
REDEMPTION
PREDESTINATION
ELECTION
SUMMER SERIES
ATONEMENT & PROPITIATION
SALVATION
JUSTIFICATION
Eternal Security
(OSAS vs NOSAS)
SANCTIFICATION
GLORIFICATION
Reach Bible Fellowship – Todd Wangsness
Todd Wangsness 6/9/2026

Summer Series: Eternal Security

APPROACH TO STUDY

- Various verses that discuss the topic of Eternal Security were compiled and sorted into unique categories (explicitly support, implicitly support, implicitly deny, and explicitly deny).
- The content of this study can be emotionally charged with strong opinions one way or the other
- Study this as the Bereans in Acts 17:11 *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*
  - Respect each other's views and refrain from contentious discussions
- Keep in mind that highly knowledgeable, God-fearing, Spirit-filled men and women have debated and discussed aspects of these issues for over two millennia, without a clear resolution
- It is good to adopt the following mindset when studying and discussing challenging texts of the bible:
  - Purposefully remove from your mind pre-existing opinions and ingrained biases regarding the subject matter
  - Pray for the illumination of the Holy Spirit to help guide you in your studies
  - Read all the passages that discuss the topic with an open mind
  - Let the bible teach you and guide you

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	Explicitly Support	Implicitly Support		Implicitly Deny		Explicitly Deny
	Eternal Security (Explicit)	Eternal Security (Implied)		No Eternal Security (Implied)		No Eternal Security (Explicit)
Eternal Security	Joh 10:27-29 Joh 5:24 Joh 6:37 Joh 6:47 Rom 8:29-30 Heb 10:14 Eph 1:4-5 Eph 1:9-11 Eph 1:13-14 Eph 2:8-9 Phi 1:6 1 Joh 2:19 1 Joh 3:9 1 Joh 5:4-5 1 Joh 5:11-13 Jud 1:24 2 Cor 1:22 Joh 3:36 Col 1:13-14 Rom 8:38-39 Joh 3:18	Rom 11:6 Joh 6:40 Psa 34:22 Phl 2:12 Joh 1:12 2 Pet 3:9 Heb 9:15 Gal 4:6-7 Rom 10:10 Rom 5:1-21 Rom 3:24 Joh 3:16 Joh 4:14 1 Pet 1:4-5 Eph 4:30 Gal 3:29 Rom 9:16 Joh 20:31 Joh 6:50-71	Rev 3:5 Jud 1:1 Heb 10:39 Eph 2:19 1 Cor 1:9	Heb 6:4-6 Heb 2:1-3 Heb 3:12 1 Cor 9:27 Heb 10:26-29 Mat 7:21 2 Pet 2:20-22 Joh 15:6 Luk 8:13 Gal 6:8-9 Jud 1:21 Heb 10:36 Joh 15:9-10 1 Joh 2:24 1 Cor 15:2 Heb 3:14 Rom 11:19-23 Rom 2:6-8 Rom 8:13	Mat 24:12-13 Heb 4:11 2 Tim 2:12 Mat 24:24 Rev 21:8	(No verses found)

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Verses that explicitly state we have Eternal Security

Joh 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.
Joh 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.
Joh 6:37	All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.
Joh 6:47	Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.
Rom 8:29-30	For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

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Verses that explicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Eph 1:4-5 Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:9-11 Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

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Verses that explicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

Eph 1:13-14	**In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**
Eph 2:8-9	**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**
Phl 1:6	**Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**
1 Joh 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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.**
1 Joh 3:9	**Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.**

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Verses that explicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

1 Joh 5:4-5	For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
1 Joh 5:11-13	And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
Jud 1:24	Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy
2 Cor 1:22	who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
Joh 3:36	He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

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Verses that explicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

Col 1:13-14	He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins
1 Joh 5:4-5	For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
Rom 8:38-39	For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Rom 11:6	And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.
Joh 3:18	He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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Verses that implicitly state we have Eternal Security

Eph 1:13	In him 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,
Joh 6:40	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."
1 Joh 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.
Psa 34:22	The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.
Phl 2:12	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 do of His good pleasure
Joh 1:12	But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

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Verses that implicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

2 Pet 3:9	The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
Heb 9:15	Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.
Gal 4:6-7	And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
Rom 10:10	For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
Rom 8:1-2	There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

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Verses that implicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

Rom 5:1-2	Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Rom 3:24	And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
Joh 3:16	"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
Rom 11:29	For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
Joh 4:14	But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
1 Pet 1:4-5	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.

