

## Eternal Security – Part 1 (Redux)

“Anyone can devise a plan by which good people may go to Heaven. Only God can devise a plan whereby sinners, who are His enemies, can go to Heaven.” Lewis Sperry Chafer

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/1613598/Lewis-Sperry-Chafer-Anyone-can-devise-a-plan-by-which-good-people-may-go-to-Heaven-Only>

Eternal Security is one of the essential basic doctrines. Without a clear understanding of this doctrine, the believer will have trouble serving God in grace. Without faith in the doctrine of eternal security, the believer may always be looking over his shoulder wondering if he is going to make it to heaven. I know, I’ve been there.

As we approach this doctrine, there are several questions that come to mind that need to be answered:

- Is Salvation defined by the Bible or by man?
- What kind of salvation does God provide?
- Who is responsible for the Plan of Salvation?
- Can a believer lose his/her salvation?
- Is personal sin greater than Christ’s work on the cross?

As Herman often says, we are a Bible Church. So there are certain things we believe about the Bible:

1. The Bible is the divinely inspired, inerrant Word of God.
2. Often, to obtain the true meaning of a passage, the study must delve into the original languages, context and historical settings.
3. One passage in Scripture cannot contradict another. We may not understand a part of Scripture. That is where prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit are necessary.

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I taught this doctrine in 2018. I didn't finish. In this iteration, which I am calling Part 1 (Redux) or redone/revisited, I took the original PowerPoint slides and converted them into text in a Word formatted document (edited in LibreOffice). I did this because there are those who only download the PDF version of a lesson. The PowerPoint version does not provide the full text of the lesson. I have also added some material, mostly notes from Herman's lessons on eternal security from Romans chapter 5.

To get warmed up, let us read the words of several theologians we trust on a daily basis. I am teaching that eternal security is an essential basic doctrine which a Christian uses as the basis of his daily life. What do they say about this doctrine? These quotes show that the doctrine of eternal security is in the mainstream of conservative Christianity. In this iteration, I am including some bio on each person I quote in case you are unfamiliar with the names.

**Dwight Pentecost.** [<https://voice.dts.edu/article/dr-dwight-pentecost-dies-age-99/>]

“Dr. P,” as he was affectionately known on the DTS campus, began his time at the seminary in 1937 as the one hundredth student at the then twelve-year-old school. Following graduation, he served in two pastorates, the second of which was located near Philadelphia. At that time he also served in a part-time position at what was known as Philadelphia Bible Institute. That assignment, particularly during the raging debate over the end times, convinced him to return to DTS for additional study. As he completed his doctorate in theology, the seminary's president at the time, Dr. John F. Walvoord, invited Dr. P to join the DTS faculty, where he served until his death.”

“From 1958 through 1973, Dr. P served concurrently as a DTS professor and senior pastor of Grace Bible Church in North Dallas. He also

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volunteered weekly at Luke's Closet, a ministry that provides donated clothes free to DTS students."

Quote: "As we consider with you the doctrine of security, we recognize immediately that our security is related to the kind of salvation which God has provided for sinners. Has God provided salvation, or has God provided a chance for salvation to those who accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour? Related to this is the question, Who is responsible for man's salvation? Does God do a saving work for men? Or do men contribute something to their own salvation? For it stands self-evident that, if God does the work, God will make no mistake and there will be no failure. If man contributes something to his own salvation, man may make mistakes and man may lose his salvation because he did not fulfill his obligation" Dwight Pentecost (Things Which Become Sound Doctrine, pp123-124)

This reminds me of something R. B. Thieme Jr. said about eternal security. Paraphrasing now, A plan is no stronger than it's weakest link. If man is a link in God's plan of salvation, man can make a mistake and then salvation can fail. But if man is not a link in executing the plan of God, then the plan cannot fail.

