

Jude 24-25- The Encouragement of The Assurance of Being Saved to the End to God's Glory

^{NKJ} **Jude 1:24** *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

- There are three assurances we have from this closing promise: 1) that God is able to keep us from stumbling; 2) we will be presented blameless in His glorious presence; 3) we will have exceeding joy
- One of the greatest assurances of salvation is found in ^{NET} **1 John 5:13** "I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life" (also John 3:36; 6:47; 5:24; Matthew 25:46 for contrasting statements of final destinies –"eternal").
- The logical question is whether we can have confidence of remaining in this state of salvation or whether we can lose our salvation. The common dilemma has been to ask whether someone truly falls away from genuine salvation or whether they truly possessed it in the first place.
- Can we have assurance that we will never stumble? It is one thing for Jude to say that God is able, but another to say that He actually keeps us from stumbling (others call this a dubious claim because of free will). Some verses:

^{NET} **John 6:38-40** For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. ³⁹ Now this is the will of the one who sent me– that I should not lose one person of every one he has given me, but raise them all up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father– for everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him to have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

^{NET} **John 10:27-29** My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will (certainly) never perish (forever); no one will snatch them from my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them from my Father's hand.

^{NET} **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

^{NET} **Romans 8:30** And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

^{NET} **Ephesians 1:13** And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation)– when you believed in Christ– you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory. (also 4:30)

^{NET} **Philippians 1:6** For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

^{NKJ} **1 Peter 1:5** who are kept by the power of God **through faith** for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (also Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:25; Ezekiel 36:26-27-"cause")

- There are verses that seem to challenge this viewpoint of eternal security:

^{NET} **Matthew 10:22** And you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who **endures to the end will be saved.**

^{NAU} **Luke 8:15** "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance. (cf. compare 1 John 2:19 where some fall away)

^{NET} **1 John 2:19** "They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us, because if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But they **went out from us to demonstrate** that all of them do not belong to us."

^{NET} **Colossians 1:22-23** but now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you holy, without blemish, and blameless before him—²³ **if indeed you remain in the faith, established and firm, without shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard**

^{NET} **Hebrews 6:1-8** Therefore we must progress beyond the elementary instructions about Christ and move on to maturity, not laying this foundation again: repentance from dead works and faith in God,² teaching about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.³ And this is what we intend to do, if God permits.

⁴For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened, tasted the heavenly gift, become partakers of the Holy Spirit,⁵ tasted the good word of God and the miracles of the coming age,⁶ and then have committed apostasy, to renew them again to repentance, since they are crucifying the Son of God for themselves all over again and holding him up to contempt.⁷ For the ground that has soaked up the rain that frequently falls on it and yields useful vegetation for those who tend it receives a blessing from God.⁸ But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is useless and about to be cursed; its fate is to be burned.

^{NET} **Hebrews 10:26-31** For if we deliberately keep on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins is left for us,²⁷ but only a certain fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire that will consume God's enemies.²⁸ Someone who rejected the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.²⁹ How much greater punishment do you think that person deserves who has contempt for the Son of God, and profanes the blood of the covenant that made him holy, and insults the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know the one who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- The various verses stating that those who endure to the end will be saved are not warnings of losing salvation, but instead statements of fact asserting that only those who are truly saved will remain until the end (Luke 8:15; see the aspect of false *brethren* or *disciples* in John 2:23-24; 6:64-66; 2 Corinthians 11:15, 26; Matt 7:21-23).
- Hebrews 6:1-8 has to be understood in the context of 5:11-14 where the readers are admonished for the lack of progressing on towards spiritual maturity. Now these Jewish Believers are considering walking away from their commitment to Jesus the Messiah and going back into Judaism to escape persecution. If they do, there awaits for them physical judgment (70AD) similar to what happened to the wilderness generation (Num 13-14).
- The key to interpreting this is to recognize that there is no other “way” of salvation. Jesus was crucified once and for them to walk away and then come back later would be the equivalent of re-crucifying Jesus all over again and putting Him to open shame as if His first sacrifice was not sufficient (Heb 6:6).
- The agricultural example shows that if they walk away (the equivalent of producing thistles), they also will receive physical (not spiritual) judgment.
- Hebrews 10:26-31 comes immediately after the admonition not to forsake the assembly and their public association with the Jewish believers in Jesus. If they willfully do this, they will be judged in a physical sense for their disobedience (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:29-31). In the OT there were no sacrifices available for premeditated sins (see Numbers 15:29-31; 1 John 5:16-17), but they would be cutoff (killed).

^{NET} **Jude 1:25** *to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen.*

- This is one of the most glorious doxologies in the entire New Testament bursting out with joy and exultation at the character of God and His salvation as found only in Jesus Messiah (John 14:6)!