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Verses that implicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

Eph 4:30	And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
Gal 3:29	And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
Rom 9:16	So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
Joh 20:31	But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
Joh 6:50-71	This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ...

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Verses that implicitly state we have Eternal Security (continued)

Rev 3:5	The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.
Jud 1:1	Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
1 Joh 5:1-3	Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
Heb 10:39	But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.
Eph 2:19	So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
1 Cor 1:9	God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Verses that implicitly state we do not have Eternal Security

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Heb 10:26-29 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

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Verses that implicitly state we do not have Eternal Security (continued)

Heb 2:1-3	Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.
Heb 3:12	Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.
1 Cor 9:27	But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
Mat 7:21	"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

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Verses that implicitly state we do not have Eternal Security (continued)

2 Pet 2:20-22 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

Joh 15:6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Luk 8:13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

Gal 6:8-9 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

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Verses that implicitly state we do not have Eternal Security (continued)

Jud 1:21	Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.
Heb 10:36	For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.
Joh 15:9-10	As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
1 Joh 2:24	Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
1 Cor 15:2	And by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
Heb 3:14	For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

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Verses that implicitly state we do not have Eternal Security (continued)

Rom 11:19-23 Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

Rom 2:6-8 He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

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Verses that implicitly state we do not have Eternal Security (continued)

Mat 24:12-13	And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
Heb 4:11	Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.
2 Tim 2:12	If we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;
Mat 24:24	For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
Rev 21:8	But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

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Verses that explicitly state we do not have Eternal Security

- No Verses Found

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Discussion of Hebrews 6:4

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."

Heb 6:4 Arguments Against Eternal Security

- **The descriptions fit genuine believers**
  - **The language ("*once enlightened*," "*tasted the heavenly gift*," "*partakers of the Holy Spirit*," "*tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come*") strongly resembles a conversion experience.**
  - **These are not superficial; they imply the believer has "fallen away"**
- **"*If they fall away*" implies possibility**
  - **The warning is real and directed to the professing/hearing audience (likely Jewish Christians tempted to revert to Judaism). "*Fall away*" (Greek *parapesontas*) means apostasy—deliberate, willful rejection of Christ**
  - **If it were impossible, the warning would be meaningless**

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Heb 6:4 Arguments For Eternal Security

- **Broader biblical teaching takes precedence**
  - **Hermeneutic Principle "*Interpret the unclear in light of the clear*" applies**
  - **Clearer passages affirm security (John 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5)**
  - **Difficult passages like Hebrews 6 should be interpreted in light of these**
  - **Salvation is God's gift and work, not ultimately dependent on human perseverance**
- **Two common interpretations that preserve security**
  1. **Does not describe true believers**
     - **These are professing Christians or those with external privileges (enlightened by the gospel, tasted miracles/gifts, associated with the church) but never truly regenerated**
     - **Those who fall away were never saved (1 John 2:19)**
     - **Unlikely this interpretation is valid as the five points clearly point to believers**
  2. **Hypothetical "If" is an impossible supposition**
     - **The "if" introduces an impossible supposition for true believers**
     - **If a genuine Christian could fall away, restoration would be impossible (since Christ was sacrificed once)**
     - **Unlikely this interpretation is valid as the "If" means "*since*" in the Greek**

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Heb 4:6 Arguments For Eternal Security (cont.)

- Context in Hebrews
  - The book encourages Jewish believers facing persecution to press on to maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3, 9-12)
  - The author expresses confidence in his readers ("better things that accompany salvation" in v. 9)
  - The land analogy (verses 7-8) is about fruitfulness/reward, not loss of salvation
  - Context is extremely important in Hebrews … the entire book was written to Jewish believers who were strongly considering reverting back to Judaism until the persecution subsided

- The "impossible" clause
  - If someone truly apostatizes in this final way, it reveals they were never genuinely saved, or it underscores the uniqueness of Christ's once-for-all sacrifice

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Discussion

- **Should we be concerned about Eternal Security? How does the doctrine affect us?**

  Col 1:23 ***… if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.***

  - **Paul uses architectural imagery of a house firmly set on a foundation**
  - **His point is that we are not *saved* by continuing in the faith**
  - **Rather, as we continue in the faith – we prove that our salvation was valid**
  - **If we drift away – that proves that we were never saved in the first place!**
    - ***2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.***
    - ***2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble***