

Kept by the Power of God by jeff burrow

Scripture

“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.” (1 Peter 1:3-5 NKJV)

Commentary

Here is a passage that balances two thoughts that often lead to confusion. The one thought is once saved always saved, and the other is Lordship salvation. These two schools find harmony in the phrase “kept by the power of God through faith.”

It’s true that believers once saved will remain saved forever. However, the evidence that real salvation has taken place is enduring faith. The power that saves is a power that produces enduring faith. This is why the Bible warns believers not to fall away.

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in [their] heart, And they have not known My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end” (Hebrews 3:7-14 NKJV).

Sometimes when looking at theology people over think things. On more than one occasion men have asked, “Why would God warn a believer who cannot fall away not to fall away?” The answer is simple. Many who believe they are believers are not. Those warnings are for professing believers. The Bible clearly teaches there will be plenty of those.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV)

So the question each person must consider is, do I have enduring faith? Enduring faith is not a faith that never sins, but it is a faith that grieves over sin, and it is a faith that holds on to the promises of God.

If you are saved, you are kept by the power of God through faith!

Prayer

Father, there are so many people who profess to know you yet live seemingly without any concern for their sin. Open their ears to the truth of Scripture that they might be warned, amen.