

LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

SESSION FOUR

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the fourth and final session on the topic of How to be Sure You Are Eternally Secure. In the previous three sessions, Pastor Rogers first provided a biblical foundation for the security of the believer, and then he began to introduce eight specific biblical promises which provide assurance of that security. In this session, Pastor Rogers will discuss the final three promises.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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INTRODUCTION

In the previous three sessions of this series, Pastor Rogers provided a biblical foundation for the security of the believer, and then he introduced the first five of eight specific biblical reasons that provide assurance of that security. We have so far examined God's Sacred Promise, His Determined Purpose, His Sovereign Predestination, Calvary's Perfect Provision, and The Saints' New Position. In this session, Pastor Rogers will discuss the final three scriptural promises that provide believers assurance of the eternal security of their salvation.

OUR KEY PASSAGES

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

John 17:15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."

1 Peter 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you think we can know for sure that we have eternal life?
- Why do you think believers are left in the world instead of being instantly “beamed up” as in “Star Trek,” at the moment of their salvation?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Be Sure You Are Eternally Secure”

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“You’re kept by the power of God. It’s not a matter of your holding onto Him; it’s a matter of Him holding onto you.” —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: A foundational aspect of the security of our salvation is that it does not depend upon our strength or abilities; it is solely dependent upon God. He is the One who possesses the power to save us, *and* to keep us. Our faith is in all-powerful God who loved us enough to humble Himself to take on the likeness of men, was obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (see Philippians 2:7-8), and who demonstrated power over death by the resurrection (see Romans 1:4). The New Testament specifically addresses God’s incredible power 100 times, and that power is also referenced many more times in the Bible. John assures us in 1 John 4:4 that He (God the Holy Spirit) who is in us (believers) is greater than he (Satan) who is in the world. Therefore, it becomes almost an insult to God to think that He who sacrificed so much to save us would be unable to keep us. As Pastor Rogers explained, “*has everlasting life*” from our key passage is written in the present tense, which means that believers enter into everlasting life the moment they believe. Everlasting life is not a future event, but a promise given today for all eternity! We should then live our lives accordingly, rejoicing daily in what God has done for us.

For Discussion: In what ways do you think understanding security of salvation should cause Christians to adjust their lives or attitudes of heart?

Amplification: Another encouraging aspect of our eternal security is the knowledge that Jesus is continually interceding on our behalf before the Father. He is not praying the kind of selfish prayers we tend to pray for ourselves, “Please give me this ... ,” or “Please give me that ...;” He prays specifically that we should be kept from the evil one. It should be comforting to know that as we endure trials and temptations, there is no suffering or temptation we face that He Himself did not experience in His humanity, thereby making Him worthy to aid us who are being tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18). A key component of The Model Prayer (commonly called “the Lord’s Prayer”), is “*deliver us from evil,*” or “*deliver us from the evil one*” (see Matthew 6:13 and Luke 11:4). Jesus was fully aware of the temptations and evil we face in this world, and how they work together to corrupt our fellowship with Holy God. He instructed His disciples, as He instructs us, to pray for deliverance from temptation and evil. How reassuring it is to know that He is praying the same for us.

For Discussion: How does knowing that Jesus is effectively interceding on our behalf provide confidence in day-to-day interactions, trials, and temptations?

Amplification: The final biblical foundation for the eternal security of our salvation is God's almighty power, which could be considered a summation of all of the previous reasons provided by Pastor Rogers: God's sacred promise, His determined purpose, sovereign predestination, Calvary's perfect provision, our position in Christ, God's eternal provision, and Jesus' interceding prayer. But God's power to keep us for salvation is more than just a summation; it is provided as a specific promise for those who have come to Him through faith.

The story is told of a young man who lay dying. When a pastor came to visit him on his sick bed the man asked, "Pastor, it is very strange: I have done everything I know to do. I have sought to carry out all that the church has asked, and yet I have no peace. How can I be sure that God has put away my sins and that I am eternally saved?" The pastor looked at him compassionately and answered, "Surely the blood of Christ ought to count for something!" As though a flash of divine light had entered his soul, the young man's countenance changed. He looked up eagerly and exclaimed, "Ah, yes, it counts for *everything*. I can trust that!"

For Discussion: How do you think we can put into practice rejoicing in the security of our salvation?

For Discussion: How do trials and temptations strengthen and/or refine our faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, take time to read through and meditate upon the **Additional Scriptures to Study**, and thank God that He who is able to save you is also able to keep you. If you have never done so, you may consider writing a note to yourself in the flyleaf of your Bible to remind you that you are His when dark times come.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – "Lord, we thank You for Your everlasting power and provision of salvation. You are our strong tower in whom we trust!"

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

As you read and meditate on the promises contained in John 6:47 and 11:25-26, keep in mind the word translated "*believes*" comes from the Greek verb "*pisteuo*" which literally means to trust, have faith in, or to be fully committed to someone or something. This is more than just an intellectual belief or acceptance of a fact.

John 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

Intimacy with Christ is developed through prayer, not just talking to God, but, most importantly, listening to Him. If we do not listen, we cannot obediently follow.

John 10:27-29 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone 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 My Father's hand."

As you read and meditate on the following verses, you should take great comfort in knowing that Jesus is constantly interceding to the Father on our behalf. No issue in our lives is either too small or too great for our Savior.

John 17:20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.”

Hebrews 2:17-18 “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Arthur W. Pink, “The Sovereignty of God and the Godhood of God,” (Lulu Press, 2016)
- John Bunyan, “The Work Of Jesus Christ As An Advocate For The Benefit Of All Believers,” (Curiosmith, 2010)
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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

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For Discussion: In what ways do you think understanding security of salvation should cause Christians to adjust their lives or attitudes of heart?

For Discussion: How does knowing that Jesus is effectively interceding on our behalf provide confidence in day-to-day interactions, trials, and temptations?

For Discussion: How do you think we can put into practice rejoicing in the security of our salvation?

For Discussion: How do trials and temptations strengthen and/or refine our faith?

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