**Andy Woods.** <https://www.andywoodsministries.org/about-andy-woods>

"Andrew Marshall Woods JD, ThM, PhD became a Christian at the age of 16. He graduated with High Honors earning two Baccalaureate Degrees in Business Administration and Political Science (University of Redlands, CA.), and obtained a Juris Doctorate (Whittier Law School, CA), practiced law, taught Business and Law and related courses (Citrus Community College, CA) and served as Interim Pastor of Rivera First Baptist Church in Pico Rivera, CA (1996-1998)."

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“In 1998, he began taking courses at Chafer and Talbot Theological Seminaries. He earned a Master of Theology degree, with High Honors (2002), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Bible Exposition (2009) at Dallas Theological Seminary. In 2005 and 2009, he received the Donald K. Campbell Award for Excellence in Bible Exposition, at Dallas Theological Seminary.”

“Formerly a professor of Bible and theology at the College of Biblical Studies, in Houston (2009-2016), Andy now serves as president of Chafer Theological Seminary and senior pastor of Sugar Land Bible Church. He lives with his wife, Anne of 23 years and daughter, Sarah. Andy has contributed to numerous theological journals and Christian books and has spoken on a variety of topics at Christian conferences.”

Quote: “And eternal security is the idea that once saved always saved and a lot of people just haven’t come to the conclusion that they’re saved even though they’ve placed their trust in Christ. And this is an issue of great debate in the body of Christ so I wanted to really slow down and focus in on this and to get you familiar with the issue of eternal security because I believe that if whatever you settle on this, it shapes really your whole Christian life. Are you serving God out of fear or gratitude is really what it comes down to. And a lot of people believe that they’re saved by grace through faith but then they go into their Christian lives and they say well, all that is true but I’ve got to maintain my salvation through my own works. That’s how a lot of people think and I’m trying to explain to us that that’s really not what the Bible says. In other words, if you believe that, you’re living beneath your privileges in Christ.”

Soteriology study lesson 39  
[<http://slbc.org/sermon/soteriology-039/#transcriptlink>]

**L. S. Chafer.** “Lewis Sperry Chafer (February 27, 1871 – August 22, 1952) was an American theologian. He co-founded with his older brother, Rollin T. Chafer, Dallas Theological Seminary and served as its

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first president, and was an influential proponent of Christian Dispensationalism in the early 20th century. John Hannah described Chafer as a visionary Bible teacher, a minister of the gospel, a man of prayer with strong piety. One of his students, Charles Caldwell Ryrie, who went on to become a world renowned theologian and scholar, stated that Chafer was an evangelist who was also "an eminent theologian."”  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis\\_Sperry\\_Chafer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Sperry_Chafer)

Quote: “The doctrine of security is one of the five points of the Calvinistic system, but it is more distinguished by the fact that it is set forth in the New Testament in the most absolute terms and is there seen to be an indivisible feature of that which God undertakes when a soul is saved.” L.S. Chafer in his “Systematic Theology, Volume 3, Soteriology, p 267

**John Walvoord.** “John F. Walvoord (May 1, 1910 – December 20, 2002) was a Christian theologian, pastor, and president of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1952 to 1986. He was the author of over 30 books, focusing primarily on eschatology and theology including The Rapture Question, and was co-editor of The Bible Knowledge Commentary with Roy B. Zuck. He earned AB and DD degrees from Wheaton College, an AM degree from Texas Christian University in philosophy, a Th.B., Th.M., and Th.D. in Systematic Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Litt.D. from Liberty Baptist Seminary.” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Walvoord](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Walvoord)

Quote: “The bestowal of eternal life cannot be revoked. It declares the unchangeable purpose of God to bring the regenerated person to glory. Never in the Scriptures do we find anyone regenerated a second time.” John Walvoord, The Holy Spirit, Zondervan, 1970, p137

**Dennis M. Rokser.** “Pastor-teacher Dennis Rokser came to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior at the age of 18 through the faithful witness

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of some friends. Upon later attending Beacon Bible Church in Aurora, Minnesota, he was spiritually fed and grounded in the Word of God through the expository, grace-oriented bible-teaching of Pastor Leonard A. Radtke. Dennis was further prepared for the ministry by attending Appalachian Bible College in Bradley, West Virginia, along with graduate studies from Tyndale Theological Seminary.  
<http://www.rgsmiths.com/b/rdm01bio.php>

