

1689 CONFESSION OF FAITH CH. 17, PARA. 1, PART 2

“Those **whom God has accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, and given the *precious faith* of His elect unto, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, *seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, from which source He still begets and nourishes in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality;¹ and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them,² yet He is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of His hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.³”***

I: THE ELECT are those whom God accepts, calls, sanctifies, and gives faith... Unto Salvation.

II: THE ELECT FACE TRIALS

A: Unbelief is a violent enemy of God’s people, trying constantly to remove them from their foundation.

B: The temptations of Satan are his attempt to remove the elect from their foundation. (Matthew 4:1-10)

1. Satan tempts Christ to prove himself by works and miracles. He also tempts Him to trust in Himself for His own needs, instead of trusting in God alone.
2. Satan tempts Christ to tempt God, mistaking His promises for the foundation of true faith.
3. Satan tempts Christ to worship him with the promises of the world’s glory. Satan confuses the underlying motives for true worship, which

is a love for God’s loveliness,—not a love for gifts and promises.

C: These storms and floods will obscure the sense of God’s love, but can not remove the elect from their foundation.

1. Ps. 89:31-32. If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.;
2. 1 Cor. 11:32. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

III: THE ELECT FIND COMFORT IN THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD. Mal. 3:6. *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

1. Jehovah is our Covenant God
2. Jehovah “changes not.”
3. The sons of Jacob are not consumed.