

“They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end and be eternally saved.” **The Westminster Confession of Faith, “Of the Perseverance of the Saints,” Chapter 17.**

OUR ETERNAL SECURITY

John 6:37-40: “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 10:27-29: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

1 Peter 1:3-5: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Romans 8:35-39: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all

these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

3. I’m Thankful for God’s _____.

1 Corinthians 1:9: “God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.”

Deuteronomy 7:7-9: “The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Today, I give thanks to God for...

- **His grace** in bringing us to himself and gifting us for ministry.
- **His power** in preserving & keeping us strong to the end, even when we falter and fail spiritually.
- **His faithfulness** to us as His chosen & precious people, even when we are unfaithful.

Small Group Discussion & Activity Guide

Take some time to pray for each other and those that we know around us are in need. Take time to thank God for the blessings in your life.

Discuss and answer these questions:

1. What is the definition of “grace” in the first portion of 1 Corinthians?
2. 1 Corinthians 1:4 tells us that grace was given to us in Jesus. What two specific areas does Paul tell the Corinthian believers that grace directly affected them?
3. What are spiritual gifts for? Why is it unwise to become prideful related to one’s own spiritual gifts?
4. 1 Corinthians 1:9 describes God as being faithful. Why is faithfulness such a desirable attribute and one that Christians should aspire to have?
5. What do you think about God keeping believers secure? What did the teaching and scriptures from Sunday change or reinforce related to your belief about salvation?
6. What are some examples from the Bible about people that “walked away” from God from a time, but God was faithful to restore them?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 11:32. What are some of the key truths we can take from this verse?
8. Where does “good works” fit into salvation? Read Titus 3:3-8 and look for God’s role in our salvation and the results in our lives.

SERIES: LIFE IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE

Today’s Message: “I’m Thankful”

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Elder Jay Cooper / 10.11.09 / SMC

INTRODUCTION:

1 Corinthians 1:4: “I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus...”

Our greatest need is grace; both the ability to come to God through Jesus, and the present power to live the life that He has called us to on this earth and in Heaven for eternity.

1. I’m thankful for God’s _____.

1 Corinthians 1:5-7: “For in him you have been enriched in every way – in all your speaking and in all your knowledge- because or testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.”

Two Facets of Grace

- Grace that _____ us to _____ for salvation (1 Corinthians 1:6; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:1-7).
- Grace that _____ us with _____ for ministry (1 Corinthians 1:4-7; 12-14; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-13).

2. I’m thankful for God’s _____.

1 Corinthians 1:8: “He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”