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Section: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q94.** **Can a true Christian abandon or lose his/her salvation?**

No. Everyone who has been truly born again will persevere in saving faith forever by the power and work of the Holy Spirit. God will lose none of those He saves.

**Perseverance of the Saints:** God keeps His saved people forever. The elect are saved and eternally secure by God’s power and promise. Because of grace, God works so those whom He has chosen and given eternal salvation, by the power and work of the Holy Spirit, are enabled to persevere in faith forever. A person shows that he/she was truly saved by God by persevering in faith in Christ until the end.

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “Those God has accepted in the Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect can neither totally nor finally fall from a state of grace. They will certainly persevere in grace to the end and be eternally saved, because the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable.”

**Philippians 1:6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in

you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**John 6:37-40** “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

**John 10:27-30** “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, 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.”

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “It is based on the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with him, the oath of God, the abiding of his Spirit, the seed of God within them,and the nature of the covenant of grace. The certainty and infallibility of their perseverance is based on all these things. “

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In [Christ] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were *sealed* with the promised Holy Spirit, *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it*, to the praise of his glory.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his *seal* on us and given us his *Spirit* in our hearts *as a guarantee*.

Historically, consistent biblical theologians have affirmed, and we believe, that someone who denounces faith was never truly saved. They had a superficial faith.

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

**Romans 8:38-39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Since God is the only uncreated thing Paul’s point here is very clear, nothing can separate us who are saved from God—**not even our own selves.**

**Hebrews 6:4-6** 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, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 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.

Without being regenerated by God and having true saving faith in Jesus, all of this is merely a surface experience. They appeared to be and claimed to be of God’s people, but they walked away at some point because they were actually not.

**Psalm 34:8** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Those who taste and see that the Lord is good and, by God’s effective saving grace, take refuge in Him, they are saved and will remain that way.

**Hebrews 6:7-8** 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. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

The evidence that these people were not truly saved is the very fact that they “fall away.”

**Hebrews 6:9-10** Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

The point here is not that a believer can lose salvation; rather, this verse is showing us that the lasting, ongoing fruit is the evidence of those who are truly saved.

**Hebrews 6:11-12** And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

**Philippians 2:12-13** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,  for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**1 Peter 1:1-15**

This work and the fruit it produces does not save you. It is the evidence that you have been saved—that the Holy Spirit is in you causing sanctification (growth into Christlikeness).

Only the born again, regenerate person will love and obey until the end, and this happens by God’s will and power.

Since you and I cannot see the Spiritual world around us nor the hearts of men, God has given us a physical evidence that we can look to in order to help our confidence in our faith. When you are sealed with the Spirit, you will believe in Christ alone for salvation, and you will produce fruit. This is why the Spirit is the guarantee of our faith/salvation. He—the Holy Spirit—gives us regeneration, then God gives us faith and causes us to produce the fruit that these Scriptures have mentioned. God guarantees He will finish the work He started.

**James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**James 1:16-17** Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.