
- 3) They keep faith in Jesus – (14:12)
- 4) They look forward to rest and reward – (14:13)
- 5) They have been faithful in service to the Lord – (14:13)