Quote: “Eternal Security means that those who have been genuinely saved by God’s grace through faith alone in Christ alone shall never be in danger of God’s condemnation or loss of salvation but God’s grace and power keep them forever saved and secure.” Dennis Rokser, *Shall Never Perish Forever*, p.11

**R. B. Thieme Jr.** “Robert Bunker Thieme, Jr. (April 1, 1918 – August 16, 2009) was pastor of Berachah Church, a nondenominational Christian church in Houston, Texas, from 1950 to 2003. Affectionately called "the Colonel" by his congregation, he was a dispensationalist theologian who wrote over a hundred books and conducted over 10,000 sermons on various theological topics during his 55 years as a pastor.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Thieme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Thieme)

Quote: “Can a Christian immerse himself in sin and evil and still be a Christian? Throughout the Church Age pastors and theologians have struggled to explain this paradox. Some contend that perpetually carnal believers were never genuinely saved. But the Bible emphatically states that once a person expresses faith alone in Christ alone, he is eternally saved (John 3:16, 36). Others assert that believers who continually sin can lose their salvation. But since every believer has an irrevocable position “in Christ” (2 Cor 5:17), neither sin nor evil, not even God Himself, can separate the believer “from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:39). The believer is eternally secure, forever a son and heir of God (Gal 4:5-7).

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“Although the believer can never lose his eternal life, he can be in danger of destroying his spiritual life and losing all the blessings that “God has prepared for those who love him””

<https://faithalone.org/blog/perpetually-carnal-yet-eternally-secure/>

Herman’s version of the doctrine of eternal security. When Herman taught eternal security there were no PDF files posted for those lessons. What follows captures the doctrine of eternal security from those lessons. It is not a word for word transcript. Some editing was applied. But the essence of what he taught is included.

Introductory principles (the impact of eternal security on our personal lives):

1. At issue is not your view of sin, but your view of God. What is your view of the work of Christ on the cross? What is your view of the work of God the Holy Spirit. The faithfulness of God not the failure of man is the issue. 1 John 5:11-13.

**1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son [in His Son, not in you, not in you being wonderful].**

**1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life [nothing about sin. It is not about your view of sin but your view of Christ].**

**1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you [in the epistle of 1 John] who believe in the**

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**name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life [It is yours].**

2. Having eternal security is based on the reality of the truth of the gospel. Be sure you understand the gospel. Christians still argue about what is involved in being saved. It is based upon the simplicity of the gospel: We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone. Then comes the imputation of divine righteousness. Then justification and now you have eternal security. It is just that simple.
3. From Romans 5:1-3, Knowing eternal security should affect your daily life, especially in tribulation, and also in good times.

I. Eternal Security and it's doctrine

Introductory Points:

Eternal security is also called perseverance of the saints or eternal sanctification or once saved always saved.

- A. A believer in Jesus Christ can never lose his eternal salvation. 1 John chapter 5. The whole book of 1 John deals with the problem of security among the believers. Some gnostics had come in and convinced the people that if they sinned they would lose their salvation. 1 John 5:11-13.
- B. The believer cannot lose his eternal salvation by sinning, by involvement with evil, by involvement with the law, not even by ceasing to believe.
- C. The believer cannot lose his salvation in any other way. Neither angels or man can cause a believer to lose his salvation. Nothing that angels do, nothing that man does nothing that you do can cause God to take away your eternal security.



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- D. Once a person believes in the name of Jesus Christ the Son of God, not even God can take away that life, the life of God, from the believer. One of the problems for those who think they can lose their salvation is a failure to understand the essence of God.
  - E. Erroneous thinking: There is a good or righteousness that you can perform that would cause God to give you eternal life. There is nothing you can do that would cause God to save you. Likewise, there is nothing you can do that would cause God to take it away.
  - F. If you understand how you were saved, you will never doubt your eternal security. You will understand eternal security and live your Christian life without stress anxiety depression or fear or worry.
- II. Eternal Security from the standpoint of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

If you understand Jesus Christ, you cannot doubt your eternal security

Salvation is based upon the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. It cannot be undone.

