

Eternally Secure

August 19, 2018

"...they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh..." Hebrews 6:6 KJV

Hebrews 6:4-8 ESV

4 For **it is impossible**, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

"...having their own conscience seared..." 1 Timothy 4:2

1 Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

"...if we go on sinning deliberately..." Hebrews 10:26

Hebrews 10:24-31 ESV

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

26 For if we go on sinning deliberately (*hekousiōs - of one's own accord, willingly, voluntarily, to sin wilfully as opposed to sins committed from ignorance or from weakness*) after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- *There is a great difference between willing, deliberate and determined intent and being overcome in a moment of weakness. To sin deliberately is to take pleasure in the sin.*
- *How do I know if I'm sinning from deliberate intent or overcome in a moment of weakness? By the conflicted and tormented thoughts and emotions before, during and after the sin.*

"...I do the very thing I hate..." Romans 7:15

Romans 7:15-23 ESV

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

There is a very thin line between God's conviction and Satan's accusations.

Revelation 12:9-11 ESV

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

- *What is true about Satan's accusations is our guilt.*
- *What is false about Satan's accusations is the Heavenly Father's response to our guilt.*

Psalm 103:10-14 ESV

10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

- Charles Spurgeon, January 1850
*"I feared lest the very skies should fall upon me, and crush my guilty soul."
 "I wished I had never been born."
 "If God does not send me to hell, He ought to do it."*

- Charles Spurgeon, 1890, Autobiography

"A spiritual experience which is thoroughly flavoured with a deep and bitter sense of sin is of great value to him that hath it. It is terrible in the drinking, but it is most wholesome in the bowels, and in the whole of the after life."

"Possibly, much of the flimsy piety of the present day arises from the ease with which men attain to peace and joy in these evangelistic days. We would not judge modern converts, but we certainly prefer that form of spiritual exercise which leads the soul by the way of [the] Weeping-Cross, and makes it see its blackness before assuring it that it is 'clean every whit'."

"Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of the Savior. He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope about his neck, is the man to weep for joy when he is pardoned, to hate the evil which has been forgiven him, and to live in the honor of the Redeemer by whose blood he has been cleansed."

"...we have an advocate..." 1 John 2:1

1 John 2:1-2 ESV

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate (paraklētōs - intercessor, consoler, comforter, one who pleads for another, called to one's side) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- *In your struggle against sin, Satan wants you to believe that Jesus is turning His back on you. But in the battle, Jesus is actually fighting for you!*

"...Satan demanded to have you...but I have prayed for you..." Luke 22:31-32

Luke 22:31-34 ESV

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

- *Jesus loved Peter before, during and after his sin. In His foreknowledge, He had full disclosure of every sin you will ever commit - yet He loved you, He died for you and He called you to Himself anyway.*

- Satan wants to destroy your faith and cause you to give up through the sifting of his accusations - but you have an Advocate!

“I have loved you before, I love you still, and I will love you forever.” John Bunyan

“Also, I would during these years be greatly afflicted and troubled with the thoughts of the fearful torments of hell-fire, still fearing that it would be my lot to be found at last among those devils and hellish fiends who are there bound down with the chains and bonds of darkness until the judgment of the great day.”

—John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding*, p. 5

“Again, I was at another time very ill and weak, all that time also the tempter besetting me strongly—for I find he is much for assaulting the soul when it begins to approach towards the grave, for then is his opportunity—laboring to hide from me my former experiences of God’s goodness. He was also setting before me the terrors of death and the judgment of God, insomuch that at this time, through my fear of miscarrying forever should I now die, I was as one dead before death came, and was as if I had felt myself already descending into the pit. I thought I said, ‘There is no way, but to hell I go.’”

—John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding*, p. 150

“So I returned to my old fears again, but with a great deal of grudging and peevishness, for I feared the sorrow of despair. My faith could not long retain this word. But the next evening, being under many fears, I went to seek the Lord. As I prayed, I cried, and my soul cried to Him in these words with strong cries: ‘Oh Lord, I beseech You, show me that You have loved me with an everlasting love.’ I had no sooner said it than with sweetness this came back to me as an echo resounding: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love’ (Jeremiah 31:3). Now I went to bed in quiet. When I awoke the next morning, it was fresh on my soul, and I believed it.

But yet the tempter left me not, for it could not be so little as a hundred times that he that day did labor to break my peace. Oh, the combats and conflicts that I did then meet with. As I strove to hold to this word, that about Esau would fly in my face like lightning. I would be sometimes up and down twenty times in an hour. Yet God did bear me out and keep my heart upon this passage, from which I had also for several days obtained very much sweetness and comfortable hopes of pardon.

“Thus it was made unto me: ‘I have loved you while you were committing this sin. I have loved you before, I love you still, and I will love you forever.’”

—John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding*, p. 111

“...I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.” Hosea 14:4

Hosea 14:1-7 ESV

1 **Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.**

2 **Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips.**

3 **Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."**

4 I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.

5 I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

6 his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon.

7 They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

- *Many live under a haunting condemnation that they can't be loved by God, know God or walk with God unless they better themselves, but that is a lie from the Accuser, Satan.*
- *If that were true, God would have forsaken you and cast you off long ago. He would have never sent His Son to die in your place.*

1 John 1:7-10 ESV

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

“...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward...” Philippians 3:13

Philippians 3:8-15 ESV

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--

10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

- *I press on through the sifting of the accuser, Satan, knowing that I have an Advocate Who has pleaded for me!*