

FBC POWELL, 2-4-18 AM NOTES
"Resting in God's Keeping"
Jude 1:24-25
5 in Series, "Contending for the Faith"

"Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."

—Abstract of Principles, article XIII, "The Perseverance of the Saints"

"All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." —The Baptist Faith and Message, Article 5

John 10:27-30 (NASB) ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

Romans 8:38-39 (NASB) ³⁸ "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hebrews 7:25 (NASB) "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

I. The Ability of God (v. 24)

Hebrews 12:2a (NASB) "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter [finisher, NKJV] of faith..."

Ephesians 3:20 (NASB) "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us."

A. God Is Able to Keep Us (v. 24a)

"Is it conceivable that in spite of all this, [Christians] may still fall away and be lost? Is it possible for God to predestine us to holiness, and yet we do not become holy? Can He adopt us as children and then disown us? Can He give us a guarantee of salvation and then renege on His promise? Is the human will so strong as to overcome divine power? Surely not! What more does God need to say to assure us that He will uphold us to the end?" —David Clotfelter

B. God Is Able to Make Us Stand (v. 24b)

Isaiah 6:5 (NASB) "Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.'"

Revelation 1:17 (NASB) "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last.'"

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*
—Edward Mote (1832)

II. The Praise for God (v. 25)

1 Timothy 1:17 (NASB) “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only God**, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

A. God Is to Be Praised for His Glory (v. 25a)

“The glory of God is the outward radiance of the intrinsic worth and beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections.”
— 9 Marks

2 Thessalonians 1:9b “The glory of His power.”

Ephesians 1:6b “...the glory of His grace.”

B. God Is to Be Praised for His Majesty (v. 25b)

C. God Is to Be Praised for His Dominion (v. 25c)

Psalms 66:7 (NASB) “He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.”

D. God Is to Be Praised for His Authority (v. 25d)

E. God Will Be Praised Eternally (v. 25e)

Sermon 5: Resting in God's Keeping

Jude 1:24-25

The main purpose of Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, in writing this small book is stated clearly in verse 3b, "... I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints." Jude spends much of his letter warning the church about those described in verse 4 as, "...certain persons have crept in unnoticed..." These "creeps" are false teachers, agents of Satan to wreak havoc in the church and lead people astray. He gives a graphic description of these false teachers in verses 12-13:

These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

The book of Jude has, by necessity, been harsh, confrontive, and blunt. However, in verses 24-25, Jude closes the letter with two of the most encouraging verses in the Bible.

These two verses are my favorites of all the verses in the New Testament that proclaim the eternal security of the believer in Christ. Perhaps the best way to introduce this glorious doctrinal truth is to read from the two doctrinal statements that our church ascribes to. First, let's hear from the statement called *The Abstract of Principles* which was the confession of faith of our denomination's first seminary in 1858. Article XIII is entitled *Perseverance of the Saints*. It says,

Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Our second doctrinal statement is *The Baptist Faith and Message*, the official doctrinal statement of our denomination. Here is what article five says about the eternal security of true believers.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

It is important to understand that we believe in the eternal security of *genuine believers* who have been made new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), not the eternal security of those who don't give evidence of regeneration as stated in the book of 1 John. In fact, my personal estimation is that in the Bible belt, the majority of those who profess to be believers give no evidence of having been made a new creation in Christ.

I am convinced that it is essential for believers to understand eternal security to have a correct understanding of the Gospel. It would seem to me that the alternative to eternal security would be eternal insecurity. Some say that when we finally make it to heaven, then we will be secure,

but Lucifer and the angels who followed him fell from Heaven! Security is in a person, not in a place. We are secure in Christ alone. Here are just a few of the verses dealing with eternal security that have brought me great joy and comfort.

John 10:27-30: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 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. I and the Father are one.”

Notice especially that phrase, “they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” Some say, “Well, no one else can snatch you out of Christ’s hands, but you can take yourself out.” Really? You are a *one*. Jesus said, “no *one* will snatch them out of My hand.”

Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

That seems to me to be an exhaustive list of possibilities that someone might say could separate us from salvation. Paul says, “None of these can rob us of salvation” and just in case he left something out, he says in verse 39, “nor any other created thing.”

Hebrews 7:25: “Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” For a saved person to be lost, Jesus’ intercessory prayers would have to fail to be answered.

Of all these verses and so many more that clearly teach the eternal security of those who are new creations in Christ, no passage is clearer than these last two verses of Jude. Let’s examine these verses phrase by phrase.

I. The Ability of God (v. 24)

When it comes to the doctrine of salvation, we start either with God or with man. Those who start with man end up with a twisted view of salvation that sees man as being the keeper of his own salvation. Our security (under this man centered view) is in what we do – “If we are faithful” or “if we hold on till the end.” The Scriptures start with Christ. Hebrews 12:2a: “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter [finisher, NKJV] of faith...” The Lord Jesus is both able and willing to not only save us, but also to keep us! Our security rests in the ability, the omnipotence of God. We read about that ability in Ephesians 3:20: “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”

A. God Is Able to Keep Us (v. 24a)

The Greek word “keep” is a military word that means to guard or watch over. The picture here is that God is at His post to keep watch over His own – those who are in Christ – that they do not fall away. Listen to this great quote from David Clotfelter.

Is it conceivable that in spite of all this, [Christians] may still fall away and be lost? Is it possible for God to predestine us to holiness, and yet we do not become holy? Can He adopt us as children and then disown us? Can He give us a guarantee of salvation and then renege on His promise? Is the human will so

strong as to overcome divine power? Surely not! What more does God need to say to assure us that He will uphold us to the end?