A. Condemnation.

We are all under condemnation. Personal sins had nothing to do with our condemnation. We are born under condemnation. Personal sins are just the result of being under condemnation.

B. Imputation of Righteousness and resultant justification

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How is condemnation removed? Justification comes by faith in Jesus on the cross, you are imputed with righteousness and at that point God justifies you. He pronounces you justified.

**Romans 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;**

**Romans 3:26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

It doesn't say, "the one who doesn't sin." It doesn't say "to the one who doesn't stop believing and if you stop believing I will take it away." If you have believed in Jesus Christ you are born again. You are born into the family of God. You cannot be unborn.

- C. Salvation. Jesus Christ did all the work alone. Now all that man has to do is receive eternal salvation by faith alone in the savior. Jesus Christ, the Son of God provides eternal life.

We are not saved by faith. That would make faith a works. We are saved by the work of Christ on the cross. We appropriate his work by faith.

**Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved** [perfect passive participle. Verb sozo means to be saved. The perfect places emphasis on a present result based upon a past action: You have been saved. Passive voice – you received it.

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**It is given to you by grace.] through faith [faith is the instrument whereby we receive the work of Christ]; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift [it is a gracious free gift] of God;**

Eternal security is an unbreakable relationship with God. You can break fellowship with God but you cannot break union with God.

**Ephesians 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

- D. Forgiveness. Part of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross is forgiveness. Therefore if we can lose our salvation, we lose forgiveness. If that were true, then God does not forgive us at the cross. It is very important to understand.
- E. Resurrection. The promise of the resurrection is a safeguard against losing eternal security.

**Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God the Father] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

**Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

- F. His Efficacy in Heaven. He is our advocate.

**Romans 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;**

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**Romans 8:34** who is the one who condemns? **Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us** [Jesus Christ intercedes for us when we sin].

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate** [advocate means lawyer] **with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;**

**Hebrews 9:24** For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God **for us** [believers];

**Hebrews 7:24** but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

**Hebrews 7:25** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him [by faith in Him], since He always lives to **make intercession for them**. [He doesn't abandon us when we sin]

Eternal Security is based totally on who and what God is not what you are. It is based upon what God did and does, not upon what you did or do.

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III. Eternal Security from the essence of God.

A. Love of God.

God is love. What is your view of the love of God – that He would undo what He has done?

**Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,**

**Romans 8:39 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.**

B. Sovereignty of God.

**John 10:28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one [this includes you] will snatch them out of My hand.**

**John 10:29 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.**

C. Omniscience of God.

“He knows every sin you have committed and every sin you will commit. He knew it when His Son died on the cross. Take the omniscience of God and apply it to the work of Christ on the cross. He put those sins on Jesus Christ on the cross. In other words, the

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omniscience of God knew every sin that we would ever commit when He judged Jesus Christ on the cross. There isn't any surprise."

D. Omnipotence(All Powerful) of God.

**John 10:28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.**

**John 10:29 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.**

You have double security. First of all, we are in the hand of Jesus Christ. No one can get us out of the hand of Christ. But you know, God's hands are over that. You are not going to get out by anything you do or anyone else does or angels. No one is going to get you out. So eternal security is in a relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ. Those who doubt their salvation and they they can lose it...It is their view of God, not their view of sin. Eternal security it wrapped up in the relationship of God the Father and of Jesus Christ.

**John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. [That's come by faith in Christ]**

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**John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

**John 6:39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.**

**John 6:40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”**

**Psalm 37:24 When he falls [that is sin, horrible sins], he will not be hurled headlong, [Why not?] Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand. [Eternal Security]**

Eternal Security is all through the Bible.

**Romans 4:21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.**

Rom 8:31-39 (You can read)

**Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**

**2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know**

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**whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.**

It's not up to you and me to hold on to this. It's not up to you and me to hold on to eternal life. It is up to God, not us. And God is faithful. God is omniscient. God is omnipotent.

E. The eternity of God. God is eternal.

And the life he has given to us is eternal life, everlasting life. From the moment you believe in Him, everlasting life. It means we have the life of God at the point of faith in Jesus Christ and you can never lose it. You have eternal life. To those who do not believe in eternal security believe that you can lose your eternal life, your eternal security...really? They just say that no one is really saved until they die. They don't really know. No, people, you can know. You believe in Jesus Christ, you are saved. You have eternal life.

F. The immutability of God. This is the unchanging character of God.

**2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;**

What is that referring to? That is a refusal to believe in Jesus Christ as savior.

Here is the true issues:



**2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless (this is a believer), He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**

If you like the expression, “Once saved, always saved,” “perseverance of the saints, whatever you like, it is the eternal security we have because God cannot change. Once you are saved, you are saved. He doesn’t take it away.

G. The faithfulness of God.

It is so vital to your life as well as your thinking on eternal security is your view of the faithfulness of God. Things happen in your life. “God isn’t faithful anymore. He was faithful when everything was going well. Now that everything is not going well, He is not faithful.” Oh? He is immutable. That means He is unchangeable. Do you believe that? “Yea, except when you put that with His faithfulness. I don’t really like those two combined. Because it doesn’t seem like He does.” People, if he is immutable, His faithfulness is immutable. You just don’t see what He is doing. So vital to our life is seeing the faithfulness of God. God does not lie. God does not change.

**John 3:16 “... that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**

This is the faithfulness of God. Can you hold on to that?

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**John 5:24 “Truly, truly, [You can believe the teaching of Jesus Christ] I say to you, he who hears My word [the Gospel], and believes Him [God the Father] who sent Me [Jesus Christ], has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**

Let’s look at three things for the one who believes:

1. Comes into eternal life.
2. Does not come into judgment.
3. Has passed out of death into eternal life.

God’s faithfulness was the problem with the believers in the Gospel of John.

The issue of 1 John 1:9 is 1 John 1:8. And 1 John 1:8 says they denied they sinned. Why did they deny they sinned? Because if I sin, the Gnostics told them, If I sin God will take away my eternal life.

Don’t deny that you sin. Your problem is your view of God. So let me tell you about God. He is faithful and righteous. He is not faithful to you, He is faithful to the work of His Son on the cross. He has already forgiven, he has already cleansed. That is the understanding of 1 John 1:8-9. The faithfulness of God.

You have to understand what sin is and what it is not.

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**1 John 2:5 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.**

**1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**

Why is this in 1 John over and over? Because they had a problem with eternal security. They just knew that if they sinned God was going to take away their salvation. So he tells them over and over and over this is not going to happen.

**1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

How much more direct than that can he make it?  
How can you doubt it?

Psalm 37:24 which we have already looked at.

**Romans 4:21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.**

Romans 14:4 which we have already looked at.

IV. Eternal Security from the standpoint of the work of the Holy Spirit

We have eternal security because of the work of the Holy Spirit at the point of faith in Jesus Christ.

A. Regeneration.

Born again. Born from above. Titus 3:5; John 3:3-6.

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You cannot be unborn.

**B. Sealing Ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

At the point of faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit seals us, seals every believer. This is like being branded by the divine brand. It designates that we belong to God the Father. The sealing guarantees the ownership of the believer by God the Father and no one can take us away. No one can undo that brand.

**Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

**Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.**

It is not up to us to hold on to this. It is up to God.  
We are sealed for all eternity.

**Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

**2 Corinthians 1:22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.**

**C. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

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At the moment of believing in Jesus Christ we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;**

You cannot lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. You may never enjoy Him. You may never walk in His power. You may never walk by faith in Him. But he is there. It's like having a million dollars in a bank account and never use it.

1 Corinthians 3:3; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20;  
1 Corinthians 5:21

D. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

This occurs at the point of faith in Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

E. The Filling of the Holy Spirit.

This can occur at any time. It is so instantaneous.