[David Clotfelter, *Sinners in the Hands of a Good God*, page 176 – quoted in *MacArthur Jude Commentary*, page 210]

B. God Is Able to Make Us Stand (v. 24b)

The Greek word translated with the phrase “make you stand” translates a verb which means to present or establish. The ESV says, “present you blameless.” Typically, in Scripture when a person comes into the manifest presence of God, they are terrified. I think of Isaiah when he stood in God’s manifest presence. We read in Isaiah 6:5: “Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’” We see John when He stood before the resurrected Christ in Revelation 1:17: “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last.’” Those Jude is speaking of are those who have been saved by the grace and power of God who will one day, with glorified bodies, come before the presence of the Lord. They won’t come before the Lord of glory with heads bowed in shame and shaking in fear; they will be presented in glorified bodies before our glorious God dressed in the very righteousness of Christ. We will not come in shame but “with great joy.” You may say, “Oh, I am not worthy of that.” Well of course you’re not, I’m not, no man or woman is worthy. Jesus is worthy, and it is in His worthiness that we stand.

I delight in the words of that old song *The Solid Rock*. The first verse says:

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.*

The fourth verse fits right in with our text:

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

—Edward Mote (1832)

The one who keeps us from stumbling will make us new with a resurrected body without sin that we might stand in the presence of God’s glory – blameless and not with dread and fear, but with great joy. Our salvation is of the Lord, and He is able to keep us from stumbling in a final sort of way. And when “the trumpet of the Lord will sound, and time shall be no more”, this one who is able to save us will give us bodies without sin and clothe us in the righteousness of Christ that we might stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.

Our eternal security is grounded in God’s power, God’s ability and not ours.

II. The Praise for God (v. 25)

In this last verse of Jude, he offers praise to God for salvation and the coming glorification that we just looked at in verse 24. I think that if I could only memorize one verse in the Bible, this would be a good one to choose. Verse 25 is simply Jude adoring and praising our triune God who

is the only true God. 1 Timothy 1:17: “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, *the only God*, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

There is one God, one God only, and He is the triune God revealed in Scripture. He is not only our God, but for all who come to Him in repentance and faith, He is also our Savior. The New Testament refers to Jesus, God the Son, as our Savior about sixteen times, but the New Testament also refers to God as our Savior at least eight times. Jude is letting us know that we must look to this triune God alone to save us. There is no salvation apart from our God. Every other religion is a false religion because every so called “path to God” that does not make a straight path to this triune God is a path to Hell.

Let us look at this doxology, this word of praise to the one true God closely. This doxology is not just a good way to end the book of Jude; it is chocked full of truth.

A. God Is to Be Praised for His Glory (v. 25a)

“Glory” is the Greek word *doxa* from which we get doxology. The glory of God is not one of His perfections (attributes) like “omnipotence” or “omniscience.” One man put it this way: “The glory of God is the outward radiance of the intrinsic worth and beauty and greatness of God’s manifold perfections.” [9 Marks article, *The Reformation and the Glory of God*]

What is the glory of God? It is the attributes, the perfections of God put on display. To put it another way, the glory of God is the beauty and greatness of His perfections. Look at some illustrations of that definition. 2 Thessalonians 1:9b speaks of “the glory of His power.” Ephesians 1:6b speaks of “...the glory of His grace.” Every attribute or perfection of God is a facet of the diamond we call the glory of God. God’s glory includes all of His attributes in their radiance. To put it another way, God’s glory is the outshining of His character, His nature, and His attributes. This gets a little deep, but in one sense God’s glory is not what God has; it is who God is. Technically, we cannot *give* God glory; we acknowledge and worship Him for the glory He already has. To put it another way, God’s glory is the outward manifestation of the inner essence and character of our God. [most of this paragraph is from a sermon by Danny Akin, *The Doxology of God and the Security of the Believer*]

B. God Is to Be Praised for His Majesty (v. 25b)

The Greek word translated “majesty” means exceeding greatness. His majesty refers to His status as King of all kings. It is His greatness, His majesty that is manifested throughout His creation.

C. God Is to Be Praised for His Dominion (v. 25c)

His dominion speaks to His control over all creation. His dominion flows out of His omnipotence. He is all powerful and has control over all that He created. Psalms 66:7: “He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.” There is nothing that happens that is not initiated or allowed by Him. That explains why worry is so foolish. Our God has dominion over all. That is why I entitled this message *Resting in God’s Keeping*. The past is His, the present is his, and the future is His – now, what was it you were so worried about?

D. God Is to Be Praised for His Authority (v. 25d)

God’s authority is His intrinsic right to rule all things. To say that God has all authority tells us that He is in control. As the old song says, “He’s got the whole world in His hands.” In spite of

the way it seems, the world is not *out of control*. God is on His throne. Evil does not originate with Him, but evil is allowed by Him and He uses it to accomplish His own purposes. In spite of the threats by the ruler of North Korea, God is in control of the nuclear weapons. It may be that bad things will happen, but if so it is allowed by God to accomplish His purposes. Remember that He has all authority! The church is not going to fail; our salvation is secure; God has all authority!

E. God Will Be Praised Eternally (v. 25e)

I have some great news for you – God WINS! Before time began, He was glorious, majestic, and He had dominion and authority. Right now, He is glorious, majestic, and He has dominion and authority. But forever He will be glorious, majestic, and have dominion and authority. Every event in our lives – every happy thing, every hurtful thing, and everything is under God’s control. You can *rest* in this one who will keep you, guide you, empower you, and daily give you grace for all that you need.